Date: 10/11/06

Re: Inspection of Caherass Nursing Home, Croom, Co. Limerick under the Health (Nursing Homes) Act, 1990 and the Nursing Homes (Care and Welfare) Regulations, 1993

Dear Sir/Madam

The Health Service Executive Nursing Homes Inspection and Registration Team visited Caherass Nursing Home on 02/11/06.

There were forty one residents on this date. The Nursing Home is currently registered for fifty residents.

The following issues require your attention and action.

1. **Article: 10.1 and 10.4**
   
   10.1 “There shall be a person in charge of a Nursing Home”.
   
   10.4 “The registered proprietor shall notify the Health Board in writing if the person in charge on the date of registration ceases to be the person in charge during the period of registration and shall notify the Health Board in writing of the name of the new person in charge within one month of the appointment”.
   
   **Breach:** The named person in charge was last rostered on 20/08/06.
   
   **Required Action:** The Health Service Executive shall be informed immediately of the name of the person in charge.

2. **Article: 19.1 (e)** “In every Nursing Home the following particulars shall be kept in a safe place in respect of each dependent person: a medical record with details of investigations made, diagnosis and treatment given, and a record of all drugs and medicines prescribed, signed and dated by a medical practitioner”.

   **Breach:** A significant number of individual drugs on the drug Kardex were not signed by a medical practitioner.

   **Required Action:** All drug Kardex sheets shall be signed and dated by a medical practitioner.
3. **Article: 29 (a)** “The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the Nursing Home shall: make adequate arrangements for the recording, safe keeping, administering and disposal of drugs and medicines”.
   **Breach:** It was noted that a very large amount of named patient drugs were retained for patients not resident in the Nursing Home.
   **Required action:** The management and supply of drugs needs to be reviewed immediately. All un-used drugs and especially those dispensed to named patients shall be returned to the pharmacy.

4. **Article 11.2 (i) (j)**
   In every Nursing Home there shall be provided suitable and sufficient accommodation which meets the minimum standards as follows:-
   (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”.
   **Breach:** The panel containing the call bell facilities, the over head light switches, telephone access points and electric sockets are situated incorrectly either towards the foot of the bed or at the foot of the beds in all rooms except for room numbers 4, 6, 7, 28, 35, 36, 42, 43, 49, and 50. The position of these facilities makes them difficult for the residents to reach and therefore unsatisfactory. This especially applies to call bell leads which may have Health and Safety implications. In room 2 the call bell housing is loose and in room 31 there was a broken connection. In room numbers 17, 19 and 27 there were either no leads or the leads were not working for the call bells. In a large number of the rooms the over bed light was at the foot or midway down the bed. In rooms 12, 20, 23 and 25 the phones were placed on the floors because of the position of the phone sockets.
   **Required Action:** All call bell, lighting and telephone facilities shall be placed in the correct position for patient comfort and use and also for Health and Safety purposes.

5. As mentioned in the last inspection report the ventilation in the dedicated smoking room on the first floor is inadequate. This is allowing environmental tobacco smoke to remain within the room and also to percolate into the corridor as evidenced by the strong smell of tobacco smoke along same. This matter shall be rectified immediately.

6. The visitors’ toilet on the ground floor was out of order. This shall be repaired immediately.

7. The bathroom beside room 23 is awaiting conversion into a shower room. This needs to be done as soon as possible due to the shortage of showering facilities in the Nursing Home.

8. The nurses’ station is totally inadequate. It is too small and needs to be upgraded. A larger area should be acquired.

9. The current staff room as was pointed out at previous inspection is inadequate because it had no window. It was noted during the inspection that room 13 is quite a small room and it is suggested that this room be redesigned and designated as a staff room.

10. The sluice room shall be used exclusively for sluicing activities. In order to avoid cross infection items such a flower vases and cushions shall not be stored in the sluice rooms and mop buckets should not be filled or emptied in this room.

11. One room should be dedicated for the storage of cleaning agents and equipment. This room should contain a suitable sink similar to the sink in the cleaning room attached to the kitchen.
12. There appears to be a leak to the ceilings of room numbers 13 and 38 as there is a damp patch visible in the corners. This shall be investigated and repaired as necessary.

13. It is recommended that follow up actions and outcome of complaints be entered into the complaints book.

14. You are requested to submit the following (if you have not already done so)
   a) Copy roster for week of inspection indicating total hours worked for each staff category. Please indicate each staff category clearly.

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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Assistant Director    Senior Medical Officer
Of Public Health Nursing

cc Person-in-Charge