Mr. Oliver and Ms. Nora Raleigh  
Beech Wood House  
Nursing Home  
Newcastlewest  
Co. Limerick.

Date: 02/08/06

Re: Inspection of Beechwood House Nursing Home under the Health (Nursing Homes) Act, 1990 and the Nursing Homes (Care and Welfare) Regulations, 1993

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Raleigh

The Nursing Homes Inspection and Registration Team visited Beechwood House Nursing Home on 26/07/06. There were 38 residents on this date. The Nursing Home is currently registered for 38 residents.

The following issues require your attention and action:

1. **Article 10.5 (d):** “The registered proprietor and the person in change of the nursing home shall ensure that a sufficient number of staff are on duty at all times”  
   **Breach:** Staffing levels are low as per rosters  
   **Required Action:** Staffing levels shall be increased immediately

2. **Articles 28.1 (a)(b)(c):** “records shall be maintained of (a) all fire practices (b) all fire alarm tests (c) the number type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment”  
   **Breach:** The fire records were inadequate and not easily accessible.  
   **Required Action:** All fire safety records shall be maintained as per above articles.

3. **Article 15 (a):** “The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the nursing home shall ensure that there is a sufficient supply of piped hot water”  
   **Breach:** The hot tap at the wash hand basin in room 8 was not working at time of inspection (this was also pointed out following the inspection 04/04/06). Also an instantaneous supply of hot water was not available at the hot tap in the bathroom between rooms 2 and 3.  
   **Required Action:** An instantaneous supply of hot water shall be available at all time in all communal bathrooms and sluice rooms. This shall be given immediate attention.

4. **Article 15(g):** “The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the nursing home shall ensure that adequate arrangements are made for the proper disposal of incontinence pads”  
   **Breach:** There was a most objectionable odour emanating from a disposal unit containing used incontinence wear in the sluice room adjacent to the staff sanitary accommodation on the ground floor.
**Required Action:** Disposal units containing used incontinence wear shall be emptied regularly. Incontinence wear shall be double bagged, removed from the premises and stored in suitable containers within the curtilage pending final disposal.

5. During the inspection the Team noticed that the toilet in the sluice room containing the bedpan washer appears to be used by Residents as it has a raised toilet seat and grab rails surrounding it. This toilet shall be used only as a receptacle for waste solids and shall not be used by Residents.

6. Special attention should be given to the cleaning schedule. High dusting and cleaning is required in areas that were pointed out at inspection.

7. There was no soap available at the wash hand basin in the main bathroom between rooms 2 and 3 on the first floor.

8. The wheelbarrow which was stored in the laundry room shall be stored elsewhere.

9. The Health & Safety Statement was found to be up to date and premises specific. It is important however to ensure that support documentation and policies referred to in the Health and Safety Statement are actually available. It is important also that the statement be examined to ensure that in all cases it reflects the situation pertaining in the premises e.g. in relation to method of disposal of sharps and heavily soiled linen.

10. It was noted that while care plan sheets were in place for all Residents, some of these had not been filled in and others had not been reviewed since 2000. All care plans require updating at least every six months and more frequently depending on Residents’ progress.

11. It was noted that, while a policy manual exists, it was disorganised and needs to be indexed. As discussed at inspection, it would be advisable to have copies available for easy accessibility by all staff members. Information on restraints is enclosed as promised at inspection.

12. We wish to acknowledge receipt of as requested of:
   a. A copy of roster for the week of inspection
   b. A copy of the weekly menu
   c. A list of residents indicating dependencies of maximum, high and medium

We wish to thank you for facilitating the inspection and look forward to your co-operation in the future.

Yours sincerely

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Senior Medical Officer.  Assistant Director of  Principal Environmental
Public Health Nursing  Health Officer