HHC.5.3 The need for home healthcare and choice of modality are based on sound clinical principles and a thorough clinical evaluation of medical condition and co-morbidities.

HHC.5.4 Patients are reassessed at regular intervals (as defined in policies and procedures), their response to the plan of care is monitored and adjustments are made accordingly.

HHC.5.5 The assessment, reassessment, plan of care and the response to treatment are documented in the patient's medical record as part of multidisciplinary team planning.

HHC.5.6 The completion of an episode of home healthcare service is considered by a discharge order by the most responsible physician with documentation in the patient's medical record.

HHC.6 The hospital ensures coordination and integration of home healthcare services.

HHC.6.1 The hospital assigns an individual (e.g., registered nurse) responsible for coordination and integration of care of each patient.

HHC.6.1.1 The assigned individual provides a link in the continuum of care between different staff members, caregivers and the patient.

HHC.6.1.2 The assigned individual communicates all relevant information to relevant staff and care givers on a timely manner.

HHC.6.2 The hospital provides the most responsible physician with information about the patient in defined time frames.

HHC.6.3 Changes in the patient's condition are reported to the most responsible physician.

HHC.6.4 Each patient/family can identify and contact the individual responsible for the coordination of his care.

HHC.6.5 The patient/family is educated about how and when to contact the individual responsible for coordinating his care.

HHC.6.6 Care is provided by the same healthcare provider whenever possible.

HHC.7 Policies and procedures govern the use of laboratory investigations in the home healthcare setting.

HHC.7.1 Point of care testing is performed by trained and competent individuals.

HHC.7.2 Quality control of point of care testing is performed and reviewed regularly by a qualified individual.

HHC.8 The hospital provides appropriate education to patient/family/caregiver to ensure safe care delivery and participation of patent/family in the care process.

HHC.8.1 Patient/family/caregiver education includes, but is not limited to, the following:

HHC.8.1.1 Safe use of medications.

HHC.8.1.2 Safe use of medical equipment.

HHC.8.1.3 Interaction between patient medications and food.

HHC.8.1.4 Pain management.

HHC.8.1.5 Nutritional counseling.

HHC.8.1.6 Infection control practices including hand hygiene.

HHC.8.1.7 Handling and disposing hazardous waste.

HHC.8.1.8 Home safety instructions.

HHC.8.1.9 Storage and handling of medical gases and related supplies.

HHC.8.2 Patient/family/caregiver education is documented in the patient's medical record.

HHC.9   The hospital ensures a safe home healthcare environment for patient, family, and staff.

HHC.9.1 Safety rounds are conducted to identify safety issues and safety concerns.

HHC.9.2 Patients/families are informed about the identified risks and recommendations to address them. (e.g., use of assistive equipment and devices like canes, walkers and bath benches, changes made to the home environment like adding ramps and lowering cabinets, and having smoke detectors in case oxygen therapy is used).

HHC.9.3 There is a fire safety plan that clarifies the response to fires and handling of potential fire hazards in the home care setting.

HHC.9.4 Utility systems are assessed to determine its appropriateness.

HHC.9.5 There is a process for the identification, handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials and waste.

HHC.10 The hospital ensures the availability and safety of medical equipment.

HHC.10.1 The hospital ensures availability of the medical equipment required for plan of care in the patient home.

HHC.10.2 The medical equipment in the patient home are inspected, tested and maintained by qualified staff.

HHC.11 Policies and procedures ensure safe management of medications in the home healthcare setting.

HHC.11.1 There is a policy and procedure to ensure stability and potency of medications and nutritional therapy solutions delivered to the patient's home.

HHC.11.2 There are policies and procedures for the preparation, storage, administration and monitoring effects of medications.

HHC.11.3 New medication orders are reviewed by a pharmacist as outlined in the "Medication Management" chapter in this manual.

HHC.11.4 The medication regimen of the patient is reviewed at least once a month by a licensed pharmacist.