

ANNUAL REPORT

'98

BALTINGLASS
DISTRICT
HOSPITAL
CO. WICKLOW



EASTERN
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District Hospital
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RESPITE AND INTERMITTENT CARE

The availability of respite care has proven to be of great value to older persons and their relatives and has enabled them to remain in their own home for longer than would otherwise be possible.

Carers can avail of planned breaks for themselves with the reassurance that, in their absence, their elderly relative is being adequately cared for in Baltinglass.

The intermittent care service is provided for the older person who has been medically assessed to be in need of regular in-patient care on a pre-determined basis. This service enables the dependent older person to continue to live at home in dignity whilst receiving a planned programme of care via Baltinglass Hospital.



MINOR INJURY UNIT

People who present to the hospital with injuries of a minor nature are seen by the nurse on duty and if necessary by the relevant General Practitioner.

Patients with more serious injuries are automatically referred on to the appropriate acute general hospital.

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Patients treated	1611	1806
Admitted to Baltinglass Hospital	1	1
Transferred to Naas Hospital	50	33
Transferred to Dublin Hospitals	18	30
Transferred to Other Hospitals	—	2
Home	1501	1713
Doctors Surgery	34	27





PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

Under direction of the Department of Physical Medicine, Naas General Hospital Physiotherapy service is provided on a sessional basis. Three physiotherapists attend the hospital 4 days a week providing 18 physiotherapy sessions.

This valuable service enables the older person to retain their mobility for as long as possible and thereby enhancing their quality of life.

There is also an out-patient service to which patients are referred by their G.P.'s.

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
In-Patient Attendances	1041	1119
Out-Patients Attendances	1881	2482
Total Treatments	5033	6230



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICE

The Occupational Therapist, through assessment and rehabilitation, concentrates on the skills the person has and how these can be developed. Where absent skills become an obstacle to progress, there is scope for resource and creative planning in overcoming these difficulties. The ultimate aim is to achieve the maximum level of independence in all the basic functional activities of daily living.

Home visits are conducted to assess and prepare for successful discharge of the older person. This may necessitate recommending the adaptation of the home environment to suit the client's needs.



RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

There are two radiography sessions held in the hospital each week catering for in-patients, day-patients and out-patients. Consultant cover is provided by the Consultant Radiologists at Naas General Hospital.

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
In Patients Attendances	89	54
Out Patients Attendances	384	507
Total Examinations	654	738

11**CHIROPODY**

Three chiropody sessions are held in the hospital every month

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
In-Patient Treatments	450	431
Out-Patient Treatments	224	178

The provision of this service is a key element in the total rehabilitation process and is of benefit to older people as it helps them to retain their mobility.

12**NUTRITIONAL ADVICE**

Baltinglass District Hospital avails of the services of the our Board's Nutritional Advisor.

She visits the Hospital once a month and advises on the dietary needs of older persons, thus improving their health and social gain.

13**DENTAL SERVICE**

A Dental Clinic is held at the hospital on two days each week. This is part of the Community Care Services.

14**MEALS ON WHEELS**

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Total Meals Provided	1213	1734

Meals are delivered by volunteer drivers organised by the local Care of the Aged Committee. They are delivered to older people who for social or medical reasons are unable to provide a meal for themselves. People in need of this service are identified to the hospital by the General Practitioners and Public Health Nurses, and also when the patient is being discharged from the hospital.

15**DAY CARE UNIT**

Day Care Services are paramount to the objective of maintaining the older person in their own home environment as long as possible. In this regard the hospital works very closely with our Board's Community Care Services in the operation of the Day Care Unit. Services provided for patients attending the Unit include medical care, nursing, physiotherapy and chiropody. In addition personal services such as bathing, hairdressing, laundry, change of clothes are also provided. A voluntary committee visit the centre each afternoon to organise and deliver a programme of arts, crafts, and other entertainment.

The unit primarily caters for the needs of the older person, however it also provides a day service for a number of physically disabled people. The total number of patients currently on the Day Care Register is 211 with an average of 18 patients attending each day. The catchment area for the unit extends to cover the areas of Baltinglass, Blessington, Dunlavin, Grangecon, Coolattin, Knockanna, Clonmore, Tinahely and Kiltegan. The frequency of attendance is dependant on the individual needs of the patients.

