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14th November, 2006

Mr. Sean Bohane &
Ms. Clodagh Drennan,
Proprietors,
Brookfield Care Centre,
Leamlara,
Co. Cork.

Integrated Inspection Report

The Nursing Homes Inspection Team visited **Brookfield Care Centre on the 28th August, 2006** and individual Team Members did additional visits to complete their inspections over the following few days.

There were 50 residents in Brookfield on this date.
Brookfield was at that time registered for 51 residents.

Dependency Levels:	Low:	4
	Medium:	8
	High:	8
	Max:	29

No. of Residents who were:	Bed bound:	12
	Wheelchair:	15
	Ambulant:	22

The HSE Team inspected Brookfield under the following headings in line with the Nursing Home Act (1990) and the Nursing Homes Care & Welfare Regulations (1993). The welfare of patients was monitored and cognisance taken of the residents' health concerns. The staff at Brookfield were courteous and helpful to the Inspection Team during our visit. Any issues that arose were discussed with the Nurse in Charge Clodagh Drennan.

WELFARE & WELL-BEING

Article 5(a):

“suitable and sufficient care to maintain the person’s welfare and well-being, having regard to the nature and extent of the person’s dependency;”

- Care Attendants Ratio = 2.39 hours per patient per day.
- Nursing Staff 1.34 hours per patient per day.
- Total care hours per patient per day = 3.73.

Conclusion: Having regard to the dependency levels of patients in this nursing home there is a good ratio of staff to patients.

Article 5 (b):

“a high standard of nursing care;”

- A high standard of nursing care is demonstrated by individual care plans for each patient.
- Regular monthly assessments have been recorded.
- Fluid balance charts are kept on “at risk” patients.
- Pressure risk assessments are carried out regularly and appropriate measures taken to minimize risk of pressure sores.

Article 5 (f):

“freedom to exercise choice to the extent that such freedom does not infringe on the rights of other persons;”

Patients with dementia / confusion have the freedom to wander in safety with supervision. Minimal restraints noted.

Brookfield Nursing Home complied with regulations in all areas except the following, which were noted by the Nursing Home Inspection Team to be in need of attention and action:

ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES

Article 11.2 (h):

“suitable and sufficient lighting and ventilation, with natural lighting and ventilation in rooms which are regularly occupied by dependent persons;”

- There was a foul odour noted in the en-suite of Rooms 22 and 30
Ensure adequate ventilation shall be provided in this area – a minimum of 5 air changes per hour.

Article 11.2 (i):

“over-bed lamps at each bed accessible to the person and permanent night lighting with dimming facilities;”

- At the time of the inspection some of the residents beds were not located in such a position that they had easy access to their over bed light.
The following rooms were in breach of this aforementioned article:
Room 2, 4, 5, 6, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 29, 32 & 49.

As outlined above, this is a requirement under the Nursing Homes Regulations 1993 and therefore, must be adhered to. In circumstances where beds have been moved from their original position i.e. where they were located during the registration process, then all facilities have to be altered also to accommodate this – in this instance the access to the over bed light.

Article 11.2 (j)

“emergency call facilities are provided at each bed;”

- At the time of the inspection it was noted that call bells were not provided in some rooms.

When this was discussed with the proprietor, the team was informed that in the interest of the safety and well-being of the residents, the proprietor had decided to remove the cords from certain bedrooms. A number of cords were shown to us, which indicated that emergency cords were available.

It would be advisable to inform relatives of this decision – if such hasn't been done already.

DESIGN

Article 12 (a):

“take precautions against the risk of accidents to any dependent person in the nursing home and in the grounds of the nursing home;”

- There is no call bell facility provided in the residents' sanitary accommodation on the left of the main entrance.
- Oxygen cylinders were locked in the Treatment Rooms, which are sealed, internal rooms.

The Team advised that the oxygen cylinders, which are in current use, should be secured to the wall in a well-ventilated area and appropriate signage obtained from BOC. Additional cylinders should ideally be stored outside, in locked cages. Ms. Drennan to discuss this with the Fire Officer and BOC.

- The grab rails in a number of residents' rooms in the Owenacurra Unit were being used as towel rails.

