

Report of the Inspector of Mental Health Services 2010

EXECUTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary
HSE AREA	South
CATCHMENT AREA	South Tipperary
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE	South
APPROVED CENTRE	St. Luke's Hospital
NUMBER OF WARDS	4
NAMES OF UNITS OR WARDS INSPECTED	St. Theresa's Unit St. Bridget's Ward St. Mary's Ward St. Paul's Ward
TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS	79
CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO REGISTRATION	Yes
TYPE OF INSPECTION	Unannounced Night Inspection
DATE OF INSPECTION	27/28 January 2010

Description of ward(s) inspected

St. Luke's Hospital had four wards. All four wards were inspected. The inspection took place between 2310h and 0030h.

St. Paul's ward was a 22-bed continuing care ward and had 20 residents: two female and 18 male. One resident was detained under the Mental Health Act 2001.

St. Mary's Ward was an 18-bed Care of the Older Person ward and had 17 residents: nine female and eight male. One resident was detained under the Mental Health Act 2001. Twenty beds were noted on this ward despite the official number of 18.

St. Bridget's Ward was an 18-bed ward specialising in Intellectual Disability and had 17 voluntary residents: nine male and eight female.

St. Theresa's Ward was a 21-bed ward specialising in Rehabilitation and had 16 residents: nine male and seven female. One resident was detained under the Mental Health Act 2001.

Staffing levels

Each of the four wards had two Registered Psychiatric Nurses rostered and present on duty. The night CNM3 was based in St. Michael's Unit in South Tipperary General Hospital.

Residents

Most residents had retired for the night and were sleeping. Remaining residents who were preparing to retire for the night were greeted by the Inspectorate.

Medication

Generally, it was reported by the staff of all four wards that the administration of night medication had commenced at around 1000h. Prescription sheets were examined on St. Bridget's Ward and St. Theresa's Ward.

Seclusion

Seclusion was no longer used by the service.

Mechanical restraint

Mechanical restraint was not used by the service.

Risk Management

There were no special observations on any ward. All residents were on general observation.

Environment

All wards were locked for security purposes. All four wards were calm. Most residents were in bed. In St. Mary's Ward it was reported that two residents remained up due to agitation and restlessness. Both residents appeared agitated and restless but the Inspectorate was satisfied that they were comfortable. All four wards were well-heated. In a number of areas, particularly St. Theresa's Ward, the corridors were inadequately lit. The Inspectorate is not suggesting that the lights in these corridors remain lit but that thought should be given to the installation of adequate night lights. St. Theresa's Ward had an intercom system in place on the external main door for security purposes.

Access to food and water/hot drinks at night.

All residents on all four wards had access to a fresh supply of drinking water. All residents had been offered a hot drink and sandwiches at 2100h.

Documentation/Handover procedure

The nursing report from day staff to night staff occurred at 2030h. The nursing report from night staff to day staff occurred at 0800h. The night CNM3, who was based at St. Michael's Unit, South Tipperary General Hospital, visited each ward.

Interviews with service users

No service user requested to speak with the Inspectorate. Any resident who was awake was greeted by the Inspectorate.

Conclusion

Despite the unannounced night inspection all staff were courteous and welcoming of the inspection. There were no restrictive practices in operation on any ward. All residents appeared comfortable. There was an appropriate number of nursing staff on duty. All documentation examined by the Inspectorate appeared to be in order.

Recommendations

1. Night lights should be installed in corridor areas.
2. An intercom system, such as the one used by St. Theresa's Ward, should be installed on the main external door of the remaining three wards for the safety and security of night staff.
3. The two unused beds on St. Mary's Ward, which are in excess of the official bed capacity, should be decommissioned immediately.