

# Unannounced Medicines Management Inspection Report 4 January 2017



## The Somme

**Type of Service: Nursing Home**  
**Address: 121 Circular Road, Belfast, BT4 2NA**  
**Tel no: 028 9076 3044**  
**Inspector: Paul Nixon**

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

## 1.0 Summary

An unannounced inspection of The Somme took place on 4 January 2017 from 09:50 to 13:30.

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. One area of improvement was identified in relation to the management of distressed reactions and a recommendation was made.

### **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.

Recommendations made as a result of this inspection relate to the DHSSPS Care Standards for Nursing Homes, April 2015.

## 1.1 Inspection outcome

	Requirements	Recommendations
<b>Total number of requirements and recommendations made at this inspection</b>	0	1

Details of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) within this report were discussed with Ms Gail Chambers, Registered Manager, as part of the inspection process. The timescales for completion commence from the date of inspection.

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 7 December 2016.

## 2.0 Service details

<b>Registered organisation/registered person:</b> Board of Directors Mr Charles Jonathan Kitson	<b>Registered manager:</b> Ms Gail Ellen Chambers
<b>Person in charge of the home at the time of inspection:</b> Ms Gail Chambers	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 11 June 2014
<b>Categories of care:</b> NH-I, NH-PH, NH-PH(E), NH-TI	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 41

## 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 three patients, the registered manager, one registered nurse and two care staff.

Twenty-five questionnaires were issued to patients, patients' representatives and staff with a request that they were returned within one week from the date of this inspection.

A poster indicating that the inspection was taking place was displayed on the front door of the home and invited visitors/relatives to speak with the inspector. No one availed of this opportunity during the inspection.

The following records were 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 7 December 2016

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced care inspection. The completed QIP is due to be returned to RQIA by 20 January 2017 and will be reviewed by the care inspector. 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 9 December 2015

There were no requirements or recommendations made as a result of the last medicines management inspection.

### 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.

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

There were procedures in place to ensure the safe management of medicines during a patient's admission to the home 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.

Robust arrangements were observed for the management of high risk medicines e.g. 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 for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

<b>Number of requirements</b>	0	<b>Number of recommendations</b>	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 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. However, detailed care plans were not maintained; a recommendation was made.

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 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.

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 psychoactive 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 patients' healthcare needs.

### Areas for improvement

Detailed care plans should be in place when medicines are prescribed to be administered on a "when required" basis for the management of distressed reactions. A recommendation was made.

<b>Number of requirements</b>	0	<b>Number of recommendations</b>	1
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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 and encouragement to take their medicines. Patients spoken to stated that they were very satisfied with the care provided.

As part of the inspection process, we issued questionnaires to staff, patients and patients' representatives. Two patient's representatives completed and returned questionnaires within the specified timeframe. Comments received were very positive; the responses were recorded as 'very satisfied' with the quality of the service provided and, in particular, the management of medicines.

Three members of staff also completed a questionnaire. One response was positive and raised no concerns about the quality of service provided. However, one response commented negatively in relation to the length of the morning medicines round, staffing levels, poor communication and negative working relationships between staff and management within the home. This staff member did, however, state that "by care staff and nursing staff, residents are treated with the highest respect and dignity." Another response raised a concern regarding staff communication. These concerns were shared with the registered manager for further review and consideration. There was no impact on patient care identified during the inspection. We noted the morning medicines round was just finishing when the inspection commenced.

Patients who could not verbalise their feelings in respect of their care were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

<b>Number of requirements</b>	0	<b>Number of recommendations</b>	0
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#### 4.6 Is the service well led?

Written policies and procedures for the management of medicines were in place. 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 nurse 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.

#### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

<b>Number of requirements</b>	0	<b>Number of recommendations</b>	0
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#### 5.0 Quality improvement plan

Any issues identified during this inspection are detailed in the QIP. Details of the QIP were discussed with Ms Gail Chambers, Registered Manager, as part of the inspection process. The timescales commence from the date of inspection.

The registered provider/manager should note that failure to comply with regulations may lead to further enforcement action including possible prosecution for offences. It is the responsibility of the registered provider to ensure that all requirements and recommendations contained within the QIP are addressed within the specified timescales.

Matters to be addressed as a result of this inspection are set in the context of the current registration of the nursing home. The registration is not transferable so that in the event of any future application to alter, extend or to sell the premises RQIA would apply standards current at the time of that application.

### 5.1 Statutory requirements

This section outlines the actions which must be taken so that the registered provider meets legislative requirements based on The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

### 5.2 Recommendations

This section outlines the recommended actions based on research, recognised sources and Care Standards for Nursing Homes 2015. They promote current good practice and if adopted by the registered provider/manager may enhance service, quality and delivery.

### 5.3 Actions to be taken by the registered provider

The QIP should be completed and detail the actions taken to meet the legislative requirements and recommendations stated. The registered provider should confirm that these actions have been completed and return the completed QIP to web portal for assessment by the inspector.

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. It is expected that the requirements and recommendations outlined in this report will provide the registered provider with the necessary information to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities and enhance practice within the service.

## Quality Improvement Plan

### Recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

**Ref:** Standard 4

**Stated:** First time

**To be completed by:**  
3 February 2017

The registered provider should ensure that detailed care plans are in place when medicines are prescribed to be administered on a “when required” basis for the management of distressed reactions.

**Response by registered provider detailing the actions taken:**  
Registered Nurses have been given clear instructions to ensure that a detailed Care Plan is in place for any resident that has been prescribed "when required" medicines for the management of distressed reactions. Nurses have also been informed to ensure that if same are required to document in daily progress notes reason for and outcome of administration of same. Registered Manager will continue to monitor same.



The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

9th Floor

Riverside Tower

5 Lanyon Place

BELFAST

BT1 3BT

Tel 028 9051 7500

Fax 028 9051 7501

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

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

 @RQIANews