

# Inspection Report

3 October 2023



## Slieve Dhu

Type of Service: Nursing Home  
Address: 43 Bryansford Road, Newcastle, BT33 0DW  
Tel no: 028 4372 5118

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Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

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## 1.0 Service information

<b>Organisation:</b> Slieve Dhu Ltd  <b>Responsible Individual:</b> Mr Eoghain King	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Mr Martin Yeo (Acting)
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Mr Martin Yeo	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 47
<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 TI – Terminally ill.	<b>Number of patients accommodated in the nursing home on the day of this inspection:</b> 47
<b>Brief description of the accommodation/how the service operates:</b> Slieve Dhu is a registered nursing home which provides nursing care for up to 47 patients. Patients' bedrooms and communal areas are located over two floors and patients have access to a garden area.	

## 2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 3 October 2023, from 9.45am to 1.40pm. This was completed by a pharmacist inspector.

The inspection 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.

Two areas for improvement identified at the last care inspection were reviewed as having been met. One area for improvement was not examined and is carried forward for review 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 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.

RQIA would like to thank the manager and 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 also spoke to the manager and nurses about how they plan, deliver and monitor the management of medicines in the home.

### **4.0 What people told us about the service**

The inspector met with the manager and two nurses.

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.

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

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 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2023		
Action required to ensure compliance with the Care Standards for Nursing Homes (December 2022)		Validation of compliance
<b>Area for improvement 1</b> <b>Ref:</b> Standard 28 <b>Stated:</b> Second time	The registered person shall ensure that topical preparations in the home are dated on opening and disposed of in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> There was evidence that topical preparations in the home were dated on opening and disposed of in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines. The manager performs a monthly audit on topical medicines to ensure that topical preparations in use are in date. These audits had produced satisfactory outcomes.	
<b>Area for improvement 2</b> <b>Ref:</b> Standard 12 <b>Stated:</b> Second time	The registered person shall ensure that with regard to the serving of hot drinks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• crockery mugs are available and offered to patients</li> <li>• plastic mugs are not used routinely out of habit and custom but are available if a patient prefers or has an assessed need for this type of mug.</li> </ul>	<b>Carried forward to the next inspection</b>
	<b>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.</b>	

<b>Area for improvement 3</b>  <b>Ref:</b> Standard 12  <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered person shall ensure that a daily menu is on display in a suitable format and appropriate location in order to let patients know what choices are available at each mealtime.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> A new display board had been obtained for the daily menu. The board was placed in the lounge and displayed that day's menu.	

## 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 medical 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. However, in most instances, the patient's photograph covered some information on their personal medication record. The need to ensure that information on the personal medication records is not covered was discussed with the manager for rectifying.

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 two patients. Directions for use were clearly recorded on the personal medication records; and care plans directing the use of these medicines were in place. Nurses

knew how to recognise a change in a patient's behaviour and were aware of the possible factors that may result in this change. Records included the reason for and outcome of each administration.

The management of pain was discussed. Nurses 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 was reviewed for three patients. For each patient, 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 too low. Care plans were also in place for patients who were prescribed warfarin.

### **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. The records were found to have been completed to the necessary standard. The records were filed once completed.

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 should be recorded in the controlled drug record book. There were satisfactory arrangements in place for the management of controlled drugs.

Occasionally, patients may require their medicines to be crushed or added to food/drink to assist administration. To ensure the safe administration of these medicines, this should only occur following a review with a pharmacist or GP and should be detailed in the patient's care plans. Written consent and care plans were in place when this practice occurred.

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.

#### **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. Written confirmation of the patient's medicine regime was obtained at 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 audits completed at the inspection indicated that the majority of medicines were being administered as prescribed. One audit discrepancy was observed in the administration of a medicine; this was discussed with the manager for remedial action.

### 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 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. Ongoing review was monitored through supervision sessions with staff and at annual appraisal. Medicines management policies and procedures were in place.

## 6.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Total number of Areas for Improvement</b>	0	1*

\* one area for improvement includes is 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 Mr Martin Yeo, Manager, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.



<b>Quality Improvement Plan</b>	
<b>Action required to ensure compliance with the Care Standards for Nursing Homes (December 2022)</b>	
<p><b>Area for improvement 1</b></p> <p><b>Ref:</b> Standard 12</p> <p><b>Stated:</b> Second time</p> <p><b>To be completed by:</b> With immediate effect (17 August 2023)</p>	<p>The registered person shall ensure that with regard to the serving of hot drinks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• crockery mugs are available and offered to patients</li> <li>• plastic mugs are not used routinely out of habit and custom but are available if a patient prefers or has an assessed need for this type of mug.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Ref: 5.1</p>



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