



Dear Registered Person,

Residential Beds accommodated in Nursing Homes

This letter relates to those registered providers who operate registered nursing homes and currently provide residential beds. The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority has recently completed a validation exercise of nursing homes to ascertain the numbers of residential beds within these homes.

You will be aware that the introduction of The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 that previously 'dual registered' homes with both residential and nursing beds were registered as nursing homes - with the residential categories of care added to the certificate of registration.

As we move forward we wish to ensure that all homes are registered in accordance with the relevant regulations and standards. This letter outlines the steps you need to take to address this issue.

In practical terms, if you wish to continue to provide residential care within a nursing home, this will require you to register a separate residential care home. For those of you affected by this transition process, there will be no additional fee for the registration of the separate residential care home.

With immediate effect, nursing homes may only provide residential beds in a nursing home in exceptional circumstances, and with the agreement of RQIA.

To address this issue, a number of options are available to registered providers who currently accommodate residential beds in a nursing home.

Option 1 – nursing homes with a separate residential unit are required to register this as a residential care home.

Option 2 – where residents are dispersed throughout a home, you will need to explore the possibility of creating and registering a separate residential care home.

Option 3 – where it is not possible to register a separate residential care home, the provider will be required to name individual residents. The number of 'named residents' will appear on the registration certificate. When a 'named resident' leaves a home, the bed will revert to a nursing category of care and the number of 'named residents' will be adjusted on the registration certificate.

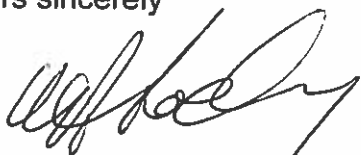
Option 4 – where a service has a combination of a separate residential unit and residents dispersed throughout the home, RQIA will consider a combination of these options in consultation with the provider.

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

We will be writing to each registered provider, in due course, offering the opportunity to come forward for registration in respect of the options offered above. Individual queries can be addressed by your aligned inspector, or a member of RQIA's senior nursing home team.

Whilst these new arrangements may have implications for your service in the short term, we believe that this is in the best interest of every residential client currently accommodated within a nursing home.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Fodey', written in a cursive style.

Kathy Fodey
Director of Regulation and Nursing
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority