

Regulation 24 Six-monthly Unannounced Visit to Designated Centre

Report on the quality and safety of care and support and plan to address any concerns with regard to the standard of care and support in special care units for children.

Regulation 24(3)(a)(b)

Introduction

Regulation 24(3) of the of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Children in Special Care Units) Regulations 2017 (as amended) places a legislative responsibility on registered providers¹ or a person nominated² by the registered provider, to carry out an unannounced visit to the designated centre.

The regulations require that the registered provider ensures the visit takes place at least once every six months or more frequently as determined by the Chief Inspector. Where the Chief Inspector has identified significant levels of non-compliance in the governance and management of a designated centre, the frequency of unannounced visits by the registered provider shall be more frequent and should be carried out during the day, at night and weekends. In these circumstances, the frequency of the visits will be agreed in advance with the Chief Inspector.

Where the Chief Inspector deems it necessary, the monitoring of governance and management of a designated centre by the registered provider may be applied as a formal requirement.³

The purpose of the visit is to monitor the safety and quality of care and support provided in the designated centre and, as required, to put a plan in place to address any concerns regarding the standards of care and support.

The registered provider is required to prepare a written governance and management report of the visit and to make this report available on request to children and their representatives and the Chief Inspector.

While having a perspective on quality, safety and compliance with regulations and standards, the registered provider should ensure that any report of its unannounced visit explicitly reflects how systems, practices and procedures impact on outcomes for children.

For consistency, the registered provider should identify only one nominee to carry out the unannounced visit on its behalf or in its absence.

Where the unannounced visit has been carried out by the registered provider's nominee, the governance and management report of the visit should be co-signed by the registered provider.

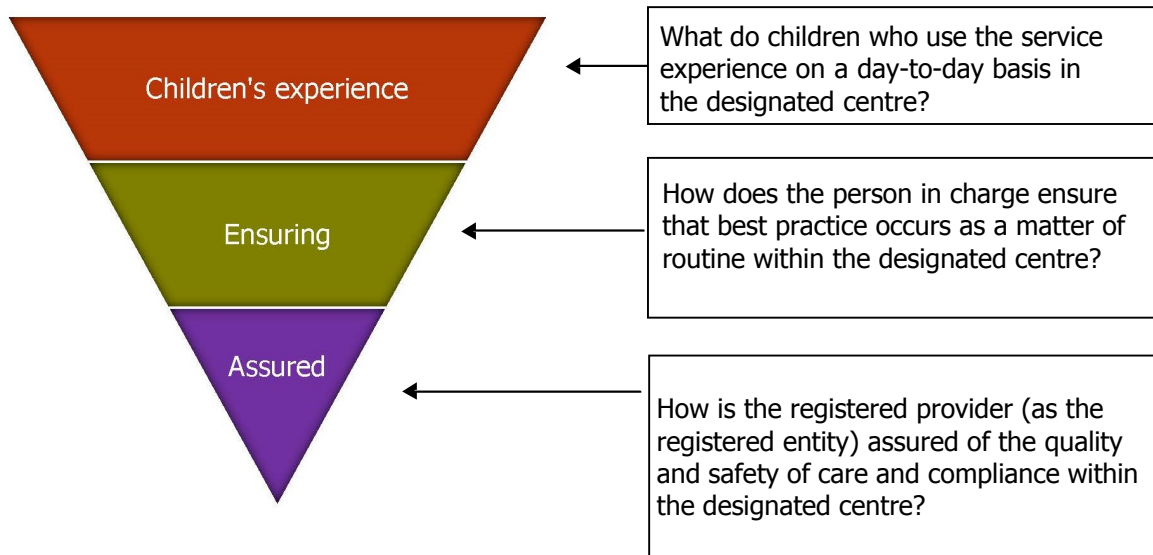
¹ This should be the relevant director, head of programme or chairperson of the board (where applicable).

² The person nominated on behalf of the registered provider must be sufficiently senior within the organisation and have the authority to implement any improvements identified as a result of the unannounced visits to the designated centres. For example, this should be the chief operating officer or equivalent.

³ Section 65 of the Health Act 2007 (as amended) states that a registered provider of a designated centre shall submit to the Chief Inspector such information in such manner and form as the Chief Inspector requires at such time as it considers necessary to enable it to carry out its functions.

Role of Registered Provider and Person in Charge

In considering their assessment of designated centres, registered providers should be guided by the principles enshrined within the following model.



The unannounced visit

The visit provides an opportunity to focus on those aspects of the service that need improvement and should identify actions required to ensure compliance with regulations and standards.

During each visit, the registered provider should interview (with consent and in private) a representative sample of children, relatives/representatives of the children and staff working in the designated centre at the time of the unannounced visit. This representative sample will provide an overview of the lived experience of children in the designated centre and the safety and quality of care provided by staff.

Over each subsequent visit, the registered provider should ensure that all children, children's representatives and staff are interviewed.

Interviews with children should focus on the quality of care provided and quality of life experienced within the designated centre.

Interviews with staff should concentrate on their training, experience and understanding of safeguarding vulnerable children.

The Chief Inspector's assessment and judgment frameworks should be used to inform the relevant lines of enquiry that are to be explored during each unannounced visit.

The registered provider should inspect (and comment in their report) on the following records maintained in the designated centre:

- incidents
- accidents
- complaints
- restrictive practice (including physical, chemical or environmental).

Following the visit

The registered provider must write a report of its visit. The report should reflect the findings of the visit and include the views of children, children's relatives and representatives. The report should also highlight the progress made on actions required to ensure compliance with regulations and standards.

