Wednesday, 04 July 2007

Dr. Tony & Mr. Michael Woods,
Registered Proprietors,
Blackrock Abbey Nursing Home,
Blackrock,
Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Inspection Report

Re: Inspection of Blackrock Abbey Nursing Home, Blackrock, Dundalk, Co. Louth
under the Health (Nursing Homes) Act, 1990 and the Nursing Homes (Care and

Dear Dr. Woods & Mr. Woods,

The Health Service Executive Nursing Homes Inspection Team from a nursing and
environmental health perspective inspected Blackrock Abbey Nursing Home, Blackrock,
Dundalk, Co. Louth on 22/5/07 the from 10am to 5.00pm. This inspection was routine
unannounced.

There were sixty dependent persons on this date. The Nursing Home is currently fully
registered for sixty dependent persons.

Issues identified in the Inspection Report dated 26th February 2007 related to Articles 7.1
Article 17, Article 29(a), (b), Article 19.1 (e), (f), (h), (d), Article 21(b) have been
addressed.

Issues identified in previous inspection report 3rd August 2006 have been partially
addressed. The provision of sterilant in sluice rooms has not yet been dealt with. I
understand from conversation with Helen Murphy Person- in- Charge that this is due to the
fact that presses to allow for storage of same have still not been provided but I have been
assured that this will be dealt with promptly.
The following issues require your attention and action:

**Article**
Article 10.5 (d) “The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the nursing home shall ensure that: a sufficient number of competent staff are on duty at all times having regard to the number of persons maintained therein and the nature and extent of their dependency.”

**Issue**
The current level of registered nurse staffing on the 1st floor should be reviewed. Currently one registered nurse has responsibility for in excess of 30 dependent persons 80% of whom were identified as being of maximum dependency. The Person in Charge is currently included on staffing roster for 1st and ground floor.

**Required Action**
Undertake a workload analysis to ensure current staffing level of one registered nurse is sufficient to meet care needs of all dependent persons on the 1st floor.

**Timescale**
Within one month of receipt of this report.

**Article**
Article 12(a) “The registered proprietor and the person in charge of the Nursing Home shall: 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**
Water temperature to wash hand basins in two of the toilets on first floor was excessively hot. One of the wash hand basins showed a water temperature of 53.9°C; the second wash hand basin in adjacent wc showed a hot water temperature of 55.8°C.

**Required Action**
Provision of a temperature control valve/ thermostat system to these particular wash hand basins to ensure that this cannot be allowed to reoccur. Temperature of hot water must not rise above 43°C. The monitoring/ recording of water temperatures within the Nursing Home which is currently being done on a monthly basis to be upgraded to a weekly check. All staff to be reminded to keep a check on water temperature as part of their work.

**Timescale**
Immediate for this particular problem and ongoing to prevent reoccurrence.
**Recommendations**

In general standard of décor is very good however painting; redecoration and any repair work to be carried out on an ongoing basis.

Facility should be made available for any capable dependent persons to access a drink of fresh potable water independent of staff.

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/       Designated Officer.       Environmental Health Officer/
Designated Officer.                           Designated Officer.

cc.  Ms. Helena Murphy, Person-in-Charge.