

**HIQA Residential Care Registered Provider /  
Person in Charge Entry Programme  
to be developed by HCI**



On Tuesday 11th March 2008 the Health Information and Quality Authority published the National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People. The standards will safeguard and protect the rights of older people living in residential care settings and will support service providers in providing the highest quality of care. During the development of these standards the consultation processes with service providers identified that there was a need for guidance to accompany the standards. The provision of specific guidance can however potentially limit the innovation and initiative of the service providers in fulfilling the requirements of the standards.

In light of this the HIQA has decided to introduce a Registered Provider/Registered Person in Charge Entry Programme that all new and re-registering providers would be required to undertake as part of the application process. This education programme shall be based on the standards, and provide information on the regulatory legislation, the standards and methods required for best practice in residential care. In addition it shall also prompt users to carry out research to augment their learning by seeking further information on specific aspects through authoritative sources such as the associations and the internet.

Upon the completion of each section there will be a self-assessment process to confirm knowledge. Upon completion of the overall programme a self assessment shall be completed and submitted to the Chief Inspector of Social Services as part of the Registered Provider/Registered Person in Charge assessment. This is in keeping with the Health Act 2007 which states:

*50.—(1) Where an application is made under section 48 for the registration or renewal of the registration of a designated centre, the chief inspector, if satisfied that the person who is the registered provider, or intended registered provider, and each other person who will participate in the management of the designated centre—*

*(a) is a fit person to be the registered provider of the designated centre and to participate in its management, and*

*(b) if the application is for registration, will comply with, or, if for renewal, is in compliance with—*

*(i) standards set by the Authority under section 8(1)(b),*

*(ii) regulations under section 101, and*

*(iii) any other enactment which appears to the chief inspector to be relevant, and is cited to the applicant in writing by the chief inspector, shall grant the application and if not so satisfied shall refuse it.*

The benefit of the Registered Provider/Registered Person in Charge Entry Programme is that guidance is not prescribed, rather it encourages providers and managers to think about the services they provide, the effect on service users and the best mechanisms for improvement.

The Entry Programme shall cover all areas relating to the residential care regulations, standards and best practice including:

- Roles and Responsibilities
- The Legislation & Regulations
- Good Practice in Residential Care
  - Quality of Life
  - Safety of Service Users
  - Resident Involvement
  - A Homely Environment
  - Care Planning and Practice
  - Medication Management
  - Diet and Nutrition
  - Management and Governance of a Residential Care Setting
- Continuous Improvement

Health Care Informed (HCI), was appointed to develop this programme for the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). HCI has specific experience in residential care, training programme development and regulation, including the work carried out for the HIQA with regard to the consultation process.

Training programmes in relation to the utilisation and adherence to the Entry Programme shall be provided by Health Care Informed (HCI) following the programme's completion. For more information please contact John Sweeney, Director, HCI, at [john.sweeney@hci.ie](mailto:john.sweeney@hci.ie).