

Inspection Report

Name of Service: Bramblewood Care Home

Provider: Burnview Healthcare Ltd

Date of Inspection: 16 December 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:	Burnview Healthcare Ltd
Responsible Individual:	Mrs Briege Agnes Kelly
Registered Manager:	Ms Annie Joy Kamlian
Service Profile: Bramblewood Care Home is a nursing home registered to provide nursing care for up to 35 patients. The home is approved to provide care on a daily basis for two patients. Patients have access to communal lounges and the dining room.	

2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 16 December 2025, from 10.45am to 3.20pm. The inspection was completed by a pharmacist inspector and focused on medicines management within the home.

The inspection was undertaken to evidence how medicines are managed in relation to the regulations and standards and to determine if the home is delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and is well led in relation to medicines management. The areas for improvement identified at the last care inspection were carried forward for review at the next inspection.

Mostly satisfactory arrangements were in place for the safe management of medicines. Medicines were stored securely. Medicine records and medicine related care plans were mostly 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. However, improvements were necessary in relation to care plans for the management of distressed reactions and care plans for the management of pain.

Whilst areas for improvement were identified, there was evidence that with the exception of a small number of medicines, patients were being administered their medicines as prescribed.

Details of the inspection findings, including areas for improvement carried forward for review at the next inspection, and the new areas for improvement identified, can be found in the main body of this report and in the quality improvement plan (QIP) (Section 4.0).

RQIA would like to thank the staff for their assistance throughout the inspection.

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 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 areas for improvement identified at previous inspections, registration information, and any other written or verbal information received from patients, 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.

3.2 What people told us about the service and their quality of life

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. They said that the team communicated well and the management team were readily available to discuss any issues and concerns should they arise.

Staff advised that they were familiar with how each patient liked to take their medicines. They stated medication rounds were tailored to respect each individual's preferences, needs and timing requirements.

RQIA did not receive any completed questionnaires or responses to the staff survey following the inspection.

3.3 Inspection findings

3.3.1 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 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 a GP, a 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 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 confirm that they were accurate. A small number of minor discrepancies were highlighted for immediate corrective action and on-going vigilance.

Copies of patients' prescriptions/hospital discharge letters were retained so that any entry on the personal medication record could be checked against the prescription.

All patients should have care plans which detail their specific care needs and how the care is to be delivered. In relation to medicines these may include care plans for the management of distressed reactions, pain, modified diets etc.

The management of thickening agents and epilepsy was reviewed. Care plans contained sufficient detail to direct the required care. Medicine records were well maintained. The audits completed indicated that medicines were administered as prescribed.

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 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. Directions for use were clearly recorded on the personal medication record. Staff knew how to recognise a change in a patient's behaviour and were aware that this change may be associated with pain and other factors. Records of administration included the reason for and outcome of each administration. Care plans were in place for some patients, however for others, patient-centred care plans with sufficient detail to direct care, were not in place or were not up to date. An area for improvement was identified.

The management of pain was discussed. Staff advised that they were familiar with how each patient expressed their pain and that pain relief was administered when required. Care plans were in place and reviewed regularly for some patients, however for others, patient-centred care plans with sufficient detail to direct care, were not in place or were not up to date. An area for improvement was identified.

3.3.2 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are supplied on time, stored safely and disposed of appropriately?

Medicine 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.

Records reviewed 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 medicine storage area was observed to be securely locked to prevent any unauthorised access. It was 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. Satisfactory arrangements were in place for medicines requiring cold storage, the storage of controlled drugs and the safe disposal of medicines.

3.3.3 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. Most of the records were found to have been accurately completed. A small number of missed signatures were brought to the attention of the manager for ongoing monitoring. Records were filed once completed and were readily retrievable for audit/review.

Controlled drugs are medicines, which are subject to strict legal controls and legislation. They commonly include strong painkillers. The receipt, administration and disposal of controlled drugs should be recorded in a controlled drug record book. Controlled drugs were observed to be administered as prescribed and records maintained to the required standard.

Management and staff audited the management and administration of medicines on a regular basis within the home. There was evidence that the findings of the audits had been discussed with staff and addressed. The date of opening was recorded on medicines to facilitate audit and disposal at expiry.

