

# Unannounced Care Inspection Report 22 December 2020



## Brooklands Healthcare Antrim

**Type of Service: Nursing Home**  
**Address: Nursing Unit, 50 Bush Road,  
Antrim, BT41 2QB**  
**Tel no: 028 9446 0444**  
**Inspector: Gerry Colgan**

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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.

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 DHSSPS Care Standards for Nursing Homes 2015.

## 1.0 What we look for



## 2.0 Profile of service

This is a nursing home registered to provide nursing care for up to 18 persons.

### 3.0 Service details

<b>Organisation/Registered Provider:</b> Brooklands Healthcare Ltd  <b>Responsible Individual:</b> Therese Elizabeth Conway	<b>Registered Manager and date registered:</b> Sharon McCreary – Registration pending
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Sharon McCreary	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 18
<b>Categories of care:</b> 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.	<b>Number of patients accommodated in the nursing home on the day of this inspection:</b> 18

### 4.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 22 December 2020 from 08.30 to 14.30 hours.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic the Department of Health (DOH) directed RQIA to prioritise inspections to homes on the basis of risk.

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

During this inspection we identified evidence of good practice in relation to the management of infection prevention and control, notifiable events, adult safeguarding, falls management, teamwork and communication between patients, staff and other key stakeholders. Further areas of good practice were identified in relation to the culture and ethos of the home and maintaining good working relationships.

The following areas were examined during the inspection:

- staffing
- infection prevention and control (IPC) and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- the environment
- care delivery
- care records
- dining experience
- governance and management arrangements.

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
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Sharon McCreary, 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.

#### 5.0 How we inspect

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

- notifiable events since the previous care inspection
- the registration status of the home
- written and verbal communication received since the previous care inspection
- the previous care inspection report.

During the inspection the inspector met with six patients, and eight staff. Questionnaires were also left in the home to obtain feedback from patients and patients' representatives. Ten patients' questionnaires and ten patients' relatives/representatives questionnaires were left for distribution. A poster was also displayed for staff inviting them to provide feedback to RQIA on-line. The inspector provided the manager with 'Have we missed you cards' which were then placed in a prominent position to allow patients and their relatives/representatives, who were not present on the day of inspection, the opportunity to give feedback to RQIA regarding the quality of service provision.

The following records were examined during the inspection:

- staff duty rota from 18 December to 31 December 2020
- four patient care records
- six supplementary records
- notifications of accidents and incidents
- a sample of monthly monitoring reports
- governance audits
- the minutes of staff meetings
- the certificate of registration.

The findings of the inspection were provided to the manager at the conclusion of the inspection.

## 6.0 The inspection

### 6.1 Review of areas for improvement from previous inspection dated 21 February 2020

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced care inspection undertaken on 21 February 2020.

Areas for improvement from the last care inspection		
Action required to ensure compliance with The Care Standards for Nursing Homes (2015)		Validation of compliance
<b>Area for improvement 1</b> <b>Ref:</b> Standard 41 <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered person shall ensure that staff meetings take place on a regular basis and at a minimum quarterly.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> A review of records and conversation with the manager confirmed that staff meetings are now held regularly on at least a quarterly basis.	
<b>Area for improvement 2</b> <b>Ref:</b> Standard 12.4 <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered person shall ensure that nutritional screening is repeated monthly, or more frequently depending on individual assessed need.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> A review of patient care records confirmed that nutritional screening is repeated monthly, or more frequently depending on individual assessed need.	
<b>Area for improvement 3</b> <b>Ref:</b> Standard 37 <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered person shall ensure clear, documented systems are in place for the management of records in accordance with legislative requirements and best practice guidance. This refers specifically to the safe storage of archived care records retained in the home.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> A tour of the premises confirmed that the lock to the specific store has been fixed and archived records are being stored safely.	

## 6.2 Inspection findings

### 6.2.1 Staffing

Discussion with the manager confirmed the planned staffing levels for the home. Staff duty rotas for the period of 18 to 31 December 2020 were reviewed. The rota reflected the person in charge arrangements and staff on duty during the inspection. A competency assessment was completed by the manager with any member of staff who is given the responsibility of being in charge of the home in their absence. Staff confirmed that staffing levels were maintained to ensure the needs of patients could be met. There were no major concerns raised by staff regarding staffing levels in the home, however, some felt that they could benefit from an extra carer in the mornings. Discussion with the manager confirmed that this was being addressed although there were no applicants for most recent recruitment advertisement. Staff shared that, although very difficult, normal staffing levels were maintained throughout the Covid-19 outbreak.

The staff we met during the inspection discussed their experiences of working in the home. Staff were aware of reporting arrangements and who to speak with if they had any concerns. Observation of staff practice showed they were kind and courteous to patients and responded to call bells or requests for assistance in a timely manner. Staff spoken with confirmed there was a good sense of team-work in the home and demonstrated an awareness of the individual needs of patients. Staff spoken with felt supported by their manager.

