EXECUTIVE CATCHMENT AREA/INTEGRATED SERVICE AREA | Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary
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MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE | Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary
APPROVED CENTRE | Department of Psychiatry, St. Luke’s Hospital, Kilkenny
NUMBER OF WARDS | 1
NAMES OF UNITS OR WARDS INSPECTED | Department of Psychiatry
TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS | 44
CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO REGISTRATION | Yes
TYPE OF INSPECTION | Night Inspection Unannounced
DATE OF INSPECTION | 4 March 2014

Summary
- The Department of Psychiatry was well managed on the night of inspection.
- The unit was quiet, with low lighting and was conducive to sleep.
- A bedroom and sitting room in the unit was noticeably cold compared with the rest of the unit.
Description of ward inspected

The Department of Psychiatry (DOP) was located at St. Luke’s Hospital, Kilkenny. The DOP comprised a single storey building which could be accessed through its own entrance near the public car park or through the main hospital building. The DOP was opened in 2003 and was well decorated and modern in appearance. It comprised a 19-bed acute area and a 25-bed sub-acute area. The acute area had a high observation section with a seclusion room and three single bedrooms.

There were eight sector teams, two psychiatry of old age teams and two rehabilitation and recovery teams admitting to the DOP. There were 40 residents in the unit on the night of inspection and five residents on leave. Six residents were detained under the Mental Health Act 2001.

Staffing levels

In the sub-acute area there were two registered psychiatric nurses (RPNs) on duty on the night of inspection. In the acute area there were three RPNs on duty. Two agency nurses were providing one to one (special) nursing for two residents: one in the acute area and one in the sub-acute area. There was a clinical nurse manager 3 (CNM3) on duty in the unit and there was an assistant director of nursing (ADON) on call. There was a consultant and a non consultant hospital doctor (NCHD) on call.

Residents

There were no children resident in the unit on the night of inspection. Six residents were detained. Five residents were on leave and this leave was part of their care plans and not to free beds for people being admitted. One resident was on long term leave in a supervised residence. One resident had been transferred to the main hospital for medical care. There had been no admissions to the unit since 2000.

Medication

Night medication had been administered at the time of inspection. Two RPNs had administered medication. As required (PRN) medication had been administered in some cases.

One documentation of administration of medication was incomplete. This was remedied when pointed out by the inspectors.
Seclusion

There was no resident in seclusion at the time of inspection and the seclusion room was locked and empty.

Mechanical restraint

No resident was mechanically restrained at the time of inspection.

Risk Management

No incidents had occurred since 2000h. There were two residents receiving one-to-one observation provided by two agency nurses.

Environment

The unit was very clean and tidy. It had low lighting and the noise levels were low. Bedroom doors were open and there was access to bathrooms and toilets. Curtains were drawn around the beds and privacy was maintained.

There were three residents watching television in a small sitting room. This room and the bedroom beside it were noticeably cold compared to the rest of the unit. Staff suggested that there might be something wrong with the under-floor heating in that area.

Access to food and water/hot drinks at night

Residents received their last snack at 2100h which consisted of tea, sandwiches and biscuits. There was also access to a vending machine. Drinking water was available in the unit. There was a facility for providing a snack during the night for people being admitted, if required.
**Documentation/Handover procedure**

There had been a verbal handover for staff at 1945h with the CNM3. In the morning the verbal handover would be at 0745h. Both handovers were held in the nurses' office.

**Interviews with service users**

All residents who were not in bed were greeted by the inspectors. Residents in the small TV room complained that the room was cold. Other residents said that they found the unit comfortable. One resident found the unit a bit noisy with the sound of radios at night.

**Conclusion**

The DOP was observed to be well managed on the night of inspection. It was quiet with no incidents or admissions since 2000h. Most residents were in the process of going to bed and it was obvious that privacy was respected. One bedroom and a sitting room were cold and it appeared that there may be a fault with the heating in that area.

**Recommendations**

1. The cold area in the bedroom and sitting room should be addressed by the maintenance department.