Attendances at the Unit are scheduled in response to information supplied by the Public Health Nurses in close co-operation with the General Practitioners. Patients being discharged from the hospital who could benefit from attendances at the unit are also offered a service.

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Day Care Attendances	4665	5113



The objective of this service is the provision of residential accommodation for the elderly ambulant persons who can live independently and carry out daily activities, but who require to reside in a sheltered environment allowing them easy access to support services.

GROUP HOME

The Group Home provides accommodation for 9 ambulant/independent older persons. All admissions to the Group Home are channelled through the Hospital Assessment Team, who arrange for a medical and social assessment of each person. In this regard the links between the community team and the hospital staff are vital in ensuring appropriate placement.

Accommodation consists of one four-bedded and three-bedded rooms, toilets/bathroom, lounge area and dining area. The Unit is linked by telephone/alarm system to the main hospital.

GATE LODGE

The Gate Lodge at the hospital consists of 7 welfare-type beds for ambulant/independent older persons. The Lodge is linked to the main hospital by way of telephone/alarm system. Operational policies in relation to both the Gate Lodge and Group Home are similar.

The development and training of staff is an on-going process for all staff at Baltinglass District Hospital.

NON-NURSING PERSONNEL

Having considered the needs of the non-nursing personnel, a inter-disciplinary approach to training following consultation was put in place. Training on-site was provided by the Ward Sisters to further increase their understanding of the needs and management of the older person. The expertise of the following personnel were involved in the training:

- Nutritional Advisor
- Continance Specialist
- Infection Control Sister

Staff members attended a 2 day course on the training and management of aggressive behaviour, to assist them to deal effectively with the older persons who have been diagnosed with Dementia/Alzheimers.

FALLS PREVENTION PROJECT

In conjunction with the Director of Services for Older Persons and the Specialist in P.H. Medicine a falls prevention project was introduced as a pilot project in Baltinglass District hospital.

The aim of this pilot project was to develop and implement a Fall Prevention Programme in order to reduce the number of falls and resultant injuries being experienced by our older adults.

Following the distribution of a questionnaire to all grades of staff at Baltinglass District Hospital, a Falls Risk Assessment scale was introduced to assess those clients who are at risk of falling.

This is a very positive quality initiative in the care of the older person as it will improve the health and social gain of our older persons.

QUALITY INITIATIVE

A structure quality audit of extended care beds has been undertaken in conjunction with the Board's nursing research and development unit. This exercise was conducted on a participative basis. The recommendations which include operational and physical issues are being implemented on a phased basis. Further reviews will be undertaken during 1999.

WOUND CARE COMMITTEE

A wound care committee has been established with the aim of ensuring that best practice is adopted and staff are well informed on the issue of wound care.

WORK EXPERIENCE

We continue to work with the local secondary schools for work placement during the transition year.



VOLUNTARY FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

The Fund raising committee has been in operation since 1981 and continues to make a valued contribution to the activities and services of the hospital.



DEMENTIA/ALZHEIMERS SERVICE

The extension to the long-stay unit has been completed, providing a high quality safe and secure environment for older persons who have been diagnosed with Dementia/Alzheimers. In addition a secure patio area has been completed providing a pleasant and safe outdoor area which will promote the well-being of our older persons.

Agreement has been reached to extend the Sonas communication programme to Baltinglass in 1999 which will compliment this newly developed inpatient service.

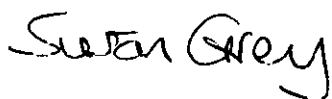
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

A planned maintenance programme is in place in Baltinglass District Hospital in order to maintain the fabric of the Hospital. In the past year the maintenance service have undertaken the following works on the Hospital.

- Replacement of windows as part of the window replacement programme
- The nurse call system was renewed
- Enhanced provision of changing and restroom facilities for employees

FUTURE PLANS

- Continuation of window replacement programme.
- Completion of the resurfacing of the hospital drive-way.
- Enhance nurses station area.
- Curtain and blind replacement programme.



Susan Grey
Hospital Manager.







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