

Unannounced Medicines Management Inspection Report 16 November 2016



Comber Care Home

Type of Service: Nursing Home
Address: 17 Castle Street, Comber, BT23 5DY
Tel no: 0289187 8200
Inspector: Paul Nixon

www.rqia.org.uk

1.0 Summary

An unannounced inspection of Comber Care Home took place on 16 November 2016 from 09:30 to 14:30.

The inspection sought to assess progress with any issues raised during and since the previous inspection and to determine if the home was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

Is care safe?

There was evidence that the management of medicines supported the delivery of safe care and positive outcomes for patients. Staff administering medicines were trained and competent. There were systems in place to ensure the management of medicines was in compliance with legislative requirements and standards. It was evident that the working relationship with the community pharmacist, the knowledge of the staff and their proactive action in dealing with any issues enables the systems in place for the management of medicines to be robust. There were no areas of improvement identified.

Is care effective?

The management of medicines supported the delivery of effective care. There were systems in place to ensure patients were receiving their medicines as prescribed. There were no areas of improvement identified.

Is care compassionate?

The management of medicines supported the delivery of compassionate care. Staff interactions were observed to be compassionate, caring and timely which promoted the delivery of positive outcomes for patients. Patients consulted with confirmed that they were administered their medicines appropriately. There were no areas of improvement identified.

Is the service well led?

The service was found to be well led with respect to the management of medicines. Written policies and procedures for the management of medicines were in place which supported the delivery of care. Systems were in place to enable management to identify and cascade learning from any medicine related incidents and medicine audit activity. There were no areas of improvement identified.

This inspection was underpinned by 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.

Recommendations made as a result of this inspection relate to the DHSSPS Care Standards for Nursing Homes, April 2015.

1.1 Inspection outcome

	Requirements	Recommendations
Total number of requirements and recommendations made at this inspection	0	0

This inspection resulted in no requirements or recommendations being made. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Mrs Anne Robertson, 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.

1.2 Actions/enforcement taken following the most recent type e.g. care inspection

Other than those actions detailed in the QIP there were no further actions required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 17 August 2016.

2.0 Service details

Registered organisation/registered person: Four Seasons Health Care / Dr. Maureen Claire Royston	Registered manager: Mrs. Anne Robertson
Person in charge of the home at the time of inspection: Mrs. Anne Robertson	Date manager registered: 28 May 2014
Categories of care: NH-I, NH-PH, NH-PH(E), NH-TI	Number of registered places: 72

3.0 Methods/processes

Prior to inspection the following records were analysed:

- 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.

We met with four patients, the registered manager and four registered nurses.

A poster indicating that the inspection was taking place was displayed in the lobby of the home and invited visitors/relatives to speak with the inspector. No one availed of this opportunity during the inspection.

Twenty-five questionnaires were issued to service users, relatives and staff with a request that they were returned within one week from the date of this inspection.

The following records were 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
- policies and procedures
- care plans
- training records
- medicines storage temperatures

4.0 The inspection

4.1 Review of requirements and recommendations from the most recent inspection dated 17 August 2016

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 their next inspection.

4.2 Review of requirements and recommendations from the last medicines management inspection dated 17 June 2015

Last medicines management inspection recommendations		Validation of compliance
Recommendation 1 Ref: Standard 29 Stated: First time	It is recommended that the registered person should ensure the reason for and outcome of administration of a medicine prescribed on a “when required” basis for the management of distressed reactions are always recorded.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: The reasons for and outcomes of administration of a medicine prescribed on a “when required” basis for the management of distressed reactions were appropriately recorded.	

4.3 Is care safe?

Medicines were managed by staff who have 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.

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.

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.

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

Records of the receipt, administration and disposal of controlled drugs subject to record keeping requirements were maintained in controlled drug record books. 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.

Two patients did not have their prescribed insulin doses specified on their personal medication record sheets (this information was recorded on their medicine administration records). The registered manager gave an assurance that this matter would be rectified without delay. Following the recent omission of two warfarin doses to patients, the registered manager stated that she was reviewing the procedure for the administration of warfarin to ensure it is performed by two registered nurses at all times.

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. Medicine refrigerators and oxygen equipment were checked at regular intervals.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	0
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4.4 Is care effective?

With one exception, the sample of medicines examined had been administered in accordance with the prescriber's instructions. The registered manager gave an assurance that the medicine which produced an unsatisfactory audit outcome would be closely monitored. 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 weekly, three weekly and three monthly medicines 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. The reason for and the outcome of administration were recorded. Care plans were maintained. There was very little use of this type of medication.

The sample of records examined indicated that medicines which were prescribed to manage pain had been administered as prescribed. Staff were aware that on-going monitoring was necessary to ensure that the pain was well controlled and the patient was comfortable. Staff advised that most of the patients could verbalise any pain, and a pain assessment tool was used as needed. A care plan was not maintained for two of the four patients examined; the registered manager gave an assurance that this matter would be rectified without delay. Staff also advised that a pain assessment was completed as part of the admission process.

The management of swallowing difficulty was examined. For those patients prescribed a thickening agent, this was recorded on their personal medication record and included details of the fluid consistency. Care plans and speech and language assessment reports were in place. The nursing staff had recorded administrations, however, the care staff did not always record this information; the registered manager gave an assurance that this matter would be rectified without delay.

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 maintained and facilitated the audit process. Additional records were maintained for transdermal patches, insulin, other injectable medicines and warfarin.

Practices for the management of medicines were audited throughout the month by the management.

Following discussion with the registered manager and staff, it was evident that there were good working relationships with other healthcare workers, including the community pharmacist and prescribers.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	0
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4.5 Is care compassionate?

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 spoken to advised that they were very satisfied with the care they received.

Patients who could not verbalise their feelings in respect of their care were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff.

As part of the inspection process, we issued questionnaires to patients, staff and patients’ representatives. Ten patients and six staff completed and returned questionnaires within the specified timeframe. Comments received were positive; the responses were recorded as ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the management of medicines in the home.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	0
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4.6 Is the service well led?

Written policies and procedures for the management of medicines were in place. Following discussion with staff it was evident that they were familiar with the policies and procedures and that any updates were highlighted to them.

There were robust arrangements in place for the management of medicine related incidents. Staff confirmed that they knew how to identify and report incidents. Medicine related incidents reported since the last medicines management inspection were discussed. There was evidence of the action taken and learning implemented following incidents.

A review of the audit records indicated that largely satisfactory outcomes had been achieved. Where a discrepancy had been identified, there was evidence of the action taken and learning which had resulted in a change of practice.

Following discussion with the registered manager and registered nurses, it was evident that staff were familiar with their roles and responsibilities in relation to medicines management.

The recommendation made at the last medicines management inspection had been addressed.

Staff confirmed that any concerns in relation to medicines management were raised with management.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	0
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5.0 Quality improvement plan

There were no issues identified during this inspection, and a QIP is neither required, nor included, as part of this inspection report.

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 registered provider from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with the regulations and standards.



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