



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

**Nursing Home Inspectorate,
HSE Dublin North East Area,
2nd Floor, Ballymun Civic Centre,
Main Street,
Ballymun,
Dublin 9.**

**Tel No: (01)8467340,
(01)8467346.
Fax No: 01-8467508.**

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Mr Michael Eustace
Registered Proprietor
Alzheimer's Care Centre
Swords Road
Whitehall
Dublin 9

Inspection Report

Re: Inspection of Alzheimer's Care Centre under the Health (Nursing Homes) Act, 1990 and the Nursing Homes (Care and Welfare) Regulations, 1993.

Dear Mr. Eustace,

The Nursing Homes Inspection Team visited the Alzheimer's Care Centre on 11th December 2006 from 5 a.m. to 15.00 p.m

There were sixty three residents on this date. The Nursing Home is currently registered for sixty four residents.

The following breaches of the Health (Nursing Homes) Act, 1990, and subsequent Regulations, were noted:

Section 6

Health (Nursing Home) Act 1990: Regulations in relation to standards in Nursing Homes.

Article: 10.1

There shall be a person in charge of a nursing home.

Issue

** who is named on the Nursing Home Certificate of Registration as the Person in Charge informed the designated officers that she is not responsible for the care and welfare of the thirty two dependent persons in the High Dependency Section of the Alzheimer Care Centre. ** informed the designated officers that she was only responsible for thirty two dependent persons in the Care Centre. This was confirmed by ** Director of Nursing for the Highfield Hospital Group. It is acknowledged that in correspondence to Mr. M. Eustace, Registered Proprietor dated 7th March 2000 from the H.S.E that they did not foresee a problem with the Chief Nursing Officer, having dual responsibility for both the Alzheimer Care Centre and the position of Chief Nursing Officer at the Highfield Hospital Group.

Section 6 of the Health (Nursing Homes) Act 1990 and Article 10.1 of the Care and Welfare Regulations 1993 states that the Person in Charge means the Person in Charge of the Care and Welfare of patients in a Nursing Home.

**, the named Person in Charge of the sixty four bedded registered Alzheimer's Care Centre/Nursing Home is noted to be in charge of only thirty two of the dependent persons.

Required Action:

The Registered Proprietor under Article 10.4 of the Nursing Home Care and Welfare Regulations 1993 shall notify the Nursing Home Inspectorate in writing of the name of the new Person in Charge of the Alzheimer Care Centre (sixty four beds). The Person in Charge to be responsible for the Alzheimer Care Centre only.

Timescale

Immediately on receipt of Inspection report.

Article 5

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

(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*

(b) *a high standard of nursing care;*

(f) *freedom to exercise choice to the extent that such freedom does not infringe on the rights of other persons;*

Breach(es)

On the commencement of inspection of the Nursing Home at 5.30 am on the 11th December 2006 following the receipt of a complaint that dependent persons were being woken up early the Designated Officers observed the Nursing Home night staff actively awakening and rising twenty two dependent persons between 5.30 am and 7.10 am.. Six dependent persons were fully clothed and remaining dependent persons were left in night attire and dressing gowns. The majority of these dependent persons were transferred to the sitting room where they were continually observed by one member of staff. The Designated Officers observed that many of the dependent persons in the sitting room slept in their chairs until breakfast commenced at 8.10 am. Orange Juice and Cubitan supplements were available for dependent persons in the

sitting room between 5.30 am and 8 am. This direct evidence observed by the Designated Officers fails to deliver a high standard of nursing care.

At a subsequent follow up visit to the Alzheimer Care Centre at 7 a.m. on the 29th January 2007, it was found by the Designated Officer that there were only five dependent persons out of bed at 7.20am. These dependent persons who always get out of bed early were in the day room which was supervised by a care assistant.

Required Action

Cease with immediate effect the practice of awakening and rising dependent persons between 5.30 and 8 am.

Timescale

Immediate. On the day of inspection the Director of Nursing and the Person in Charge, ** were informed by the designated officers of the direct observation of the awakening and rising of the dependent persons. The Director of Nursing and the Person in Charge ** were directed by the designated officers to cease this practice with immediate effect.

Article 5.

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

(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;

Article 11.2

In every nursing home there shall be provided suitable and sufficient accommodation *(f) suitable and sufficient equipment and facilities having regard to the nature and extent of the dependency of the persons maintained in the nursing home;*

Breach(es)

On the morning of inspection the designated officers witnessed the use of wheelchair for the transfer of some dependent persons from their bedrooms to the sitting room. The wheelchairs had no footrests attached. The designated officers observed dependent persons dragging their feet on the floor during this transfer. The potential for harm to dependent persons e.g. Injury to lower limbs is present due to this practice and is therefore in breach of Article 5 (a) and Article 11.2(f).

Required Action

Footrests to be used on wheelchairs when transferring dependent persons.

Timescale

Immediately on receipt of inspection report.

The Chairperson of the Inspection Teams to be notified in writing on or before the above dates the steps taken by the nursing home to carry out the actions as required under the regulations.

Signed:

Chairperson

Inspection Team Member

Copy to: Person in Charge, Alzheimers Care Centre.