1st October, 2007

Ms. Maud Gray
Proprietor
Lake House Nursing Home
Dunfanaghy
Co. Donegal

Inspection Report


Dear Ms. Gray,

The Health Service Executive Nursing Home Inspection Team from a Nursing and Environmental Health perspective inspected Lake House Nursing Home, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal on 15th and 31st August, 2007.

The inspection commenced at 10.00 am and was completed by 5.30 p.m. This inspection was unannounced.

There were 52 residents on this date. The Nursing Home is currently registered for 57 residents.

Issues identified in the previous Inspection Report dated 6th March 2007 have been addressed satisfactorily.

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.
Current Inspection

The following issues require your attention and action.

Article: 5  The registered proprietor and the person in charge shall ensure that there is provided for dependent persons maintained in a nursing home:—

(b) a high standard of nursing care;

Non-Compliance:  Communal clothing was observed in the Nursing Home e.g socks, tights, underwear.

Required Action:  The Nursing Home must ensure that arrangements are in place to ensure that the residents dignity is respected at all times with regard to wearing their own clothing.

Timescale:  Immediate.

Article: 5  The registered proprietor and the person in charge shall ensure that there is provided for dependent persons maintained in a nursing home:—

(b) a high standard of nursing care;

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

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

Non-Compliance:  Communal topical creams were observed on bathing trolleys.

Required Action:  All topical solutions/creams must be prescribed individually for residents and stored appropriately for individual use.

Timescale:  Immediate.

Non-Compliance:  A bath mat was observed in the assisted shower room which was being used by more than one resident posing a risk of cross infection.

Required Action:  Bath mats must be laundered after each use to minimise the risk of cross infection within the home.

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:  Surface temperatures measured from corridor radiators read as 56°C. This temperature should not exceed 43°C.

Required Action:  Box style covers should be provided on radiators to prevent the risk of burns to residents.

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;

Non Compliance: Toothbrush holders at the wash hand basins in bedrooms 3 and 5 were noted to be rusted, thereby unable to be thoroughly cleaned.

Required Action: Replace all rusted items in the bedrooms.

Timescale: 1 month.

Non Compliance: Areas of flaking paint were observed on the walls of bedroom 5.

Required Action: Repair and repaint any affected areas.

Timescale: 1 month.

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

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

Non Compliance: The use of ‘rags’ when cleaning throughout the nursing home does not facilitate the prevention of any spread of infection in the home. There is no segregation of cleaning cloths within the home.

Required Action: A system of colour coding must be put into place to prevent any potential spread of infection via cleaning cloths.

Timescale: Immediate.

Non Compliance: ‘Jay’ cloths of varying colours were found in some of the ensuite bathrooms. Red ‘Jay’ cloths were found in the ensuite bathroom to bedrooms 26 and 28. Green ‘Jay’ cloths were found in the ensuite bathroom of bedroom 21.

Required Action: Colour coding of cloths for patient use must be put into place to minimise any spread of infection within the home.

Timescale: Immediate.

Article: 15 The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the nursing home shall ensure that:—

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

Non Compliance: A sufficient supply of hot water was not available at the double sink unit in bedroom 31. The supply of hot water was not sufficient to allow a simultaneous supply to both hot taps.

Required Action: A sufficient supply of hot water must be available at the wash hand basins in each bedroom.

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: Non-compliances in relation to fire safety within the Nursing Home have been raised by the Fire Service Department of Donegal County Council, post their inspection of the premises in July 2007. Many of the issues raised had not yet been attended to by the date of the HSE Nursing Home Inspection. The Nursing Home Inspection Team is aware that management of the Lake House Nursing Home were only in receipt of the report from the Fire Service Department since early August and that follow up meeting with the Fire Officer had been arranged.

Required Action: All issues identified must be resolved to the satisfaction of the Fire Service Department, Donegal County Council.

Timescale: As per instruction from the Fire Service Department.

Non Compliance: An internal bolt was found on the door of bedroom 4. This bolt would hinder the evacuation of the resident of this bedroom if the bolt was locked in the event of a fire.

Required Action: The internal bolt should be removed from the door.

Timescale: Immediate.

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 at the home;

Non Compliance: There was no record of any fire practices carried out available.

Required Action: All practices that are carried out must be recorded.

Timescale: 6 months.
Recommendations

1. The Nursing Home should consider reviewing the duty rosters to incorporate times of duty eg. am or pm.
2. The Nursing Home should consider ensuring that all staff wear name badges so that they are easily identifiable by both resident and visitors.

The Chairperson of 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

_____________  ______________  ______________
Senior Medical Officer  Senior Environmental  Assistant Director of Nursing
Chairperson  Health Officer  Nursing Home Inspection
Team  Nursing Home Inspection  Team

Nursing Home  Nursing Home Inspection
Inspection Team

Signed counterpart sent to Ann McGilloway, Person-in-Charge of Nursing Home