

Our ref: REG/IHC

Date 7 February 2014

Re: Information for Providers being re-registered as Independent Hospitals

Following receipt of recent legal advice on the matter of the definition of independent hospital and independent clinic, RQIA has undertaken an internal review of these establishments. The outcome of this review is that your service should be registered as an independent hospital providing prescribed techniques, not an independent clinic.

What will this mean for you?

Registration

This does not affect your status as a registered provider to carry on a regulated service. You will receive a revised Certificate of Registration that should be displayed in a conspicuous place. All details will remain the same as before except for the description of the establishment/agency and the date. You will be asked to return the former Certificate to this office for cancellation.

Annual Fees

In accordance with the RQIA (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, the annual fee for an independent clinic is £215 and for an independent hospital, £46 payable for each approved place. The current legislative definition of an approved place is a bed for the use of a service user at night or a dental practitioner's chair used for the purposes of the provision of dental treatment. RQIA are currently seeking clarity from the DHSSPS regarding the definition of an approved place in respect of your service. You will be notified of the annual fee applicable for your service once a decision has been reached.

Inspection

As before, a minimum of one inspection will be undertaken by RQIA in each financial year. Your service will continue to be inspected against the Independent Healthcare Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

Register of Regulated Services

RQIA is required by legislation to maintain a register of regulated services and make this available to any person. The register is provided on the RQIA website, www.rqia.org.uk – your service is currently listed under the Independent Clinics section and this will be moved to the Independent Hospitals section. The Register of Services will provide guidance on the description of services.

Contact From Other Agencies

You may receive contact / information from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety regarding the management of controlled drugs. If you do not stock or administer controlled drugs then this will not be relevant to you.

Enquiries regarding this correspondence should be referred to the Inspector for your service in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Kathy Fodey
Director of Regulation and Nursing