



Unannounced Medicines Management Inspection Report 24 October 2018



Beechvale Nursing Home

Type of Service: Nursing Home (NH)
Address: 35 Beechvale Road, Killinchy, BT23 6PH
Tel no: 028 9754 1166
Inspector: Paul Nixon

www.rqia.org.uk

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

It should be noted that this inspection report should not be regarded as a comprehensive review of all strengths and areas for improvement that exist in the service. The findings reported on are those which came to the attention of RQIA during the course of this inspection. The findings contained within this report do not exempt the service from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with legislation, standards and best practice.

1.0 What we look for



2.0 Profile of service

This is a nursing home that provides care for up to 42 patients with a variety of needs, as detailed in section 3.0.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: Beechvale Nursing Home Limited Responsible Individual: Mr Richard Porter	Registered Manager: Ms Kathie-Anne Stevenson
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Ms Kathie-Anne Stevenson	Date manager registered: 10 October 2017
Categories of care: Nursing Home (NH) I – Old age not falling within any other category. PH – Physical disability other than sensory impairment. PH(E) - Physical disability other than sensory impairment – over 65 years. TI – Terminally ill.	Number of registered places: 42

4.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 24 October 2018 from 09.50 to 14.15.

This inspection was underpinned by The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Care Standards for Nursing Homes, April 2015.

The inspection assessed progress with any areas for improvement identified during and since the last medicines management inspection and to determine if the home was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

Evidence of good practice was found in relation to medicine governance, medicine administration, medicines storage and the management of controlled drugs.

No areas for improvement were identified.

The patients were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff. Patients spoken to were positive about the care provided in the home. They were complimentary about the staff and management.

The findings of this report will provide the home with the necessary information to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities, enhance practice and patients' experience.

4.1 Inspection outcome

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Ms Kathie-Anne Stevenson, Registered Manager, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.

Enforcement action did not result from the findings of this inspection.

4.2 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection

Other than those actions detailed in the QIP no further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 27 June 2018. Enforcement action did not result from the findings of this inspection.

5.0 How we inspect

Prior to the inspection a range of information relevant to the service was reviewed. This included the following:

- recent inspection reports and returned QIPs
- recent correspondence with the home
- the management of medicine related incidents reported to RQIA since the last medicines management inspection.

A poster informing visitors to the home that an inspection was being conducted was displayed.

During the inspection we met with three patients, one patient's representative, the registered manager, two registered nurses and two care staff.

We provided 10 questionnaires to distribute to patients and their representatives, for completion and return to RQIA. We left 'Have we missed you' cards in the foyer of the home to inform patients and their representatives, who we did not meet with or were not present in the home, how to contact RQIA to tell us their experience of the quality of service provision. Flyers which gave information on raising a concern were also left in the home.

We asked the registered manager to display a poster which invited staff to share their views and opinions by completing an online questionnaire.

A sample of the following records was examined during the inspection:

- medicines requested and received
- personal medication records
- medicine administration records
- medicines disposed of or transferred
- controlled drug record book
- medicine audits
- care plans
- training records
- medicines storage temperatures

The areas for improvement identified at the last medicines management inspection were reviewed and the assessment of compliance recorded as met, partially met, or not met.

The findings of the inspection were provided to the person in charge at the conclusion of the inspection.

6.0 The inspection

6.1 Review of areas for improvement from the most recent inspection dated 27 June 2018

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced care inspection. The completed QIP was returned and approved by the care inspector. This QIP will be validated by the care inspector at the next care inspection.

6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last medicines management inspection dated 8 February 2018

Areas for improvement from the last medicines management inspection		Validation of compliance
Action required to ensure compliance with The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005		
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 13(4) Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that injectable medicines are administered as prescribed.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Injectable medicines had been administered as prescribed. There was a reminder of the next date of administration on the electronic care system and on the patient's medicine administration record. There was also a printed list of injections and the dates for their administration which was signed off by the registered nurse following their administration.	

Action required to ensure compliance with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Care Standards for Nursing Homes, April 2015		Validation of compliance
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 29 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that in-use insulin pens are labelled with the patient's name and date of opening.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: In-use insulin pens were appropriately labelled.	
Area for improvement 2 Ref: Standard 18 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that a care plan is in place for each patient prescribed medication for administration on a "when required" basis for the management of distressed reactions.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: For two patients whose records were reviewed, who were prescribed medication for administration on a "when required" basis for the management of distressed reactions, a care plan was in place.	
Area for improvement 3 Ref: Standard 4 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that the patient's care plan accurately states the consistency level of thickening agent to be used.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: For two patients whose records were reviewed, the care plan accurately stated the consistency level of thickening agent to be used.	

6.3 Inspection findings

6.4 Is care safe?

Avoiding and preventing harm to patients and clients from the care, treatment and support that is intended to help them.

Medicines were managed by staff who had been trained and deemed competent to do so. An induction process was in place for registered nurses and for care staff who had been delegated medicine related tasks. The impact of training was monitored through team meetings, supervision and annual appraisal. Competency assessments were completed annually. Refresher training in medicines management was provided in the last year.

Systems were in place to manage the ordering of prescribed medicines to ensure adequate supplies were available and to prevent wastage. Staff advised of the procedures to identify and report any potential shortfalls in medicines. Antibiotics and newly prescribed medicines had been received into the home without delay.

There were satisfactory arrangements in place to manage changes to prescribed medicines. Personal medication records and handwritten entries on medicine administration records were updated by two registered nurses. This safe practice was acknowledged.

In relation to safeguarding, staff advised that they were aware of the regional procedures and who to report any safeguarding concerns to.

There were procedures in place to ensure the safe management of medicines during a patient's admission to the home.

