



***Discharge information for  
Inpatients of the  
Bon Secours Hospital  
Glasnevin***

***Long Term Care***

As next of kin or main carer, the Bon Secours Hospital would like to recommend guidelines in arranging the type of care needed for your relative. There are many questions that you will need to answer so that you can ensure the appropriate level of care is arranged.

The first area to consider is where the patient will be discharged to. If it is felt that they will not be able to manage at home you need to consider Long Term Care.

*Long term care means that your relative's needs cannot be met in the community and that a nursing home facility would be able to provide this care. We have provided certain guidelines that will assist you in your search for the most appropriate nursing home.*

This guide is designed to help you make informed decisions about nursing home care, whether you are planning ahead or making an unexpected decision. Choosing a nursing home can be very stressful for you and your loved ones. It is helpful to plan ahead, consider all your long term options, and make good financial plans early. Planning ahead gives you and your family more control.

Helping another person choose a nursing home or make other long term care choices can be difficult. Your support is important and

can help your loved one adjust to living in a new setting like a nursing home.

### **Step 1**

Check the HSE website for a list for nursing homes in your area. You can also get a list of approved Nursing Homes from your private health insurer. Ask people you trust if they have had personal experience of nursing homes, they may be able to recommend one for you.

### **Step 2**

Compare the quality of nursing homes you are considering. Look at the inspection reports on the HSE website. These reports should not be used in isolation as they reflect a moment in time but they can assist you in making an informed decision.

### **Step 3**

Visit the nursing homes you are interested in or have someone visit for you. A visit gives you the chance to see the residents, staff and nursing home setting. Before you visit, consider what is important to you. Don't be afraid to ask questions, ask staff to explain anything you see and hear that you don't understand. Try to visit during late morning or midday. This allows you to see the residents

when they are in their daily routine, mealtimes and what activities are taking place. You may need to make an appointment in advance prior to your initial visit.

The nursing home may make their own assessment on the suitability of the nursing home to your relatives needs. This may involve a senior member of the nursing home staff visiting your relative while they are in the Bon Secours Hospital.

We have enclosed a Nursing Home checklist (1) at the back of this document : this will give you as an observer a general idea of the quality of care in a nursing home.

1.) Reference: [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

**Your relative may be entitled to a nursing home subvention.**

### **What is nursing home subvention?**

The Nursing Home Subvention Scheme is a grant towards the cost of care in a private nursing home. Subvention may be granted following a medical assessment of your need for nursing home care and a means test of your income. A Consultant Geriatrician or the PHN will carry out the medical assessment.

***You can apply for Nursing Home Subvention through your local health office.***

- **Nursing home care and tax allowances-** You or any other person who is paying the costs involved may be able to claim tax relief on the costs of care in a private nursing home. If you have to pay nursing home fees in Ireland, you may get tax relief on those payments. This is of use only for people who have an income above the tax exemption limit. You should contact your Inspector of Taxes immediately and arrange for the tax relief. Refunds are only paid at the end of the tax year.

*We appreciate that everyone's circumstances are different and some of the information given to you may not apply to you and your relative.*

#### Useful contacts:

- [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)
- [www.carersireland.com](http://www.carersireland.com) or 1800240724
- [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)
- [www.vhi.ie](http://www.vhi.ie) or 1850444444
- [www.hibernian.ie](http://www.hibernian.ie) or (01) 898 8000
- [www.quinnhealthcare.ie](http://www.quinnhealthcare.ie) or 1890 89 1890

#### References

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)