

Inspection Report

2 February 2023



Axis Nursing Agency

Type of service: Nursing Agency
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Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

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1.0 Service information

Organisation/Registered Provider: Axis Nursing Agency Ltd BHSCT	Registered Manager: Ms Georgina Mallon
Responsible Individual: Ms Rajini Chada	Date registered: 19/07/2022
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Ms Georgina Mallon	
Brief description of the agency operates: Axis Nursing Agency Ltd. is a nursing agency which operates from offices located in Belfast. The agency currently supplies nurses to a private hospital and to a number of Trust acute settings and care homes.	

2.0 Inspection summary

An announced inspection was undertaken on 2 February 2023 between 9.15 a.m. and 12.15. The inspection was conducted by a care inspector.

The inspection examined the agency's governance and management arrangements, reviewing areas such as staff recruitment, professional registrations, staff induction and training and adult safeguarding. The reporting and recording of accidents and incidents, complaints, whistleblowing, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), Service user involvement, Restrictive practices, Dysphagia management and Covid-19 guidance was also reviewed.

Adult safeguarding arrangements, complaints, whistleblowing, and whistleblowing records were also reviewed.

No areas for improvement were identified.

Good practice was identified in relation to the monitoring of nurses registrations with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). There were good governance and management arrangements in place.

For the purposes of the inspection report, the term 'service user' describes the hospitals or care homes, the agency's nurses are supplied to work in.

3.0 How we inspect

RQIA's inspections form part of our ongoing assessment of the quality of services. Our reports reflect how they were performing at the time of our inspection, highlighting both good practice and any areas for improvement. It is the responsibility of the service provider to ensure compliance with legislation, standards and best practice, and to address any deficits identified during our inspections.

In preparation for this inspection, a range of information about the service was reviewed. This included any previous areas for improvement identified, registration information, and any other written or verbal information received from service users.

As a public-sector body, RQIA has a duty to respect, protect and fulfil the rights that people have under the Human Rights Act 1998 when carrying out our functions. In our inspections of nursing agencies, we are committed to ensuring that the rights of people who receive services are protected. This means we will seek assurances from service users that the agency takes all reasonable steps to promote people's rights. People in receipt of nursing care have the right to expect their dignity and privacy to be respected and to have their independence and autonomy promoted. They should also experience their individual choices and freedoms.

Information was provided to service users and staff on how they could provide feedback on the quality of services. This included an electronic staff survey.

4.0 What people told us about the agency?

During the inspection we contacted a number of service users and registered nurses.

The information provided indicated that there were no concerns in relation to the agency.

Comments received included:

Service users' comments:

"We have not used Axis Nursing Agency for some time, but when they were used, they were very good."

There were no responses to the electronic survey.

5.0 The inspection

5.1 What has this agency done to meet any areas for improvement identified at or since last inspection?

The last care inspection of the agency was undertaken on 7 June 2021 by a care inspector. A Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) was issued. This was approved by the care inspector and was validated during this inspection.

Areas for improvement from the last inspection on 7 June 2021		
Action required to ensure compliance with The Nursing Agencies Minimum Standards, 2008		Validation of compliance
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 1.11 Stated: First time To be completed by: 7 August 2021	The registered person shall ensure that the monthly monitoring reports include the comments made by people who use the services of the agency. Ref: 5.2.2	Met
Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: On inspection, evidence was viewed of a system to gain feedback from service users.		

5.2 Inspection findings

5.2.1 What systems are in place for staff recruitment and are they robust?

A review of the agency's staff recruitment records confirmed that pre-employment checks including criminal record checks (AccessNI), were completed and verified before registered nurses were supplied to the various health care settings.

5.2.2 What are the arrangements to ensure robust managerial oversight and governance?

A review of the records confirmed that all registered nurses were appropriately registered with the NMC. Information regarding registration details, renewal and revalidation dates was monitored by the manager; this system was reviewed and found to be in compliance with regulations and standards. Records had been retained of any referrals the agency made to the NMC.

It was good to note that registered nurses had supervisions undertaken in accordance with the agency's policies and procedures.

There was a system in place to ensure that the registered nurses were placed into settings where their skills closely matched the needs of patients. Nurses were provided with training appropriate to the requirements of the settings in which they were placed. This training included Deprivation of Liberties Safeguards (DoLS), adult safeguarding, Dysphagia, National Early Warning Score (NEWS) and the Management of Actual or Potential Aggression (MAPA), as appropriate to their job roles.

The content of the Adult Safeguarding policy and training was reviewed and was noted to reflect the regional guidance in Northern Ireland.

There were quality monitoring arrangements in place in compliance with Regulations and Standards. A review of the reports of the agency's quality monitoring established that there was engagement with service users and staff. It was noted that the reports routinely monitored any incidents as part of the monthly checks to identify any patterns or trends.

There was a system in place to ensure that complaints were managed in accordance with the agency's policy and procedure. Where complaints were received since the last inspection, these were appropriately managed and were reviewed as part of the agency's quality monitoring process.

No incidents had occurred that required investigation under the Serious Adverse Incidents (SAIs) or Significant Event Audits (SEAs) procedures.

The alphabetical list of staff employed by the agency was up to date.

The agency's registration certificate was up to date and displayed appropriately along with current certificates of public and employers' liability insurance.

6.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Ms Georgina Mallon, Registered Manager and Ms Rajini Chada, Responsible Individual, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.



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