

# THE REGULATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY (RQIA)

## FAILURE TO COMPLY NOTICE

<b>Name of Registered Establishment</b>  Prospect (1388)	<b>Name of Registered Person:</b>  Prospect Private Nursing Home Ltd. Responsible Individual  Mr Thomas Mark McMullan
<b>Address of Registered Establishment:</b>  3 Old Galgorm Road, Ballymena, BT42 1AL	
<b>Issue Date: 13 March 2025</b>	<b>FTC Ref: FTC000242</b>
<b>Regulation not complied with:</b>  <b>Further requirements as to health and welfare</b>  <i>14-(2) The registered person shall ensure as far as reasonably practicable that – (a) all parts of the home to which patients have access are free from hazards to their safety; (c) unnecessary risks to the health or safety of patients are identified and so far as possible eliminated;</i>	
<b>Specific failings to comply with regulations:</b>  During an unannounced inspection on 4 March 2025. Thickening agents were observed to be inappropriately stored in an unlocked drawer in the dining room and in a cupboard in a patient's bedroom. Cleaning chemicals were also accessible in the snack kitchen on the first floor and in an unlocked sluice. There is a potential risk of ingestion of inappropriate items by patients.  A selection of food and drinks were also observed to be accessible in the fridge and on top of the fridge in the snack kitchen. There are patients living in home who require modified diets as recommended by the Speech and Language Therapist. The failure to securely store these foods could result in patients accessing them and this poses a possible choking risk.  RQIA are concerned that the management and staff in the home failed to recognise the potential risks that patients were exposed to as a result of the storage arrangements of the thickening agents, chemicals and food items.  An area for improvement in relation to the management of hazards to patients was first stated on 2 December 2021 and remains unmet. RQIA are concerned that the management and staff have failed, over time, to demonstrate the operation of a safe system of recognising or managing potential risks of harm.	

**Action required to comply with regulations**

The Responsible Individual must ensure that:

- there is a robust system in place to minimise risks to patients which includes the safe storage of food and fluids, thickening agents and access to chemicals used for cleaning
- all staff receive an up to date supervision in relation to the management of hazards
- the system to identify/recognise and manage various types of hazards to patients is clearly understood by staff commensurate with their role and responsibilities
- there is a robust system in place to monitor the safe storage of food and fluids, cleaning chemicals and thickening agents.

**The Registered Person may make written representations to the Chief Executive of RQIA regarding the issue of a failure to comply notice, within one month of the date of serving this notice.**

**Date by which compliance must be achieved: 24 April 2025.**



Signed.....

Director of Adult care services

***This notice is served under The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) (2005)***

***It should be noted that failure to comply with some regulations is considered to be an offence and RQIA has the power under regulations to prosecute for specified offences.***