

Inspection Report

Name of Service:	Rylands
Provider:	Rylands Private Nursing Home Ltd
Date of Inspection:	13 November 2025

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:	Rylands Private Nursing Home Ltd
Responsible Individual:	Mr David Duncan
Registered Manager:	Mrs Valerie Rutherford
Service Profile – This home is a registered residential care home which provides health and social care for up to 14 residents. The Old Mill Suite is situated over one floor and residents have access to a communal lounge, dining room and outdoor spaces. There is a nursing home which occupies the same building and the registered manager for this home manages both services.	

2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 13 November 2025 from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm by a care inspector.

The inspection was undertaken to evidence how the home is performing in relation to the regulations and standards; and to assess progress with the areas for improvement identified, by RQIA, during the last pharmacy inspection on 8 August 2024 and to determine if the home is delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service is well led.

The inspection established that safe, effective and compassionate care was delivered to residents and that the home was well led. Details and examples of the inspection findings can be found in the main body of the report.

It was evident that staff promoted the dignity and well-being of residents and that staff were knowledgeable and well trained to deliver safe and effective care.

Residents said that living in the home was a good experience. Residents unable to voice their opinions were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff.

As a result of this inspection three areas for improvement were assessed as having been addressed by the provider. Full details, including a new area for improvement identified, can be found in the main body of this report and in the quality improvement plan (QIP) in Section 4.

3.0 The inspection

3.1 How we Inspect

RQIA's inspections form part of our ongoing assessment of the quality of services. Our reports reflect how the home was performing against the regulations and standards, at the time of our inspection, highlighting both good practice and any areas for improvement. It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure compliance with legislation, standards and best practice, and to address any deficits identified during our inspections.

To prepare for this inspection we reviewed information held by RQIA about this home. This included the previous areas for improvement issued, registration information and any other written or verbal information received from residents, relatives, staff or the commissioning Trust.

Throughout the inspection process inspectors seek the views of those living, working and visiting the home; and review/examine a sample of records to evidence how the home is performing in relation to the regulations and standards.

Through actively listening to a broad range of service users, RQIA aims to ensure that the lived experience is reflected in our inspection reports and quality improvement plans.

3.2 What people told us about the service

Residents spoke positively about life in the home. Comments included, "The care is exceptional!" and, "The staff are great!" Residents who were less well able to share their views were observed to be at ease in the company of staff and to be content in their surroundings.

One resident told us, "The staff are attentive, the food is good. It could not be better!" Another resident said, "The staff are very kind, there is plenty of choice. I feel safe here."

Residents confirmed that they were able to choose how they spent their day. For example, residents could have a lie in or stay up late to watch TV.

A relative commented on how, "The care is excellent, it could not be better. There are plenty of activities in the home."

Residents told us that staff offered them choices throughout the day which included preferences for getting up and going to bed, what clothes they wanted to wear, food and drink options, and where and how they wished to spend their time.

Five completed questionnaires from residents all indicated high levels of satisfaction with the care and services provided in the home. Comments included, "Staff are always available, Staff always pleasant and have a helpful manner", and, "Outstanding, I couldn't ask for more care and support!"

No completed responses to the relative or staff survey were received following the inspection.

3.3 Inspection findings

3.3.1 Staffing Arrangements

Safe staffing begins at the point of recruitment and continues through to staff induction, regular staff training and ensuring that the number and skill of staff on duty each day meets the needs of residents. There was evidence of robust systems in place to manage staffing.

Residents said that there was enough staff on duty to help them. Staff said there was good teamwork and that they felt well supported in their role and that they were satisfied with the staffing levels.

It was noted that there was enough staff in the home to respond to the needs of the residents in a timely way; and to provide residents with a choice on how they wished to spend their day.

3.3.2 Quality of Life and Care Delivery

Staff met at the beginning of each shift to discuss any changes in the needs of the residents. Staff were knowledgeable of individual resident's needs, their daily routine wishes and preferences.

Staff were observed to be prompt in recognising residents' needs and any early signs of distress or illness, including those residents who had difficulty in making their wishes or feelings known. Staff were skilled in communicating with residents; they were respectful, understanding and sensitive to residents' needs.

