

Inspection Report

Name of Service: The Docks Residential Care Home

Provider: Healthcare Ireland (No. 4) Limited

Date of Inspection: 16 April 2026

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:	Healthcare Ireland (No. 4) Limited
Responsible Individual/	Ms Amanda Mitchell
Registered Manager:	Mrs Amanda Lacey
Service Profile: The Docks Residential Care Home is a registered residential care home which provides health and social care for up to sixteen residents, who require general residential care. Residents' bedrooms are located on the ground floor and residents have access to a communal lounge and dining room.	

2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 16 April 2026 from 10.20 am to 3.30pm. 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.

Review of medicines management found that mostly satisfactory arrangements were in place for the safe management of medicines. Medicine records and medicine related care plans were well maintained. There were effective auditing processes in place to ensure that staff were trained and competent to manage medicines and residents were administered their medicines as prescribed. However, controlled drugs and medicines that require cold storage were being stored in the adjoining nursing home as the treatment room was undergoing refurbishment. An area for improvement were identified.

Whilst an area for improvement was identified, there was evidence that residents were being administered their medicines as prescribed.

Residents were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in the home and in their interactions with staff. It was evident that staff knew the residents well.

Details of the inspection findings, including areas for improvement carried forward for review at the next inspection, and the new area 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 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.

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 residents 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 resident 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?

Residents in residential care homes should be registered with a general practitioner (GP) to ensure that they receive appropriate medical care when they need it. At times residents' 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.

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 confirm that they were accurate. A small number of minor discrepancies were highlighted to staff for immediate corrective action and on-going vigilance.

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

All residents 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 distressed reactions and pain 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.

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 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.

Records reviewed showed that medicines were available for administration when residents 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 resident could be easily located. However, the temperature of the medicine storage area was not monitored and recorded to ensure that medicines were stored appropriately. A thermometer was in place and assurances were provided that the temperature would be monitored from the date of inspection onwards.

The treatment room was undergoing refurbishment. Controlled drugs and medicines that require cold storage were stored securely in the adjoining nursing home. Medicines prescribed for residents in The Docks Residential Care Home must be stored securely in the residential care home. An area for improvement was identified.

Satisfactory arrangements were in place for 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 residents to ensure that they are receiving the correct prescribed treatment.

A sample of the medicines administration records was reviewed. The records were found to have been accurately completed. 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 pain killers. The receipt, administration and disposal of controlled drugs should be recorded in the controlled drug record book. There were satisfactory arrangements in place for the administration of controlled drugs.

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 residents returning from hospital. Written confirmation of prescribed medicines was obtained at or prior to admission and details shared with the GP and community pharmacy. There was evidence that staff had followed up any discrepancies in a timely manner to ensure that the correct medicines were available for administration.

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.

There have been no medicine related incidents reported to RQIA since the last medicines management inspection. Management and staff advised that they were familiar with the type of incidents that should be reported. The inspector signposted staff to the RQIA provider guidance in relation to the statutory notification of medication related incidents available on the RQIA website.

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 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 the 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 the 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 Regulation and Standards.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of Areas for Improvement	1	2*

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

The area for improvement and details of the Quality Improvement Plan were discussed with Mrs Amanda Lacey, 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 Residential Home Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 13 (4) Stated: First time To be completed by: 16 April 2026	The registered person shall ensure that medicines, including controlled drugs, prescribed for residents in The Docks Residential Care Home are not stored in the adjoining nursing home. Ref: 3.3.2
	Response by registered person detailing the actions taken: The medications for The Docks including controlled drugs is now stored in the dedicated treatment room within the The Docks unit .
Action required to ensure compliance with the Care Standards for Residential Homes, December 2022	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 6 Stated: Second time To be completed by: 30 June 2025	The registered person shall ensure that individual risk assessments for the identified residents are reflective of individual assessed need and kept under review in order to inform the care planning process.
	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 2 Ref: Standard 27.7 Stated: First Time To be completed by: 7 May 2025	The registered person shall ensure that the microwave and fridges in the dining area are kept clean at all times and records are maintained.
	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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