

We are the regulator: Our job is to check whether hospitals, care homes and care services are meeting essential standards.

Spire Liverpool Hospital

57 Greenbank Road, Liverpool, L18 1HQ

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We inspected the following standards to check that action had been taken to meet them. This is what we found:

Management of medicines

✓ Met this standard

Details about this location

Registered Provider	Classic Hospitals Limited
Registered Manager	Mrs. Alison Ruth Peake
Overview of the service	Spire Hospital Liverpool is an independent hospital situated close to the centre of Liverpool. It offers a range of medical and surgical treatments for patients. The hospital provides in-patient and day care for 38 patients over three wards. These include two in-patient wards (30 beds), two level 2 beds and a six bedded day unit. Car parking facilities are located at the front and to the back of the hospital.
Type of service	Acute services with overnight beds
Regulated activities	Diagnostic and screening procedures Surgical procedures Treatment of disease, disorder or injury

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Summary of this inspection

Why we carried out this inspection

We carried out this inspection to check whether Spire Liverpool Hospital had taken action to meet the following essential standards:

- Management of medicines

This was an unannounced inspection.

How we carried out this inspection

We looked at the personal care or treatment records of people who use the service, carried out a visit on 12 August 2013, talked with staff and took advice from our pharmacist.

We also reviewed other relevant records held by the provider.

What people told us and what we found

At our previous inspection we found that improvements were required in the storage and effective management of medication. For which a warning notice was issued.

At this visit we found that the provider had made significant improvement in the overall management of medications. During our visit we found that changes had been made to the documentation, storage, and management of medications. Processes and policies had been reviewed and training updates had been carried out.

You can see our judgements on the front page of this report.

More information about the provider

Please see our website www.cqc.org.uk for more information, including our most recent judgements against the essential standards. You can contact us using the telephone number on the back of the report if you have additional questions.

There is a glossary at the back of this report which has definitions for words and phrases we use in the report.

Our judgements for each standard inspected

Management of medicines

✓ Met this standard

People should be given the medicines they need when they need them, and in a safe way

Our judgement

The provider was meeting this standard.

People were protected against the risks associated with medicines because the provider had appropriate arrangements in place to manage medicines.

Reasons for our judgement

We had previously inspected this service on 19 June 2013 when we found non-compliance with this outcome for which a warning notice was issued. At our previous visit we found that appropriate arrangements were not always in place in relation to the recording of medicine. We found that the procedures for recording controlled drugs had not been followed. We also found that medicines were not always handled or stored appropriately. The emergency drugs box was not fully up to date and fit for purpose and some of the medicines were not stored correctly. We considered because of this that the provider had not taken proper steps to ensure that appropriate arrangements were in place in relation to the recording of medicine. We spoke to people regarding this outcome at our last visit to the service. Details of their views can be found in our report of that visit.

During this visit we found that significant improvements had been made in the management and storage of medicines. We found that medicines were handled appropriately. We found that all the policies and procedures in relation to the management of medicines had been reviewed and implemented. Medicines were prescribed and given to people appropriately. The provider showed us the updated audits and action plans that had been carried out by each team at Spire Liverpool Hospital to ensure compliance with policies and procedures for the effective management of medicines. Staff told us and records showed that they had received updates in the safe management of controlled drugs at Spire Liverpool Hospital. Staff had also received an update in record keeping including keeping clear records, any advice given and drugs prescribed.

We were shown copies of revised records that clearly documented individual medication and any advice given to the person, such as stopping medication both as part of the preoperative assessment and any post-operative medication instructions. We were also showed copies of patient information sheets given out to people who were self-medicating during their stay at Spire Liverpool Hospital.

During our visit we looked at where medicines were stored and noted that a new air conditioning unit had been installed and reviewed procedures had been put in place for

best practice monitoring. We noted that new fridges had been purchased and actions were in place to respond to any temperature anomalies.

We were shown that new emergency drugs boxes were in place and that the provider had revised its resuscitation policy to ensure that staff were aware of the emergency drugs for both adult and paediatric emergencies. A new system had been put in place for checking and updating the emergency drugs box which showed us that the provider was proactive in ensuring that there were effective systems in place for the safe storage of medicines.

About CQC inspections

We are the regulator of health and social care in England.

All providers of regulated health and social care services have a legal responsibility to make sure they are meeting essential standards of quality and safety. These are the standards everyone should be able to expect when they receive care.

The essential standards are described in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 and the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009. We regulate against these standards, which we sometimes describe as "government standards".

We carry out unannounced inspections of all care homes, acute hospitals and domiciliary care services in England at least once a year to judge whether or not the essential standards are being met. We carry out inspections of other services less often. All of our inspections are unannounced unless there is a good reason to let the provider know we are coming.

There are 16 essential standards that relate most directly to the quality and safety of care and these are grouped into five key areas. When we inspect we could check all or part of any of the 16 standards at any time depending on the individual circumstances of the service. Because of this we often check different standards at different times.

When we inspect, we always visit and we do things like observe how people are cared for, and we talk to people who use the service, to their carers and to staff. We also review information we have gathered about the provider, check the service's records and check whether the right systems and processes are in place.