Records of the receipt, administration and disposal of controlled drugs subject to record keeping requirements were maintained in a controlled drug record book. Checks were performed on controlled drugs which require safe custody, at the end of each shift. Additional checks were also performed on other controlled drugs which is good practice.

Robust arrangements were observed for the management of high risk medicines e.g. insulin and medicines administered through a feeding tube.

Discontinued or expired medicines were disposed of appropriately. Discontinued controlled drugs were denatured and rendered irretrievable prior to disposal.

Medicines were stored safely and securely and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Medicine storage areas were clean, tidy and well organised. There were systems in place to alert staff of the expiry dates of medicines with a limited shelf life, once opened. The medicine refrigerator and oxygen equipment were checked at regular intervals.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice in relation to staff training, competency assessment, the management of medicines on admission, the management of controlled drugs and the storage of medicines.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.5 Is care effective?

The right care, at the right time in the right place with the best outcome.

The sample of medicines examined had been administered in accordance with the prescriber's instructions.

There was evidence that time critical medicines had been administered at the correct time. There were arrangements in place to alert staff of when doses of medicines prescribed to be administered at atypical intervals were due.

When a patient was prescribed a medicine for administration on a “when required” basis for the management of distressed reactions, the dosage instructions were recorded on the personal medication record. Staff knew how to recognise signs, symptoms and triggers which may cause a change in a patient’s behaviour and were aware that this change may be associated with pain. A care plan was maintained. One patient was being administered a medicine on a regular basis at night; the registered manager stated that she would request the doctor to review the dosage directions.

The sample of records examined indicated that medicines which were prescribed to manage pain had been administered as prescribed. Staff were aware that ongoing monitoring was necessary to ensure that the pain was well controlled and the patient was comfortable. A pain assessment tool was used as needed and a care plan was maintained.

Staff confirmed that compliance with prescribed medicine regimes was monitored and any omissions or refusals likely to have an adverse effect on the patient’s health were reported to the prescriber.

Medicine records were well generally maintained and facilitated the audit process. Areas of good practice were acknowledged. They included additional records for transdermal opioid patches and injections. The route of application of a couple of eye-treatment medicines was not specified on the personal medication records; the registered manager gave an assurance that this matter would be rectified without delay.

Following discussion with the registered manager and staff, it was evident that other healthcare professionals were contacted, when required, to meet the needs of patients. Staff advised that they had good working relationships with healthcare professionals involved in patient care.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice in relation to the standard of record keeping, care planning and the administration of medicines.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.6 Is care compassionate?

Patients and clients are treated with dignity and respect and should be fully involved in decisions affecting their treatment, care and support.

The administration of medicines to patients was completed in a caring manner, patients were given time to take their medicines and medicines were administered as discreetly as possible.

Patients were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff. Staff were knowledgeable regarding their patient's needs, wishes and preferences. Staff and patient interaction and communication demonstrated that patients were treated courteously, with dignity and respect. Good relationships were evident between staff and patients.

The patients and the patient's representative we spoke with advised that they were satisfied with the care provided in the home, including the management of medicines. They were complimentary regarding staff and management.

Patients commented that they were very well cared for and that they had no issues. Comments made by the patient's representative included, "Staff are very approachable, honest and go beyond the call of duty. Management are very approachable."

Of the questionnaires that were issued, four were returned from patients or their representatives. The responses indicated that they were very satisfied/satisfied with all aspects of the care. Comments included:

- "I feel (my relative) would not have lived so long if it had not been for the dedicated care of staff past and present."
- "Could be a little cleverer when a new resident is admitted."
- "I have been delighted with the care and support."
- ""Great anticipation by staff on needs of residents. Activities outstanding, well led, happy team."

Areas of good practice

Staff listened to patients and took account of their views.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.7 Is the service well led?

Effective leadership, management and governance which creates a culture focused on the needs and experience of service users in order to deliver safe, effective and compassionate care.

We discussed arrangements in place in relation to the equality of opportunity for patients and the importance of staff being aware of equality legislation and recognising and responding to the diverse needs of patients. Arrangements were in place to implement the collection of equality data within Beechvale Nursing Home.

Written policies and procedures for the management of medicines were in place. These were not reviewed on this occasion.

Following discussion with staff, it was evident that they were knowledgeable with the policies and procedures and that any updates were highlighted to them.

The governance arrangements for medicines management were reviewed. Management advised of the audits which take place and how areas for improvement were identified and followed up. This was usually through the development of action plans and staff supervision. A sample of the audit outcomes was provided. Also, as part of the pharmacist support to the home, a periodic audit was undertaken and a list of the findings was left in the home for management to address.

There were satisfactory arrangements in place for the management of medicine related incidents. Staff confirmed that they knew how to identify and report incidents. They provided details of the procedures in place to ensure that all staff were made aware of incidents and to prevent recurrence. These usually included reflective practice and supervision. In relation to the regional safeguarding procedures, staff confirmed that they were aware that medicine incidents may need to be reported to the safeguarding team.

Following discussion with the staff, it was evident that they were familiar with their roles and responsibilities in relation to medicines management. They confirmed that any concerns in relation to medicines management were raised with the registered manager; and any resultant action was discussed at team meetings and/or supervision. They spoke positively about their work and advised that there were good working relationships in the home with staff, management and with other healthcare professionals. They stated they felt well supported in their work.

No members of staff shared their views by completing an online questionnaire.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice in relation to governance arrangements, the management of medicine incidents and quality improvement. There were clearly defined roles and responsibilities for staff.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

7.0 Quality improvement plan

There were no areas for improvement identified during this inspection, and a QIP is not required or included, as part of this inspection report.



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