

## Report of the Inspector of Mental Health Services 2010

<b>EXECUTIVE CATCHMENT AREA</b>	Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary
<b>HSE AREA</b>	South
<b>CATCHMENT AREA</b>	South Tipperary
<b>MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE</b>	South
<b>APPROVED CENTRE</b>	St. Michael's Unit, South Tipperary General Hospital
<b>NUMBER OF WARDS</b>	2
<b>NAMES OF UNITS OR WARDS INSPECTED</b>	Female Admission Unit Male Admission Unit
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS</b>	49
<b>CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO REGISTRATION</b>	Yes
<b>TYPE OF INSPECTION</b>	Unannounced night inspection
<b>DATE OF INSPECTION</b>	28 January 2010

**Description of ward inspected**

St. Michael's Unit was situated on the grounds of South Tipperary General Hospital. It was an acute admission unit comprising 49 beds divided into a male and female ward situated at either end of a single long corridor. The male ward had a high observation area containing six beds and the female ward had one containing five beds. Admissions continued to be made into "on leave" beds. The inspection took place between 0035h and 0115h.

**Staffing levels**

There was a night CNM3 based on the unit. Each ward had three Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs): two on each of the wards and one on each of the high observation areas. In addition, the female ward had a fourth RPN for the purpose of special observations on a resident for clinical reasons. The unit had a security guard from 1800h to 0000h. One household staff member was on duty from 2100h to 0900h.

**Residents**

There had been no admissions that night up to and including the time of the inspection. There were 26 residents on the Male Admission Ward, of whom five were detained under the Mental Health Act 2001. Of these 26, one was on leave and another, a detained patient, was absent without leave. There were 24 residents present on the ward. There were 24 residents on the Female Admission Ward, all of whom were voluntary.

**Medication**

It was reported that night medication had been administered between 1000h and 1030h. The prescription sheets were examined.

**Seclusion**

No resident was in seclusion.

**Mechanical restraint**

Mechanical restraint was not used by the service.

**Risk Management**

One RPN in each ward was based in the high observation area. One resident in the Female Admission Ward was undergoing special observations.

**Environment**

The unit was calm and well-heated. All residents appeared comfortable.

**Access to food and water/hot drinks at night**

All residents 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 was based on the unit.

**Interviews with service users**

No resident requested to speak with the Inspectorate. All residents were settled in their beds at the time of the inspection.

**Conclusion**

The unit was adequately lit. There were no restrictive practices in operation. All residents appeared comfortable. There was an adequate number of staff on duty. All documentation examined by the Inspectorate appeared to be in order.

**Recommendation**

1. The practice of admitting new patients into beds that are already allocated to residents on leave from the approved centre should cease.