This was observed in the following rooms – Room 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 45 & 47.

This practice must cease immediately.

HYGIENE

Article 14 (a):

“ensure that the nursing home and its curtilage is maintained in a proper state of repair and in a clean and hygienic condition;”

State of Repair

- The following rooms require repainting – Room 5, 10, 28, 33, 35, 38, 45 & 47.
- The door of Room 10 shall be repaired.
- Repair the hole in the wall over the mirror in Room 44.
- Remove the writing from the mirror in Room 44.
- The floor covering in the ensuite of Room 21 shall be replaced.
- On the date of inspection there appeared to be a pool of water adjacent to the wash hand basin in the assisted shower in the Blackwater Wing. This shall be investigated to ensure that there isn't a leak there. The light over the wash hand basin in the same assisted shower was not working this shall be replaced.
- The light over the mirror in Room 11 and in the assisted bathroom of the Blackwater Wing was not working at the time of the inspection – these shall be repaired.
- The barbell at the end of the cord that activates the lights over the wash hand basins in Room 12, 20, 30, 34, 35 & 44 were missing.
- To ensure privacy for the residents in their bedrooms net curtains shall be provided in the following bedrooms – Room 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 & 10.
- The call bell facility adjacent to the toilet of the assisted bathroom in the Blackwater Wing was not working.

Article 14 (b):

“make adequate arrangements for the prevention of infection, infestation, toxic conditions, or spread of infection and infestation at the nursing home;”

- At the time of the inspection a quantity of clean towels was being stored in the assisted shower room of the Owenacurra Wing

These shall be stored in the linen store and removed as required.

- Plants were in the kitchenette in the Owenacurra Wing

These shall be removed.

SANITARY FACILITIES

Article 15 (a):

“there is a sufficient supply of piped hot and cold water and that wash hand basins are provided in each bedroom;”

- Temperatures exceeding 43°C were noted in the following rooms:
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 12a, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 45 & 49.

The hot water system in all residents’ en-suites and wash hand basins needs to be so controlled and regulated so as to ensure that residents cannot be exposed to water temperatures exceeding 43°C.

FIRE RECORDS

Article 28.1:

In every nursing home there shall be kept in a safe place a record of: -

(a) all fire practices which take place in the home;

- It was noted that a fire drill took place on the 22nd February, 2006.

Fire drills shall be taken to be a fire practice and for this purpose we recommend that you follow procedures laid down in Section 3.4.3 on page 9 of the Department of Environment’s guidance book ‘Fire Safety in Nursing Home’s’ with regard to fire details.

(b) all fire alarm tests carried out at the home together with the result of any such test and the action taken to remedy defects;

- Evidence for the maintenance of the electrical equipment was available with a report sheet by Keltron who had conducted an audit on the 25th April, 2006. Report sheets from Arkon, who have the responsibility for the maintenance of fire fighting equipment were subsequently submitted & dated 27th July 2005.

The training log for members of staff that received fire safety training shall also be maintained. During the inspection we were informed that one member of staff is responsible for fire safety within the premises. Please ensure that if this staff member is on leave, an alternative member of staff is trained to carry out this duty. We were also informed that all new members of staff receive fire safety training during Induction. The content of the training shall be documented and records shall be kept of staff members who received the training.

It is advisable that all new residents on taking up residence in the nursing home should be advised of the fire safety procedure and of the location of the fire exists.

New 11-bed Unit

This area was not in use on the date of inspection (28th August '06) and was still at its finishing off stage of decoration. The Team was informed on 10th September 2006 that most of the outstanding work had been completed.

This work is noted below ([completed work highlighted in blue](#)) and will be checked by the Team at the next inspection.

Where new unit links with original building some work needs to be completed as follows:

- Sluice and laundry need coded doors.
- Door needs to be set back in linen storage room, formerly Room 10, and door needs to be coded.
- Toilet in this area will be en-suite for new Room 10, & needs a lock that can be opened from the outside in case of emergency.

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

Article 8 (b):

“adequate space is provided for a reasonable number of personal possessions;”

Lockers with a lockable drawer to be provided in all bedrooms to ensure residents can store personal belongings safely – [delivery scheduled for 8th September 2006](#).

