

Inspection Report

12 August 2021



Poyntzpass Care Home

Type of service: Residential Care Home
Address: 7 Tandragee Road, Poyntzpass, BT35 6SL
Telephone number: 028 38318847

www.rqia.org.uk

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

Information on legislation and standards underpinning inspections can be found on our website <https://www.rqia.org.uk/>

1.0 Service information

Organisation/Registered Provider: Armagh Care Services Responsible Individual: Mr Daniel McHugh	Registered Manager and date registered: Ms Diane Clarke 1 April 2005
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Ms Marion McParland (Deputy Manager)	Number of registered places: 15
Categories of care: Residential Care (RC) LD – Learning disability. LD(E) – Learning disability – over 65 years.	Number of residents accommodated in the residential home on the day of this inspection: 15

2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 12 August 2021 between 09.25 am and 11.50 am. The inspection was conducted by a pharmacist inspector and focused on medicines management within the home.

Review of medicines management found that residents were being administered their medicines as prescribed. There were robust arrangements for auditing medicines and medicine records were well maintained. Arrangements were in place to ensure that staff were trained and competent in medicines management.

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. To complete the inspection we reviewed: a sample of medicine related records, storage arrangements for medicines, staff training and the auditing systems used to ensure the safe management of medicines.

4.0 What people told us about the service

We met with the deputy manager.

Staff were warm and friendly and it was evident from their interactions that they knew the residents well. All staff were wearing face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed. PPE signage was displayed.

Staff spoken with expressed satisfaction with how the home was managed. They said that they had the appropriate training to look after residents and meet their needs. They said that the manager was very supportive of staff and readily available to discuss any issues and concerns should they arise.

Feedback methods included a staff poster and paper questionnaires which were provided to the registered manager for any patient or their family representative to complete and return using pre-paid, self-addressed envelopes. Seven questionnaires were received by RQIA within the allocated timescale of two weeks. The respondents indicated that they were very satisfied with all aspects of care and that the home was well led.

5.0 The inspection

5.1 What has this service done to meet any areas for improvement identified at or since last inspection?

The last inspection to this residential care home was undertaken on 20 October 2020 by a care inspector; no areas for improvement were identified.

5.2 Inspection findings

5.2.1 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are appropriately prescribed, monitored and reviewed?

Residents in care homes should be registered with a general medical practitioner (GP) to ensure that they receive appropriate medical care when they need it. At times the residents' needs will 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. Residents in the home were registered with a GP and medicines were dispensed by the community pharmacist.

Personal medication records were in place for each resident. 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 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 provide a double check that they were accurate.

Residents 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 resident's distress and if the prescribed medicine is effective for the resident.

The management of medicines prescribed on a "when required" basis for the management of distressed reactions was reviewed. 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. Directions for use were clearly recorded on the personal medication records and care plans directing the use of these medicines were available. Records of administration were clearly recorded. The reason for and outcome of administration were recorded in the daily progress notes.

Some residents 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 residents 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 resident.

The management of thickening agents was reviewed. 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.

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 resident'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 residents required them.

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 resident could be easily located.

Discontinued medicines were returned to the community pharmacy for disposal and records maintained.

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 residents to ensure that they are receiving the correct prescribed treatment. A sample of the medicine administration records was reviewed. They had been fully and accurately completed.

The audits completed at the inspection indicated that medicines were being administered as prescribed.

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 are recorded in a controlled drug record book. Robust arrangements were in place for the management of controlled drugs. The controlled drugs records had been appropriately maintained.

Management 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.

The management of medicines for one resident who had recently been admitted to this home was reviewed. The medicines prescribed had been confirmed with the GP practice. The residents' personal medication record had been accurately written and signed by two members of staff. Medicines had been accurately received into the home and administered as prescribed.

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. The audit system in place helps staff to identify medicine related incidents. Management and staff were familiar with the type of incidents that should be reported.

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 residents are well looked after and receive their medicines appropriately, staff who administer medicines to residents 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 use.

Staff in the home had received a structured induction which included medicines management when this forms part of their role. Competency had been assessed following induction and annually thereafter. A written record was completed for induction and competency assessments. Records of staff training in relation to medicines management were available for inspection.

6.0 Conclusion

The inspection sought to assess if the home was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the home was well led.

Based on the inspection findings and discussions, RQIA was 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 manager. RQIA was assured that residents were being administered their medicines as prescribed.

We would like to thank the residents and staff for their assistance throughout the inspection.

7.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of Areas for Improvement	0	0

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Ms. Marion McParland, Deputy Manager, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.



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