

## RESIDENTIAL BEDS IN NURSING HOMES

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

General	
Question	Response
<p>Why is there a need for change?</p>	<p>The introduction of The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, meant that homes with both residential and nursing beds which had previously been registered as 'dual registered' homes, were registered solely as nursing homes and had the residential categories of care added to their certificates of registration.</p> <p>We wish to ensure that all homes are registered in accordance with the relevant regulations and standards. In order to achieve that, we need to register residential care beds appropriately, and this means that if you wish to continue to provide residential care, in a nursing home, you will have to register a separate residential care home.</p>
<p>What does this mean for me?</p>	<p>There are a number of options open to you.</p> <p><b>Option 1</b> – Those nursing homes with a separate residential unit will be required to register this as a residential care home.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> – Where residents are dispersed throughout the home, you will need to explore the possibility of creating and registering a separate residential care home.</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> –Where it is not possible to create and register a separate residential care home, the provider will be required to 'name' individual residents. The <b>number</b> of 'named residents' will appear on the registration certificate. As these residents leave the home RQIA should be notified and these beds will revert to a nursing category of care and the numbers of 'named residents' will be adjusted on the registration certificate.</p> <p><b>Option 4</b> – where a nursing home has a combination of a separate residential unit and residents dispersed throughout the home, we will consider a combination of these options in consultation with the provider.</p>

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	In order to progress this we will be writing out to you, to invite you to apply to register your residential beds as a residential care home or to identify the option which best suits your requirements.
<b>Registration</b>	
What do I do now?	<p>You should be thinking about the service you wish to provide and how this will be managed. In particular if you have residents located throughout the nursing home you will need to explore the possibility of creating and registering a separate residential care home as described in the options outlined above.</p> <p>We are taking a planned approach to the registration of these homes and will be writing to each registered provider to invite them to come forward for registration in respect to the options outlined above.</p>
When can I apply to register a separate residential care home?	<p>You can make application from the date of receipt of the letter.</p> <p>However, we are developing a bespoke procedure for this purpose and we will be writing to each registered provider to invite them to come forward for registration. This will allow us to implement the process in a planned and timely manner.</p>
If I am registering a separate residential care home do I have to meet the DoH standards relating to the fitness of <b>new</b> premises and extensions (Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards, 2011)?	<p><b>Under this scheme</b> if you opt to register a separate residential care home, with no change to your existing registered numbers, you will <b>not</b> have to meet the DoH standards relating to the fitness of <b>new</b> premises and extensions (Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards, 2011).</p> <p>Please note that should you wish to change your registration in the future, to alter or increase the numbers in your categories of care you will then need to meet the DoH standards relating to the fitness of <b>new</b> premises and extensions, for the additional beds in each category. In effect, this means that you cannot change your residential beds back to nursing beds unless you met these standards.</p>
What will I need to submit?	A bespoke registration process has been developed to streamline the process for those nursing homes affected. The application form will include information regarding the service to be

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	registered, who will manage this and a floor plan outlining which part of the nursing home is proposed to be registered as a residential care home.
Can I have the same manager for both my residential and nursing home?	<p>As part of the registration process you must identify a registered manager for the residential care home. Both nursing and residential care homes are 24 hour services and in order to deliver high quality care there should be a dedicated registered manager for each service. However, it is recognised that there may be circumstances that this may not be possible.</p> <p>We will consider each application on an individual basis.</p> <p>If you have no registered manager in the nursing home you will have to consider who will be the registered manager of your new residential care home.</p>
If I keep the same manager for both do they need an Access NI check?	If the manager has already gone through the registration process and been approved as a registered manager for the nursing home a further Access NI check may not be required. Please refer to the application form which will include a section under the heading "Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Order (NI) 1979."
<b>Fees</b>	
As part of this process will there a fee to vary the nursing bed numbers in my nursing home?	For those affected by this process, there will be no additional fee to vary the number of nursing home beds which may change as a result of any application to register a separate residential care home.
As part of this process will I have to pay a registration fee?	Subject to the applications coming forward from existing registered persons of the nursing home, then registration fees will not apply on this occasion.
<b>Care</b>	
Can I keep my existing residents?	You can continue to accommodate any existing residents on an individual "named resident" basis but no further residential clients can be admitted under the residential category of care.

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	<p>However, you will have to decide which of the four options best suits your needs.</p>
<p>I provide regular respite in one of my residential beds can those residents still be accommodated?</p>	<p>You may only admit nursing patients to the nursing home unless you register a separate residential home. Residents outside of this can only be admitted in exceptional circumstances.</p>
<p>What are my options as I only have 5 residents and cannot create a separate residential care home?</p>	<p>If you want to continue to offer residential care for 5 residents on a permanent basis you will need to register as a separate residential care home. You will need to consider how this can be managed within your home. This should be discussed with your aligned inspector.</p> <p>If you are unable to register a separate residential care home you will be required to name those in receipt of residential care in your nursing home.</p> <p>When a “named resident” leaves the home, another resident cannot take this place. RQIA must be notified and the bed will revert to a nursing category of care and the number of “named residents” will be adjusted on the registration certificate. (option 3)</p>
<p>Although I have the category of care on my certificate I currently have no one in receipt of residential care. What do I do?</p>	<p>You cannot admit any further residents.</p> <p>You should apply to have the category of care removed from the registration of the nursing home. This is treated as a variation and as it is part of this procedure there will be no charge.</p>
<p>Can I continue to accept residents to my nursing home if I have a residential category of care?</p>	<p>Persons in need of residential care should be admitted to residential care homes.</p> <p>Going forward only in the most exceptional circumstances may a resident be admitted to a nursing home. This will require a variation application and should be discussed with your aligned inspector prior to the admission.</p>
<p>What are exceptional circumstances?</p>	<p>If you believe the circumstances are exceptional you should liaise with your aligned inspector and the commissioning Trust. Any such application for variation will be considered on an individual basis and an example may include partners or siblings.</p>

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<p>Who will inspect the residential care home?</p>	<p>The care within these homes will become the responsibility of the residential care home team. They will be inspected under the residential care homes legislation and standards (see <a href="http://www.rqia.org.uk">www.rqia.org.uk</a>).</p> <p>You will continue to be inspected by inspectors from the medicines management, finance and estates teams.</p>
<p>How will these homes be inspected?</p>	<p>Residential homes are inspected in the same way as nursing homes and may receive care, medicines management, finance and premises inspections. We are currently reviewing how these inspections will be undertaken.</p>
<p>Will I see an increase in the number of inspections to my home?</p>	<p>You currently are registered as one home but this will increase to two registered homes as your application is processed and completed. You may see an increase in the total number of inspections. However we are looking at how we can make the inspection process as efficient as possible.</p> <p>If you have any suggestions in relation to this please contact one of your aligned inspectors.</p>