

Unannounced Medicines Management Inspection Report 7 October 2016



Longfield Care Home

Type of Service: Nursing Home

Address: 2 Longfield Road, Eglinton, BT47 3PY

Tel no: 028 7181 2552

Inspector: Helen Daly

1.0 Summary

An unannounced inspection of Longfield Care Home took place on 7 October 2016 from 09.55 to 13.45.

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.

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 Louise McCloskey, 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 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 8 September 2016.

2.0 Service details

Registered organisation/registered person: Four Seasons (Bamford) Ltd Dr Maureen Claire Royston	Registered manager: Mrs Louise McCloskey
Person in charge of the home at the time of inspection: Mrs Louise McCloskey	Date manager registered: 1 April 2005
Categories of care: NH-PH, NH-PH(E), NH-I	Number of registered places: 46

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 one patient, two care assistants, two registered nurses, the deputy manager and the registered manager.

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.

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
- 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 8 September 2016

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced care inspection. The draft report has been issued. 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 2 December 2014

Last medicines management inspection statutory requirements		Validation of compliance
Requirement 1 Ref: Regulation 13 (4) Stated: First time	The registered manager must ensure that Schedule 4 (Part 1) controlled drugs are denatured prior to disposal. Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: There was evidence to demonstrate that controlled drugs in Schedule 4 (Part 1) were denatured prior to their disposal.	Met
Last medicines management inspection recommendations		Validation of compliance
Recommendation 1 Ref: Standard 37 Stated: First time	The registered manager should review the management of medicines for distressed reactions to ensure the reason for and effect of the administration is recorded on every occasion. Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: These medicines were used occasionally. The reason for and outcome of administration were recorded in the daily care records.	Met

Recommendation 2 Ref: Standard 38 Stated: First time	The registered manager should closely monitor the standard of maintenance of personal medication records.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: The standard of maintenance of personal medication records was reviewed regularly as part of the home's audit process.	

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. Refresher training in the management of medicines was planned for 19 October 2016.

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 medication administration records were updated by two registered nurses. This safe practice was acknowledged.

There had been no recent admissions to the home. There were procedures in place to ensure the safe management of medicines during a patient's re-admission and discharge from 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. warfarin and insulin. The use of separate administration charts was acknowledged.

The management of medicines and nutrition via the enteral route was examined and found to be mostly satisfactory. The written records of daily fluid intakes had not been accurately maintained. However, the registered manager and deputy manager provided assurances that recommended daily fluid intakes had been achieved and that records were being maintained on the computerised system. They confirmed that this was currently being addressed with registered nurses and that training was being provided. A recommendation has therefore not been made.

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. Some recent refrigerator temperature recordings were outside the accepted range; the registered manager had been informed and corrective action was taken.

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?

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 weekly, monthly or 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. Care plans were in place. 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.

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. Staff advised that most of the patients could verbalise any pain, and a pain assessment tool was used as needed. A care plan was maintained. Staff also advised that a pain assessment is 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. Records of administration by registered nurses and care assistants were being 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 maintained and facilitated the audit process. Areas of good practice were acknowledged. They included separate records for the administration of transdermal patches and "when required" medicines.

Practices for the management of medicines were audited throughout the month by the staff and management. This included running stock balances for several solid dosage medicines, nutritional supplements and inhaled medicines. In addition, a quarterly audit was completed by the community pharmacist.

Following discussion with the registered manager and staff, it was evident that when applicable, other healthcare professionals are contacted in response to medication related issues.

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 were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff.

We spoke with one patient who advised that she was very happy in the home and that staff were “very good.” She confirmed that additional pain relief could be requested if necessary.

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; they were not examined at the inspection. Following discussion with staff it was evident that they were familiar with the policies and procedures and that any updates were highlighted to staff.

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

Staff confirmed that any concerns in relation to medicines management were raised with management. They advised that any resultant action was communicated with staff either individually or via team meetings.

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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