

Inspection Report

16 January 2023



Oakleaves Care Centre

Type of service: Nursing Home
Address: 42 Racecourse Road, Londonderry, BT48 8DA
Telephone number: 028 7135 4725

www.rqia.org.uk

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

Information on legislation and standards underpinning inspections can be found on our website <https://www.rqia.org.uk/>

1.0 Service information

Registered Provider: Larchwood Care Homes (NI) Ltd Responsible Individual: Mr Christopher Walsh	Registered Manager: Ms Jennifer Lynch Date registered: 4 July 2022
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Ms Jennifer Lynch	Number of registered places: 42
Categories of care: Nursing Home (NH) DE – dementia A – past or present alcohol dependence.	Number of patients accommodated in the nursing home on the day of this inspection: 42
Brief description of the accommodation/how the service operates: Oakleaves Care Centre is a registered nursing home which provides nursing care for up to 42 patients. The home is divided into three units situated on the ground floor. Patients have access to communal lounges, dining rooms and a garden.	

2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 16 January 2023, from 11.00am to 2.30pm. This was completed by a pharmacist inspector and focused on medicines management within the home.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess if the home was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the home was well led with respect to medicines management.

Following discussion with the aligned care inspector, it was agreed that the areas for improvement identified at the last care inspection would be followed up at the next care inspection.

Review of medicines management found that robust arrangements were in place for the safe management of medicines. Medicine records and medicine related care plans were well maintained. There were effective auditing processes in place to ensure that staff were trained and competent to manage medicines and patients were administered their medicines as prescribed.

The outcome of this inspection concluded that the areas for improvement identified at the last medicines management inspection had been addressed. No new areas for improvement were identified.

Based on the inspection findings and discussions held, RQIA are satisfied that this service is providing safe and effective care in a caring and compassionate manner; and that the service is well led by the management team with respect to medicines management.

RQIA would like to thank the staff for their assistance throughout the inspection.

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.

To prepare for this inspection, information held by RQIA about this home was reviewed. This included previous inspection findings, incidents and correspondence. The inspection was completed by examining a sample of medicine related records, the storage arrangements for medicines, staff training and the auditing systems used to ensure the safe management of medicines. The inspector spoke to staff and management about how they plan, deliver and monitor the management of medicines within the home.

4.0 What people told us about the service

The inspector met with care staff, nursing staff and the manager. All staff were wearing face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed. PPE signage was displayed.

Staff interactions with patients were warm, friendly and supportive. It was evident that they knew the patients well.

Staff expressed satisfaction with how the home was managed. They also said that they had the appropriate training to look after patients and meet their needs.

Feedback methods included a staff poster and paper questionnaires which were provided to the manager for any patient or their family representative to complete and return using pre-paid, self-addressed envelopes. At the time of issuing this report, no questionnaires had been received by RQIA.

5.0 The inspection

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

Areas for improvement from the last inspection on 19 th July 2022		
Action required to ensure compliance with The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005		Validation of compliance
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 30 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that all notifiable events are submitted to RQIA without delay.	Carried forward to the next inspection
	Action required to ensure compliance with this regulation was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection.	
Action required to ensure compliance with the Care Standards for Nursing Homes (April 2015)		Validation of compliance
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 18 Stated: First time	The registered person shall review the care plans pertaining to distressed reactions, to ensure that where patients are prescribed medicines this is clearly detailed in a care plan, including the regime if more than one medicine is prescribed to manage the distressed reaction.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Detailed care plans were in place for patients prescribed medicines for the management of distressed reactions. See Section 5.2.1	
Area for improvement 2 Ref: Standard 28 Stated: First time	The registered person shall make the necessary arrangements to ensure that disposal of medicines records clearly indicate that all controlled drugs in Schedules 3 and 4 (Part 1) have been denatured prior to disposal by two trained staff.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Controlled drugs in Schedules 3 and 4 (Part 1) were denatured prior to disposal.	