It was observed that staff respected residents' privacy by their actions such as knocking on doors before entering, discussing residents' care in a confidential manner, and by offering personal care to residents discreetly. Staff were also observed offering resident choice in how and where they spent their day or how they wanted to engage socially with others.

At times some residents may require the use of equipment that could be considered restrictive or they may live in a unit that is secure to keep them safe. It was established that safe systems were in place to safeguard residents and to manage this aspect of care.

Examination of care records and discussion with the manager confirmed that the risk of falling and falls were well managed and referrals were made to other healthcare professionals as needed.

Good nutrition and a positive dining experience are important to the health and social wellbeing of residents. Residents may need a range of support with meals; this may include simple encouragement through to full assistance from staff and their diet modified.

The dining experience was an opportunity for residents to socialise, and the atmosphere was calm, relaxed and unhurried. It was observed that residents were enjoying their meal and their dining experience. It was clear that staff had made an effort to ensure residents were comfortable, had a pleasant experience and had a meal that they enjoyed.

The importance of engaging with residents was well understood by the manager and staff. Arrangements were in place to meet residents' social, religious and spiritual needs within the home. Residents' needs were met through a range of individual and group activities such as arts and crafts, musical activities and games.

3.3.3 Management of Care Records

Residents' needs were assessed by a suitably qualified member of staff at the time of their admission to the home. Following this initial assessment care plans were developed to direct staff on how to meet residents' needs and included any advice or recommendations made by other healthcare professionals.

Residents care records were held confidentially.

Care records were person centred, well maintained, regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they continued to meet the residents' needs. Care staff recorded regular evaluations about the delivery of care. Residents, where possible, were involved in planning their own care and the details of care plans were shared with residents' relatives, if this was appropriate.

3.3.4 Quality and Management of Residents' Environment

The home was clean, tidy and well maintained. For example, residents' bedrooms were personalised with items important to the resident. Bedrooms and communal areas were well decorated, suitably furnished, warm and comfortable.

Review of records and discussion with the manager confirmed that environmental checks were carried out, as required on a regular basis, to ensure the home was safe to live in, work in and visit. For example resident call system checks and electrical installation checks. Two doors were observed to propped open in the kitchen area. This was discussed with the manager and an area for improvement was identified.

Radiators in the dining room were hot to touch and may pose a potential risk for residents. The hot surface risk was discussed with the manager who confirmed that the dining room was supervised when residents were using it. The manager agreed to ensure a risk assessment was put in place for same and any action taken if necessary.

There was evidence that systems and processes were in place to manage infection prevention and control which included policies and procedures and regular monitoring of the environment and staff practice to ensure compliance.

3.3.5 Quality of Management Systems

There has been no change in the management of the home since the last inspection. Mrs Valerie Rutherford has been the manager in this home since 24 March 2014.

Residents and staff commented positively about the manager and described her as supportive, approachable and able to provide guidance.

It was clear from the records examined that the manager had processes in place to monitor the quality of care and other services provided to residents.

Residents and a relative spoken with said that they knew how to report any concerns or complaints and said they were confident that the manager would address these.

4.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

Areas for improvement have been identified where action is required to ensure compliance with Regulations.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of Areas for Improvement	1	0

An area for improvement and details of the Quality Improvement Plan were discussed with Mrs Valerie Rutherford, Manager, as part of the inspection process. The timescales for completion commence from the date of inspection.

Quality Improvement Plan	
Action required to ensure compliance with The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 27(4)(b) Stated: First time To be completed by: With immediate effect (13 November 2025)	The registered person shall ensure the practice of propping open doors in the kitchen area ceases. Ref: 3.3.4
	Response by registered person detailing the actions taken: The registered person can confirm that the practice of propping open doors in the kitchen area has stopped with immediate effect.

Please ensure this document is completed in full and returned via the Web Portal



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

James House
2-4 Cromac Avenue
Gasworks
Belfast
BT7 2JA



Tel: 028 9536 1111



Email: info@rqia.org.uk



Web: www.rqia.org.uk



Twitter: @RQIANews