We focus on whether or not the provider is meeting the standards and we are guided by whether people are experiencing the outcomes they should be able to expect when the standards are being met. By outcomes we mean the impact care has on the health, safety and welfare of people who use the service, and the experience they have whilst receiving it.

Our inspectors judge if any action is required by the provider of the service to improve the standard of care being provided. Where providers are non-compliant with the regulations, we take enforcement action against them. If we require a service to take action, or if we take enforcement action, we re-inspect it before its next routine inspection was due. This could mean we re-inspect a service several times in one year. We also might decide to re-inspect a service if new concerns emerge about it before the next routine inspection.

In between inspections we continually monitor information we have about providers. The information comes from the public, the provider, other organisations, and from care workers.

You can tell us about your experience of this provider on our website.

How we define our judgements

The following pages show our findings and regulatory judgement for each essential standard or part of the standard that we inspected. Our judgements are based on the ongoing review and analysis of the information gathered by CQC about this provider and the evidence collected during this inspection.

We reach one of the following judgements for each essential standard inspected.

 **Met this standard** This means that the standard was being met in that the provider was compliant with the regulation. If we find that standards were met, we take no regulatory action but we may make comments that may be useful to the provider and to the public about minor improvements that could be made.

 **Action needed** This means that the standard was not being met in that the provider was non-compliant with the regulation. We may have set a compliance action requiring the provider to produce a report setting out how and by when changes will be made to make sure they comply with the standard. We monitor the implementation of action plans in these reports and, if necessary, take further action. We may have identified a breach of a regulation which is more serious, and we will make sure action is taken. We will report on this when it is complete.

 **Enforcement action taken** If the breach of the regulation was more serious, or there have been several or continual breaches, we have a range of actions we take using the criminal and/or civil procedures in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and relevant regulations. These enforcement powers include issuing a warning notice; restricting or suspending the services a provider can offer, or the number of people it can care for; issuing fines and formal cautions; in extreme cases, cancelling a provider or managers registration or prosecuting a manager or provider. These enforcement powers are set out in law and mean that we can take swift, targeted action where services are failing people.

How we define our judgements (continued)

Where we find non-compliance with a regulation (or part of a regulation), we state which part of the regulation has been breached. Only where there is non compliance with one or more of Regulations 9-24 of the Regulated Activity Regulations, will our report include a judgement about the level of impact on people who use the service (and others, if appropriate to the regulation). This could be a minor, moderate or major impact.

Minor impact - people who use the service experienced poor care that had an impact on their health, safety or welfare or there was a risk of this happening. The impact was not significant and the matter could be managed or resolved quickly.

Moderate impact - people who use the service experienced poor care that had a significant effect on their health, safety or welfare or there was a risk of this happening. The matter may need to be resolved quickly.

Major impact - people who use the service experienced poor care that had a serious current or long term impact on their health, safety and welfare, or there was a risk of this happening. The matter needs to be resolved quickly

We decide the most appropriate action to take to ensure that the necessary changes are made. We always follow up to check whether action has been taken to meet the standards.

Glossary of terms we use in this report

Essential standard

The essential standards of quality and safety are described in our *Guidance about compliance: Essential standards of quality and safety*. They consist of a significant number of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 and the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009. These regulations describe the essential standards of quality and safety that people who use health and adult social care services have a right to expect. A full list of the standards can be found within the *Guidance about compliance*. The 16 essential standards are:

Respecting and involving people who use services - Outcome 1 (Regulation 17)

Consent to care and treatment - Outcome 2 (Regulation 18)

Care and welfare of people who use services - Outcome 4 (Regulation 9)

Meeting Nutritional Needs - Outcome 5 (Regulation 14)

Cooperating with other providers - Outcome 6 (Regulation 24)

Safeguarding people who use services from abuse - Outcome 7 (Regulation 11)

Cleanliness and infection control - Outcome 8 (Regulation 12)

Management of medicines - Outcome 9 (Regulation 13)

Safety and suitability of premises - Outcome 10 (Regulation 15)

Safety, availability and suitability of equipment - Outcome 11 (Regulation 16)

Requirements relating to workers - Outcome 12 (Regulation 21)

Staffing - Outcome 13 (Regulation 22)

Supporting Staff - Outcome 14 (Regulation 23)

Assessing and monitoring the quality of service provision - Outcome 16 (Regulation 10)

Complaints - Outcome 17 (Regulation 19)

Records - Outcome 21 (Regulation 20)

Regulated activity

These are prescribed activities related to care and treatment that require registration with CQC. These are set out in legislation, and reflect the services provided.

Glossary of terms we use in this report (continued)

(Registered) Provider

There are several legal terms relating to the providers of services. These include registered person, service provider and registered manager. The term 'provider' means anyone with a legal responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of the law are carried out. On our website we often refer to providers as a 'service'.

Regulations

We regulate against the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 and the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009.

Responsive inspection

This is carried out at any time in relation to identified concerns.

Routine inspection

This is planned and could occur at any time. We sometimes describe this as a scheduled inspection.

Themed inspection

This is targeted to look at specific standards, sectors or types of care.

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