	See Section 5.2.3	
Area for improvement 3 Ref: Standard 4.9 Stated: First time time	The registered person shall ensure that daily progress notes and supplementary recording charts are reflective of the delivery of personal care in accordance with the patients care plan. Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection.	Carried forward to the next inspection
Area for improvement 4 Ref: Standard 46 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that staff use of PPE is in accordance with IPC guidance. Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection.	Carried forward to the next inspection

5.2 Inspection findings

5.2.1 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are appropriately prescribed, monitored and reviewed?

Patients in nursing homes should be registered with a general practitioner (GP) to ensure that they receive appropriate medical care when they need it. At times patients' needs may change and therefore their medicines should be regularly monitored and reviewed. This is usually done by the GP, the pharmacist or during a hospital admission.

Patients in the home were registered with a GP and medicines were dispensed by the community pharmacist.

Personal medication records were in place for each patient. These are records used to list all of the prescribed medicines, with details of how and when they should be administered. It is important that these records accurately reflect the most recent prescription to ensure that medicines are administered as prescribed and because they may be used by other healthcare professionals, for example, at medication reviews or hospital appointments.

The personal medication records reviewed at the inspection were accurate and up to date. In line with best practice, a second member of staff had checked and signed the personal medication records when they were written and updated to state that they were accurate.

Copies of patients' prescriptions/hospital discharge letters were retained in the home so that any entry on the personal medication record could be checked against the prescription. This is good practice.

Patients will sometimes get distressed and will occasionally require medicines to help them manage their distress. It is important that care plans are in place to direct staff on when it is appropriate to administer these medicines and that records are kept of when the medicine was given, the reason it was given and what the outcome was. If staff record the reason and outcome of giving the medicine, then they can identify common triggers which may cause the patient's distress and if the prescribed medicine is effective for the patient.

The management of medicines prescribed on a "when required" basis for distressed reactions was reviewed for three patients. Directions for use were clearly recorded on the personal medication records; and care plans directing the use of these medicines were in place. The care plans reviewed contained details of the prescribed medicine(s). Staff knew how to recognise a change in a patient's behaviour and were aware that this change may be associated with pain or infection. Records included the reason for and outcome of each administration.

The management of pain was discussed. Staff advised that they were familiar with how each patient expressed their pain and that pain relief was administered when required. Care plans and pain assessments were in place and reviewed regularly.

Some patients may need their diet modified to ensure that they receive adequate nutrition. This may include thickening fluids to aid swallowing and food supplements in addition to meals. Care plans detailing how the patient should be supported with their food and fluid intake should be in place to direct staff. All staff should have the necessary training to ensure that they can meet the needs of the patient.

The management of thickening agents and nutritional supplements was reviewed for three patients. A speech and language assessment report and care plan was in place. Records of prescribing and administration which included the recommended consistency level were maintained.

Care plans were in place when patients required insulin to manage their diabetes. There was sufficient detail to direct staff if the patient's blood sugar was outside the recommended range.

5.2.2 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are supplied on time, stored safely and disposed of appropriately?

Medicines stock levels must be checked on a regular basis and new stock must be ordered on time. This ensures that the patient's medicines are available for administration as prescribed. It is important that they are stored safely and securely so that there is no unauthorised access and disposed of promptly to ensure that a discontinued medicine is not administered in error.

The records inspected showed that medicines were available for administration when patients required them. Staff advised that they had a good relationship with the community pharmacist and that medicines were supplied in a timely manner.

The medicines storage areas were observed to be securely locked to prevent any unauthorised access. They were tidy and organised so that medicines belonging to each patient could be easily located. Temperatures of medicine storage areas were monitored and recorded to ensure that medicines were stored appropriately. A medicine refrigerator and controlled drugs cabinet were available for use as needed.

Satisfactory arrangements were in place for the safe disposal of medicines.

5.2.3 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are appropriately administered within the home?

