

# Unannounced Medicines Management Inspection Report 25 April 2018



## Harold McCauley House

**Type of Service: Nursing Home**  
**Address: 7 Camowen Terrace, Omagh, BT79 0AX**  
**Tel No: 028 8225 2550**  
**Inspector: Paul Nixon**

[www.rqia.org.uk](http://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 with 32 beds that provides care for patients with a variety of care needs, as detailed in Section 3.0.

### 3.0 Service details

<b>Organisation/Registered Provider:</b> Presbyterian Council of Social Witness  <b>Responsible Individual:</b> Mrs Linda May Wray	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Mrs Caroline Elizabeth Crawford
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Mrs Caroline Crawford	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 1 April 2005
<b>Categories of care:</b> Nursing Homes I – Old age not falling within any other category. DE – Dementia. LD – Learning disability. PH – Physical disability other than sensory impairment. PH(E) - Physical disability other than sensory impairment – over 65 years.	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 32 Including a maximum of seven patients in category NH-DE and a maximum of two patients in category NH-PH/PH(E). Category NH-LD for one identified patient only.

### 4.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 25 April 2018 from 09.50 to 13.00.

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, care planning, medicines storage and the management of controlled drugs.

No areas requiring improvement were identified.

The patients were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff. They spoke positively about the management of their medicines and 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
<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 Mrs Caroline Crawford, 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

No further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 26 September 2017.

## 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

Prior to the inspection, it was ascertained that no incidents involving medicines had been 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, the registered manager, two registered nurses and two nursing auxiliaries.

Ten questionnaires were provided for distribution to patients and their representatives for completion and return to RQIA. Staff were invited to share their views 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

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 26 September 2017

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced care inspection. There were no areas for improvement identified as a result of the inspection.

### 6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last medicines management inspection dated 20 April 2017

Areas for improvement from the last medicines management inspection		
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
<b>Area for improvement 1</b>  <b>Ref:</b> Standard 4  <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered provider should ensure that, when a patient is prescribed medication for administration on a “when required” basis for the management of distressed reactions, there is a care plan that details the specific circumstances under which the medication is to be used.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> Two patients’ records were examined; in each instance there was a care plan in place detailing the specific circumstances under which medication prescribed for administration on a “when required” basis for the management of distressed reactions should be administered.	

## 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 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. Antibiotics and newly prescribed medicines had been received into the home without delay. Satisfactory arrangements were in place for the acquisition and storage of prescriptions.

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 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.

Robust arrangements were observed for the management of high risk medicines e.g. warfarin and insulin. The use of separate administration charts was acknowledged.

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, controlled drugs and the storage of medicines.

**Areas for improvement**

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

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

**6.5 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 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. 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. A care plan was maintained.

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 and a care plan was maintained.

For those patients prescribed a thickening agent, this was recorded on their personal medication record and included details of the fluid consistency. Administrations were recorded and care plans and speech and language assessment reports were in place.

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.

Practices for the management of medicines were audited throughout the month by the staff and management. This included running stock balances for most medicines not dispensed in the monitored dosage system blister packs. In addition, a quarterly audit was completed by the community pharmacist.



Following discussion with the registered manager and staff, it was evident that other healthcare professionals are 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
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	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.**

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 we spoke with advised that they were very satisfied with the management of their medicines and the care provided in the home. They were very complimentary regarding staff and management. Comments made included:

- “It’s absolutely marvellous (here); staff are very nice; food is good.”
- “It’s a very good home; staff are very kind.”
- “It’s very good; staff are very helpful.”

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.

Five questionnaires were returned from patients and relatives. The responses indicated that they were very satisfied/satisfied with all aspects of the care.

**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
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	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.**

The inspector 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 are place to implement the collection of equality data.

Written policies and procedures for the management of medicines were in place. Following discussion with staff it was evident that they were knowledgeable 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. 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.

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 knew 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 management were open and approachable and willing to listen.

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