DESIGN

Article 12

(a) take precautions against the risk of accidents to any dependent person in the nursing home and in the grounds of the nursing home;

- Radiator covers to be provided over all radiators – [completed](#).
- Safety precautions must be put in place regarding the usage of the electric hob and electric kettle in the residents' kitchen/ living area. Adequate controls must be put in place to ensure the safety of the resident.
[Hob has been disconnected and will be used as a cosmetic feature only. Kettle will be used under staff supervision only. When not in use, kettle will be locked in Nursing Office.](#)

(b) ensure the handrails are provided in circulation areas and that grab-rails are provided in bath, shower and toilet areas;”

- Grab rails to be fitted on the corridors and all circulation spaces – [completed](#).
- All grab rails to be fitted in sanitary accommodation to be used by residents – [completed](#).

HYGIENE

Article 14 (a):

“ensure that the nursing home and its curtilage is maintained in a proper state of repair and in a clean and hygienic condition;”

Sluice Area:

- An easily cleanable, smooth, durable splash back to be provided behind worktop surfaces – [completed](#).

Extra Laundry Area:

- An easily cleanable, smooth, durable splash back to be provided behind worktop surfaces.
- Adequate ventilation to be provided in this area by means of natural or mechanical ventilation to allow for a minimum of 10 air changes per hour.
[Mechanical extractor in place.](#)

Kitchen area:

- An easily cleanable, smooth, durable splash back to be provided behind worktop surfaces.
- A wash hand basin to be provided in the kitchen area – a supply of hot and cold water, liquid bactericidal soap and disposable paper towels to be provided here – [completed](#).
- At the time of the inspection the tap was loose at the wash hand basin of the assisted bathroom. This is to be fixed – [completed](#).
- A circuit path to be created for the open space area to the side of the extension
[Work booked pending availability of builder.](#)
- Curtains/blinds/net curtains to be provided for the bedroom windows to ensure privacy for the residents. Whichever option is chosen, please ensure that it is durable and easily cleanable –
[All windows have been fitted with cable for netting. Twenty sets of net curtains have been ordered. Net curtains will be erected for all residents who spent time in bed during daylight hours. Option of fitting net curtains for other residents if so desired.](#)
- Restricted usage only of the kitchen area – for residents to independently make tea/coffee, toast or a sandwich for their own use. No food preparation to take place in this kitchen – this kitchen is solely used as a therapeutic tool for residents –
[Staff will be advised of HACCP restrictions in terms of food handling and hygiene.](#)

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

Article 27.1:

The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the nursing home shall:

- (a) take adequate precautions against the risk of fire, including the provision of adequate means of escape in the event of fire and make adequate arrangements for detecting, containing and extinguishing fires, for the giving of warnings and for the evacuation of all persons in the nursing home in the event of fire, and for the maintenance of fire fighting equipment;*
 - (b) make adequate arrangements to secure by means of fire drills and practices that the staff, and so far as is practicable, dependent persons in the nursing home, know the procedure to be followed in the case of fire;*
 - (c) take all reasonable measures to ensure that materials containing in bedding and the internal furnishings of the nursing home have adequate fire retardancy properties and have low levels of toxicity when on fire;*
 - (d) ensure that emergency lighting is provided in the home;*
- Ensure that the new unit complies with contents of Article 27 regarding fire drills and fire retardant materials used in the building. Ensure all relevant fire safety practices and equipment are in place prior to residents residing in this area –
[Fire fighting equipment and signage in place. Staff fire training scheduled for new staff as part of Induction Programme.](#)

FIRE RECORDS

Article 28.1:

In every nursing home there shall be kept in a safe place a record of:

- (c) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment;*
- Fire records to be maintained for this new unit once in operation.
 - For the new unit it is advisable to number each of the fire fighting equipment. Details of the type, number and maintenance record for each piece of fire fighting equipment shall also be recorded in the fire register.
 - Fire Cert for new wing to be sent in as soon as possible.

Signed:

HSE Inspection Team Members:

- Senior Medical Officer
- Senior Environmental Health Officer
- Assistant Director Public Health Nursing