The findings from the unannounced visits and the written report should be used by the registered provider to inform the governance and management of the designated centre. This information should also inform the annual review of the quality and safety of care and support required under Regulation 24(1) of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Children in Special Care Units) Regulations 2017 (as amended).

This document provides a template for the governance and management report. At the end of the template there is a statement/ declaration that should be completed and signed by the registered provider and the person in charge. The person nominated to carry out the unannounced visit on behalf of the registered provider should also sign the report if they conducted the visit. The statement/declaration confirms that the information contained within the report and declaration is an accurate reflection of the unannounced visit in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 24(3) of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Children in Special Care Units) Regulations 2017 (as amended).

You are not required to send the Chief Inspector a copy of your written report unless you are specifically requested to do so. We do, however, ask you to keep a signed copy of your report on file and to make it available to your inspector for review in the course of inspection fieldwork or otherwise upon their request.

Governance and Management Report: Report template for unannounced visits to a designated centre by the registered provider

Section 1. Visit details		
Centre name:		
Centre ID:		
Name of registered provider completing report: (or person nominated by registered provider)		
Name of person in charge:		
Date of visit:		
Duration of visit:	From:	
	To:	
Number of children on the directory of residents at the time of visit:		

Section 2 : Matters identified during the previous unannounced visit by the registered provider (or person nominated on behalf of the registered provider)

Summary of matters identified and progress made since last visit:

Section 3. Children's details (Detail the number interviewed and summarise their views on the quality of life and quality of care provided in the designated centre)	
Number of children interviewed:	
Summary of children's views :	
Summary of prioritised actions resulting from engagement with children: (if applicable)	

Section 4. Relative / Children's Representative Details (Detail the number interviewed and summarise their views on the safety and quality of care and support provided in the designated centre)	
Number of relatives/children's representatives interviewed:	
Summary of relatives/children's representatives' views:	
Summary of prioritised actions resulting from relative/children's representative engagement: (if applicable)	

Section 5 : Staff Details	
Number of staff interviewed:	
Comment on the adequacy of staff on duty: (in terms of numbers and skill-mix)	
Summary of action proposed or taken to address staff vacancies (if any):	
Summary of staff views (by skill-mix) on the safety and quality of care and support provided in the designated centre:	
Summary of staff views (by skill-mix) in relation to safeguarding, and any other issues raised by staff (if any):	

Section 6 : Children's safety and Notifiable Incidents (as required by Regulation 27 of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Children in Special Care Units) Regulations 2017 (as amended))		
Number of notifiable incidents since date of last visit:		
Have all incidents have been notified in line with the regulations?	Yes	
	No	
If no, what actions have been taken to address this?		
Summary of review of the information in notifications — trends identified (if any):		
Actions taken arising from review of notifications to ensure the safety and quality of children's care:		

Section 7 : Restrictive practice				
Types of restrictive practices (numerical value only)				
Physical	Chemical	Environmental	Other	Total
Are restrictive practices being used in line with the regulations/national policy/centre policy?			Yes	
			No	
If no, what actions have been taken to address this?				
Summary of actions taken since date of last visit to reduce use of restrictive practices within the centre:				

Date of last incident audit/accident audit:	
Summary of outcome of incident/accident audit (include analysis of any trends identified and actions taken in response to audit):	
Summary of actions taken by the registered provider arising from analysis of incidents notified to the Chief Inspector:	

Section : 8 Allegations of Abuse (suspected or confirmed)

Were there any allegations of abuse of children since date of last visit?	Yes	
	No	
If yes, how many allegations were there?	Number	
Was the national safeguarding policy/ centre policy implemented?	Yes	
	No	
If no, what steps were taken to address this?		
Are the necessary procedures in place to respond to and investigate any issues that may arise and are they fit for purpose?	Yes	
	No	
If no, what steps were taken to address this?		
Were all incidents investigated in line with policies and procedures?	Yes	
	No	

If no, what steps were taken to address this?		
Do staff have the necessary knowledge and skill to recognise and respond to safeguarding issues?	Yes	
	No	
If no, what steps were taken to address this?		
Summary of actions taken by the registered provider: (Summary should include details of how children were supported, when An Garda Síochána was informed, staff disciplinary procedures implemented, referral made to professional regulator, and so on)		

Section 9 : Complaints	
Number of complaints received since date of last visit:	
Date of last complaints audit:	
Summary of outcome of complaints audit: (Include analysis of any trends identified and actions taken by the registered provider arising from analysis of complaints)	
Section 10 : Requirements from other regulators (if applicable)	
Summary of progress made against requirements from other regulators, that is to say any issues identified by another regulator that may impact on either the quality or safety of care of children (such as Health and Safety Authority, Fire Authority and so on)	

Section 11. Action Plan

Summary of the actions agreed between the registered provider (or the person nominated on behalf of the registered provider) and the person in charge of the designated centre as a result of this unannounced visit and the most recent inspection by the Chief Inspector

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Section 12. Registered Provider Declaration:

Registered Provider Declaration:

I confirm that this report is an accurate reflection of the unannounced visit to the aforementioned centre carried out on the date set out above in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 24(3) of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Children in Special Care Units) Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Details of person who carried out the visit and completed report:

Name of person:

Title:

Signature:

Details of Person in Charge:

Name of Person in Charge

Signature of Person in Charge

Date report discussed with the
Person in Charge

Registered Provider details: (if report completed by nominated person):

Name of Registered Provider:

Title:

Signature: