

# Unannounced Medicines Management Inspection Report 8 December 2016



## Strawberry Fields

Type of service: Residential Care Home  
Address: 129b Staffordstown Road, Randalstown, BT41 3LH  
Tel No: 028 9447 3089  
Inspector: Rachel Lloyd

## 1.0 Summary

An unannounced inspection of Strawberry Fields took place on 8 December 2016 from 14.00 to 16.00.

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 residents. 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 for improvement identified.

### Is care effective?

The management of medicines supported the delivery of effective care. There were systems in place to ensure residents were receiving their medicines as prescribed. There were no areas for 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 residents. Residents consulted with confirmed that they were administered their medicines appropriately. There were no areas for 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 for improvement identified.

This inspection was underpinned by The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards (2011).

## 1.1 Inspection outcome

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

This inspection resulted in no requirements or recommendations being made. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Mrs Justine Quigg, 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 6 July 2016.

## 2.0 Service details

<b>Registered organisation/registered person:</b> Strawberry Fields / Mrs Roisin McCann	<b>Registered manager:</b> Mrs Justine Quigg
<b>Person in charge of the home at the time of inspection:</b> Senior Care Assistant Kim McMillan on arrival, Mrs Justine Quigg from 14.15.	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 11 September 2012
<b>Categories of care:</b> RC-DE, RC-I, RC-MP(E), RC-PH, RC-PH(E) Category RC-DE (Dementia) applies to two named persons only	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 6

## 3.0 Methods/processes

Prior to inspection the following records were analysed:

- recent inspection reports and returned QIPs
- recent correspondence with the home
- medicine incidents – it was ascertained that no medicine related incidents had been reported to RQIA since the last medicines management inspection

We met with three residents, a care assistant, the senior care assistant on duty, the registered manager and Mr Justin McCann, the owner of the home.

Fifteen questionnaires were issued to residents, residents' relatives/representatives and staff, with a request that these were completed and returned to RQIA within one week of the inspection.

A sample of the following records was examined:

- medicines requested and received
- personal medication records
- medicine audits
- policies and procedures

- medicine administration records
- medicines disposed of or transferred
- controlled drug record book
- care plans
- training records
- medicines storage temperatures

#### 4.0 The inspection

#### 4.1 Review of requirements and recommendations from the most recent inspection dated 6 July 2016

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced care inspection. The completed QIP was returned and was approved 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 dated 1 April 2014

Last medicines management inspection recommendations		Validation of compliance
<b>Recommendation 1</b> <b>Ref:</b> Standard 30 <b>Stated:</b> First time	Policies and procedures for medicines management should be further developed to include the management of thickening agents.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> A policy and procedure was in place dated 1 May 2014.	
<b>Recommendation 2</b> <b>Ref:</b> Standard 32 <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered manager should ensure that the temperature of the medicines storage area is monitored regularly and a record maintained.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> A record of the daily temperature monitoring of the medicines storage area was in place.	

#### 4.3 Is care safe?

Medicines were managed by staff who had been trained and deemed competent to do so. An induction process was in place 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 medicines management was provided in June 2015 and further training was planned for December 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 were updated by two members of staff. This safe practice was acknowledged.

There were procedures in place to ensure the safe management of medicines during a resident's admission to the home and discharge from the home.

Satisfactory arrangements were examined for the management of high risk medicines e.g. warfarin. The use of separate administration charts was acknowledged.

Discontinued or expired medicines were disposed of appropriately.

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 refrigerator used for the storage of medicines was 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, monthly or three monthly medicines were due.

When a resident 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 resident's behaviour and were aware that this change may be associated with pain. The reason for and the outcome of any administration were recorded. A care plan was not maintained, however this was discussed and a care plan specific to the resident was put into place during the inspection.

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 resident was comfortable. Staff advised that the most of the residents could verbalise any pain, but that staff were aware of the signs of pain in others. Staff also advised that a pain assessment was 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 resident's health were reported to the prescriber.

Medicine records were well maintained and readily facilitated the audit process. Areas of good practice were acknowledged, including maintaining running balances for all medicines.

Following discussion with the registered manager and senior care assistant, it was evident that when applicable, other healthcare professionals were contacted in response to issues or concerns relating to medicines 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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### 4.5 Is care compassionate?

The administration of medicines to residents was completed in a caring manner, residents were given time to take their medicines and medicines were administered as discreetly as possible. Relationships between staff and residents were observed to be warm and friendly.

The residents spoken to advised that they were satisfied with the manner in which their medicines were managed and administered. They were complimentary about the staff and their care in the home.

As part of the inspection process, questionnaires were issued to residents, relatives/residents' representatives and staff. No responses were received within the specified timescale.

### 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. Management advised that these were reviewed every year. It was evident that staff 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.

Practices for the management of medicines were audited throughout the month by the staff and management. In addition, an audit was completed regularly by the community pharmacist. Records indicated that satisfactory outcomes had been achieved.

Following discussion with the registered manager and senior care assistant, it was evident that staff were familiar with their roles and responsibilities in relation to medicines management.

The senior care assistant confirmed that any concerns in relation to medicines management were raised with management. They advised that any resultant action was communicated to staff individually and at team meetings.

The recommendations made at the last medicines management inspection had been addressed.

### 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

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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