3.3.4 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 at the time of admission or for patients returning from hospital. Written confirmation of prescribed medicines was obtained at or prior to admission and details shared with the GP and community pharmacy. Medicine records had been accurately completed and there was evidence that medicines were administered as prescribed.

3.3.5 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 medicine related incidents which had been reported to RQIA since the last inspection were discussed. There was evidence that the incidents had been reported to the prescriber for guidance, investigated and the learning shared with staff in order to prevent a recurrence.

The audits completed at the inspection indicated that the majority of medicines were being administered as prescribed. However, audit discrepancies were observed in the administration of a small number of medicines. The audits were discussed in detail with the manager for on-going monitoring.

3.3.6 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. Medicines management policies and procedures were in place.

It was agreed that the findings of this inspection would be discussed with staff to facilitate the necessary improvements.

4.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

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

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of Areas for Improvement	3*	8*

* the total number of areas for improvement includes nine, which were carried forward for review at the next inspection.

Areas for improvement and details of the Quality Improvement Plan were discussed with Ms Annie Joy Kamlian (Registered 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 Nursing Home Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 14 (2) (a) Stated: First time To be completed by: 16 January 2025	The registered person shall ensure as far as reasonably practical that all parts of the home to which patients have access are free from hazards to their safety.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this regulation was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 2 Ref: Regulation 13 (1) (a) Stated: First time To be completed by: 31 March 2025	The registered person shall ensure that neurological observations are consistently recorded and risk assessments are updated post falls.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this regulation was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0

Area for improvement 3 Ref: Regulation 29 Stated: First time To be completed by: 31 March 2025	The registered person shall ensure that the monthly monitoring report has a meaningful action plan in place where required that clearly identifies the person responsible to make the improvement and the timeframe for completing the improvement. Action required to ensure compliance with this regulation was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0
Action required to ensure compliance with the Care Standards for Nursing Homes, December 2022	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 18 Stated: First time To be completed by: 16 December 2025	The registered person shall ensure that patient specific care plans for the management of distressed reactions are in place that include details of prescribed medicines where relevant. Ref: 3.3.1 Response by registered person detailing the actions taken: All residents' care plans have been reviewed and updated to ensure that patient specific management strategies for distressed reactions are in place. These include clear guidance on prescribed medications, identified triggers, and appropriate non pharmacological interventions. Ongoing audits continue to be carried out to maintain compliance.
Area for improvement 2 Ref: Standard 32 Stated: First time To be completed by: 16 December 2025	The registered person shall ensure that patient specific care plans for the management of pain are in place that include details of prescribed medicines where relevant. Ref: 3.3.1 Response by registered person detailing the actions taken: All residents now have an individualised pain management care plan in place, supported by appropriate pain assessment tools, prescribed analgesia, non pharmacological interventions, and clearly defined escalation actions. Compliance is monitored through regular audits to ensure consistent and effective practice.
Area for improvement 3 Ref: Standard 23 Stated: Second time To be completed by: 28 February 2025	The registered person shall ensure that care plans are in place to reflect the needs of any patient at risk of pressure damage. This relates specifically to the use of a pressure relieving mattress for an identified patient. 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. Ref: 2.0

Area for improvement 4 Ref: Standard 38 Stated: First time To be completed by: 31 January 2025	The registered person shall ensure that gaps in employment and reason for leaving are explored in full before staff commence working in the home. 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. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 5 Ref: Standard 23 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2025	The registered person shall ensure that where a patient has been assessed as requiring repositioning: • Skin checks are recorded • entries recorded are time-specific 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. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 6 Ref: Standard 4 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2025	The registered person shall ensure that a system is in place to monitor the completion of care records following a patient's admission to the home. 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. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 7 Ref: Standard 46 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2025	The registered person shall ensure the infection prevention and control deficits identified at this inspection are addressed in relation to cushions and chairs. 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. Ref: 2.0

Area for improvement 8 Ref: Standard 35 Stated: First time To be completed by: 31 March 2025	The registered person shall ensure that deficits identified by the homes audits are included in an action plan that clearly identifies the person responsible to make the improvement and the timeframe for completing the improvement. This is in relation to care plan and environmental audits.
	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. Ref: 2.0

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