Comments received from staff include:

- “We have done very well so far keeping Covid out of this unit.”
- “It is a great home to work in. We have great patients here.”
- “We all know each other very well so we have created a good team.”

### 6.2.2 Infection prevention and control (IPC) and personal protective equipment (PPE)

We were advised that during the current pandemic all patients and staff had their temperature taken twice daily as a means of detecting Covid symptoms. PPE supplies and hand sanitisation was available throughout the home. Discussion with staff confirmed they felt safe doing their work and there was a good supply of PPE. Staff were observed using PPE appropriately in accordance with the current guidance. We were advised that management completed regular observations of staff donning and doffing PPE and staff handwashing practices. Signage outlining the seven steps to handwashing was displayed throughout the home. The infection prevention and control audits were all completed and staff confirmed enhanced cleaning schedules were in place which included the regular cleaning of touch points throughout the home. Discussion with staff evidenced they were aware of how to reduce or minimise the risk of infection in the home.

### 6.2.3 Care environment

Patients spoken with confirmed they were happy with the home environment. The home was found to be warm, clean and tidy. There were no malodours detected. Communal areas including lounges, dining areas and bathrooms were viewed; these were found to be very well maintained. Bedrooms were personalised with items that were meaningful to individual patients.

#### 6.2.4 Care delivery

We observed staff practice in the home and interactions with patients<sup>2</sup> were warm and kind. Staff showed good knowledge and understanding of patients' individual needs. Patients<sup>2</sup> were well presented with obvious time and attention given to their personal care. Staff referred to patients by name and showed that they were aware of their personal preferences.

There was a relaxed and unhurried atmosphere in the home. Some patients<sup>2</sup> were observed relaxing in their bedrooms while others were in communal sitting rooms. Patients<sup>2</sup> appeared comfortable, staff were available throughout the day to meet their needs and call bells were observed to be in easy reach for patients who were in their bedrooms.

Comments received from patients included:

- "It's a good place all right. I couldn't be better looked after."
- "The best place I was ever in and I have been in a few. I just love it here."
- "We are looked after just great."

#### 6.2.5 Care records

Four patients' care records were reviewed; these had been completed upon patients' admission to the home. Records included an up to date assessment of needs, care plans, risk assessments as necessary and daily evaluation records. We viewed the care records for identified patients in relation to care following a fall or suspected head injury, food and fluid intake, diabetes, mixed varicose ulcer and self-retaining catheter.<sup>2</sup> The care records included all relevant information and evidenced regular review and evaluation.

#### 6.2.6 Dining experience

We observed the serving of lunch during the inspection. Staff spoken with confirmed that the dining arrangements had been altered to ensure social distancing for patients due to risks during the Covid-19 pandemic. A number of patients made their way to the dining room for lunch; others were provided with lunch in their bedrooms or the lounge areas. Review of the menu choice evidenced patients were given a choice at each mealtime; this included patients who required a modified diet. Feedback from patients indicated that they were happy with the food provided in the home. Drinks were made easily available and staff provided assistance as necessary. Meals provided looked appetising and were of a good portion size. We were advised the dining arrangements were subject to ongoing review. Staff were observed providing drinks and snacks to patients at intervals throughout the day.

#### 6.2.7 Governance and management arrangements

The manager outlined the line management arrangements for the home and confirmed she felt supported in the recent months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Discussion with staff evidenced they knew who was in charge of the home on a daily basis and how to report concerns.

There was a system in place regarding the reporting of notifiable events. Review of records evidenced RQIA had been notified appropriately. The audits of accidents and incidents within the home were reviewed; these were completed monthly and were used to identify any potential patterns or trends. We reviewed a sample of monthly monitoring reports from the previous care inspection in February 2020 to November 2020. The monthly monitoring reports evidenced

oversight had been maintained with regards to the running of the home. Actions plans were included within the reports.

We reviewed the minutes of staff meetings, we were advised the manager was available for staff if they had any issues or concerns and that there was appropriate on call arrangements within the home. Staff spoken with were clear on their roles and responsibilities.

The homes certificate of registration was displayed appropriately in a central part of the home.

### Areas of good practice

During this inspection we identified evidence of good practice in relation to infection prevention and control, the management of notifiable events, adult safeguarding, falls management, team work and communication between patients, staff and other key stakeholders. Further areas of good practice were identified in relation to the environment, the culture and ethos of the home and maintaining good working relationships.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

## 6.3 Conclusion

On the day of the inspection we observed that patients appeared comfortable, and that staff treated them with kindness and compassion. The staff were timely in responding to patients' individual needs. PPE was appropriately worn by staff throughout the inspection.

## 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.



The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

9th Floor

Riverside Tower

5 Lanyon Place

BELFAST

BT1 3BT

**Tel** 028 9536 1111

**Email** [info@rqia.org.uk](mailto:info@rqia.org.uk)

**Web** [www.rqia.org.uk](http://www.rqia.org.uk)

 [@RQIANews](https://twitter.com/RQIANews)

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