24th August 2007

Mr. John P. O’Neill
Proprietor
Harbour Lights Private Nursing Home
Townsligo
Bruckless
Co. Donegal

Inspection Report


Dear Mr. O’Neill

The Health Service Executive Nursing Home Inspection Team from a Medical, Nursing and Environmental Health perspective inspected Harbour Lights Private Nursing Home, Townsligo, Bruckless, Co. Donegal on 10th May 2007.

The inspection commenced at 10.30am and was completed by 4.30pm. This inspection was unannounced.

There were 55 residents present on this date. The Nursing Home is currently fully registered for 56 residents.

Fire Safety

The fire safety requirements of the Nursing Home (Care and Welfare) Regulations 1993 were examined as part of this inspection. However this cannot be interpreted as a full fire safety inspection of the premises. We would advise that you consult the Guidance documents “Fire Safety in Nursing Homes” published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 1996 and that you familiarise yourself with your obligations as a Nursing Home Proprietor.
Issues identified in the previous inspection report dated 30th November 2006 have been addressed satisfactorily.

CURRENT INSPECTION

The following issues require your attention and action:

Article: 19.1 In every Nursing Home the following particulars shall be kept in a safe place in respect of each dependant person: -

(f) a record of drugs and medicines administered giving the date of the prescription, dosage, name of the drug or medicine, method of administration, signed and dated by a medical practitioner and the nurse administering the drugs and medicines;

AND

Article: 29 The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the Nursing Home shall:

(a) make adequate arrangements for the recording, safekeeping, administering and disposal of drugs and medicines;

(b) ensure that treatment and medication prescribed by the medical practitioner of a dependent person is correctly administered and recorded.

Non-Compliance: There were some recording errors on the drug record.

Required Action: The Management of Harbour Lights Private Nursing Home should ensure that all nurses are aware of their responsibilities under Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management (2003), published by An Bord Altranais.

Timeframe: Immediately.

Article: 20 The Registered Proprietor and the Person in Charge of the Nursing Home shall ensure that all records pertaining to the dependent person are treated with confidentiality, subject to the requirements of Article 23.2.

Non-Compliance: On the day of the inspection visit the filing cabinet that contains the medical notes was left unlocked in an unattended office.

Required Action: The management of Harbour Lights Nursing Home should ensure that their practices ensure that notes remain confidential.

Timescale: Immediately.
**Article: 11.2** In every nursing home there shall be provided suitable and sufficient accommodation which meets the minimum standards as follows:—

( h ) suitable and sufficient lighting and ventilation, with natural lighting and ventilation in rooms which are regularly occupied by dependent persons;

( i ) over-bed lamps at each bed accessible to the person and permanent night lighting with dimming facilities;

( j ) emergency call facilities are provided at each bed;

**Non Compliance:** The mechanical ventilation provided in the en-suite bathroom of bedroom 24 was broken.

**Required Action:** Provide adequate ventilation.

**Timescale:** 1 Month.

**Non Compliance:** The lighting in the bathroom in the new wing, plus the lighting in the en-suite bathroom to bedroom 26 was faulty. The lights were flickering in these areas.

**Required Action:** Repair/replace the lighting.

**Timescale:** Immediate.

**Non Compliance:** An overbed light in bedroom 15 was not working at the time of inspection.

**Required Action:** Repair the light.

**Timescale:** Immediate.

**Non Compliance:** An over bed emergency call bell facility was not working in bedroom 19 at the time of inspection.

**Required Action:** Repair/replace the emergency bell.

**Timescale:** Immediate.

**Article: 12** The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the nursing home shall:—

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

**Non Compliance:** Hot water available to residents should not exceed a temperature of 43°C Celsius. This is to remove the risk of scalding to residents. The hot water temperature measured in the shower room in the original part of the building was 46°C Celsius.

**Required Action:** The temperature at the shower must be reduced to 43°C. Water temperatures must be monitored on an on-going basis to ensure they remain at the recommended temperatures.

**Timescale:** 1 month.
Non Compliance: The hot water temperature measured at the wash hand basins in various bedrooms was greater than 43°C. See list below:
Bedroom 1 – 47°C.
Bedroom 2 – 44.8°C.
Bedroom 7 – 50.5°C
Bedroom 8 – 49.8°C
Bedroom 9 - 49°C
Bedroom 10 – 48.2°C
Bedroom 15 - 46°C
Bedroom 16 – 47.8°C

Required Action: The temperature at the wash hand basin hot taps must be reduced to 43°C. Water temperatures must be monitored on an on-going basis to ensure they remain at the recommended temperatures.

Timescale: 1 month.

Article: 14 The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the nursing home shall:—

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

(b) make adequate arrangements for the prevention of infection, infestation, toxic conditions, or spread of infection and infestation at the nursing home;

Non Compliance: A drip stand found in bedroom 25 was rusted and thereby unable to be adequately cleaned.

Required Action: The machine should be treated to provide an impervious, readily cleanable finish.

Timescale: 1 Month.

Article: 27 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;

Non Compliance: It was noted during the inspection that one of the fire exit doors was partially blocked by storage of chairs against the door and in the escape corridor.

Required Action: All fire exit doors and escape routes must be kept free of obstructions.

Timescale: Immediate.
Good Practice recommendation made under Regulation 19.1 (c):  *In every Nursing Home the following particulars shall be kept in a safe place in respect of each dependent person:*

**19.1 (c)** *A record of the medical and nursing condition of the person at the time of admission.*

The majority of residents had a record of their medical condition made close to the time of admission. However, although the four residents admitted since the beginning of 2007 all had this record, three of the seventeen admitted in 2006 did not. The management of Harbour Lights Nursing Home is reminded of the requirement under the Regulations for all residents to have a record of their medical condition at the time of admission.

The Nursing Home Inspection Team is to be notified in writing on or before the above dates indicating the steps taken by the Nursing Home to carry out the actions as required under the Regulations.

Yours sincerely,

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Senior Medical Officer  
Chairperson  
Nursing Home  
Inspection Team

Senior Environmental Health Officer  
Nursing Home Inspection Team

Assistant Director of Nursing  
Nursing Home Inspection Team

Signed counterpart sent to Ms. Dymphna Lonergan, Person-in-Charge