

Report of the Inspector of Mental Health Services 2013

EXECUTIVE CATCHMENT AREA/INTEGRATED SERVICE AREA	Galway, Mayo, Roscommon
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE	Galway
APPROVED CENTRE	Department of Psychiatry, Galway University Hospital
NUMBER OF WARDS	1
NAMES OF UNITS OR WARDS INSPECTED	Department of Psychiatry , Galway University Hospital
TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS	35
CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO REGISTRATION	Yes
TYPE OF INSPECTION	Unannounced Night
DATE OF INSPECTION	25 February 2013

Summary

- The DOP, Galway University Hospital was calm and peaceful on the night of inspection.
- There had been no admissions during the night and no incidents had been recorded.
- There were five nurses on duty in the approved centre at night.

Description of ward inspected

Staffing levels

Staff on duty at the time of inspection comprised one Clinical Nurse Manager 3 (CNM3), and four Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN). There was no Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) on call. There was one psychiatric registrar on duty located on the hospital campus and a consultant psychiatrist available on call. None of the staff were Agency nurses.

Staff came on duty at 1945h and remained on duty until 0730h the following day. There were two verbal handovers.

Residents

There were 34 residents in the unit on the night of inspection, of whom 13 were detained. Six of the detained patients were on approved leave in either a community residence, at home or in independent rented accommodation, resulting in 28 people actually in the unit on the night of inspection.

There had been no admissions on the day of inspection. All admissions to the unit at night came through the Emergency Department of Galway University Hospital.

Medication

Night medication was administered at 2200h. No PRN (as required) hypnotics had been administered on the night of inspection.

Seclusion

There were no residents in seclusion at the time of inspection and no resident had been secluded that day.

One resident was on a 1:1 special observation by a member of the nursing staff and was being nursed in a single room.

Mechanical restraint

Mechanical restraint was not used in the approved centre.

Risk Management

There had been no documented incident on the night of inspection. Residents were checked by a nurse two or three times each hour during the night.

Environment

The approved centre was calm and quiet at the time of inspection. Some residents were still awake and a few were using the outside smoking area. A small number of other residents were watching TV. In areas where residents were sleeping, the environment was conducive to sleep with low lighting and noise levels. All bedroom doors were either open or kept ajar.

Access to food and water/hot drinks at night

Supper was available for all residents at 2000h, which consisted of a hot drink and toast. There was a facility to provide hot drinks if required later in the night for people newly admitted.

Documentation/Handover procedure

Two verbal handovers were conducted, initially at 1945h when staff first came on duty and at the end of the period of duty. There was also a hard-backed notebook in each nursing station to record issues of note such as scheduled appointments and tests, issues arising during the nursing shift.

Interviews with service users

Residents who were awake were greeted by the inspectors as the inspection was conducted. One resident spoke of their unhappiness of being admitted as a detained patient.

Conclusion

The night inspection took place from 2315h to 0030h. The DOP, Galway University Hospital was calm and peaceful at the time of inspection and the environment was conducive to sleep. A number of residents were awake and some were outside in the smoking area. There had been no admissions on the night of inspection and no incidents had been recorded. One patient was on a 1:1 special observation. Overall, the impression was that the unit was well managed by the staff on duty at the time of inspection.

Recommendations

There were no recommendations for the management of the approved centre at night.