



30th July 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock TD,

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 42649/25:

To ask the Minister for Health to clarify the legal minimum level of qualification, if any, required for health care assistants to work in a nursing home – Marie Sherlock

In HSE Community Nursing Units (CNUs) staff including nursing staff are registered with the relevant professional regulatory body, where applicable, in compliance with legislation. The HSE sets out clear eligibility, qualifications and experience for the employment of Healthcare Assistant Staff. Please see the following link to the HIQA National Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People (2016). Within this document Theme 7, Standards 7.1 – 7.4 refer to Workforce Standards.

<https://www.hiqa.ie/sites/default/files/2017-01/National-Standards-for-Older-People.pdf>

In HSE CNUs all mandatory training is tracked and recorded across units. There is a mandatory suite of training provided to staff which provides employees with the skills and knowledge to care for Older People. Each unit also provides additional training to staff dependent on specific resident requirements. The HSE do offer training opportunities for Nursing Home staff through their IT educational platform HSE Land, i.e. Infection Prevention and Control and also through the IPC Link Practitioner Programme. The Irish Hospice Foundation /HSE and All Ireland



Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care collaborative approach in training Nursing Home Care staff in supporting care and compassion at end of life in residential care (CARU).

In addition please see the following link to the HIQA Regulation Handbook (May 2025) which sets out the requirements of the provider, persons participating in management including the person in charge;

<https://www.hiqa.ie/sites/default/files/2019-10/Regulation-Handbook.pdf>

Nursing Homes are registered as Designated Centre's under the Health Act(s). The Centre's themselves are therefore required to work in accordance with the National Standards of Care (as determined by Regulation) and this obligation rests with the Provider (owner) and the Person in Charge (PIC) under the Regulations. The following link to the HIQA website sets out the Health Act (2007) (as amended) and the associated regulations as applicable to residential centre's for older people;

<https://www.hiqa.ie/areas-we-work/older-peoples-services>

I trust this information is of assistance to you,

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Whelehan

AND Services for Older People

National Office, Access and Integration