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hos·pi·tal  (hŏs pĭ-tl, -pĭt'l)

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n.

1.

a. A facility that provides emergency, inpatient, and usually outpatient medical care for sick or injured people.

b. A facility that provides veterinary care for sick or injured animals.

2. *Chiefly British* A charitable institution, such as an orphanage or a home for the elderly.

3. A repair shop for specified items: *a doll hospital*.

4. *Archaic* A hospice for travelers or pilgrims.

[Middle English, hospice, from Old French *ospital*, from Medieval Latin *hospitāle*, from neuter of Latin *hospitālis*, of a guest, from *hospes*, *hospit-*, guest; see **ghos-ti-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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