It is important to have a clear record of which medicines have been administered to patients to ensure that they are receiving the correct prescribed treatment.

A sample of the medicines administration records was reviewed. Most of the records were found to have been fully and accurately completed. A small number of missed signatures were brought to the attention of the manager for ongoing close monitoring. The records were filed once completed and were readily retrievable for review.

Controlled drugs are medicines which are subject to strict legal controls and legislation. They commonly include strong pain killers. The receipt, administration and disposal of controlled drugs were recorded in the controlled drug record book. Controlled drugs in Schedules 2, 3 and 4 (Part 1) were denatured prior to disposal and records accurately maintained. There were satisfactory arrangements in place for the management of controlled drugs.

Management and staff audited medicine administration on a regular basis within the home. A range of audits were carried out. The date of opening was recorded on all medicines so that they could be easily audited. This is good practice.

The audits completed at the inspection indicated that medicines were being administered as prescribed. One discrepancy involving the administration of insulin was discussed with the manager on the day of inspection for investigation and review. An incident report detailing the outcome of the investigation and action taken to prevent a recurrence was submitted to RQIA on 17 January 2023.

5.2.4 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are safely managed during transfer of care?

People who use medicines may follow a pathway of care that can involve both health and social care services. It is important that medicines are not considered in isolation, but as an integral part of the pathway, and at each step. Problems with the supply of medicines and how information is transferred put people at increased risk of harm when they change from one healthcare setting to another.

A review of records indicated that satisfactory arrangements were in place to manage medicines for new patients or patients returning from hospital. Written confirmation of the patient's medicine regime was obtained at or prior to admission and details shared with the community pharmacy. The medicine records had been accurately completed.

5.2.5 What arrangements are in place to ensure that staff can identify, report and learn from adverse incidents?

Occasionally medicines incidents occur within homes. It is important that there are systems in place which quickly identify that an incident has occurred so that action can be taken to prevent a recurrence and that staff can learn from the incident. A robust audit system will help staff to identify medicine related incidents.

Management and staff were familiar with the type of incidents that should be reported. The medicine related incidents which had been reported to RQIA since the last inspection were discussed. There was evidence that the incidents had been reported to the prescriber for guidance, investigated and the learning shared with staff in order to prevent a recurrence.

5.2.6 What measures are in place to ensure that staff in the home are qualified, competent and sufficiently experienced and supported to manage medicines safely?

To ensure that patients are well looked after and receive their medicines appropriately, staff who administer medicines to patients must be appropriately trained. The registered person has a responsibility to check that they staff are competent in managing medicines and that they are supported. Policies and procedures should be up to date and readily available for staff reference.

There were records in place to show that staff responsible for medicines management had been trained and deemed competent. Further medicines management training provided by the Trust was planned in the coming months. Medicines management policies and procedures were in place and readily available to staff.

6.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of Areas for Improvement	1*	2*

* The total number of areas for improvement includes three which are carried forward for review at the next inspection.

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

Quality Improvement Plan	
Action required to ensure compliance with The Nursing Home Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 30 Stated: First time To be completed by: With immediate effect (19 July 2022)	The registered person shall ensure that all notifiable events are submitted to RQIA without delay.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this regulation was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 5.1
Action required to ensure compliance with Care Standards for Nursing Homes, April 2015	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 4.9 Stated: First time time To be completed by: 19 August 2022	The registered person shall ensure that daily progress notes and supplementary recording charts are reflective of the delivery of personal care in accordance with the patients care plan.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 5.1
Area for improvement 2 Ref: Standard 46 Stated: First time To be completed by: With immediate effect (19 July 2022)	The registered person shall ensure that staff use of PPE is in accordance with IPC guidance.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 5.1



The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

7th Floor, Victoria House
15-27 Gloucester Street
Belfast
BT1 4LS

Tel 028 9536 1111
Email info@rqia.org.uk
Web www.rqia.org.uk
 [@RQIANews](https://twitter.com/RQIANews)

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care