

Inspection of Kuressaare Hospital

On 27 October 2014 advisers to the Chancellor of Justice paid an unannounced visit to the Nursing Care Centre of Kuressaare Hospital.

The Nursing Care Centre of Kuressaare Hospital provides independent inpatient nursing care. Kuressaare Hospital has been issued with an activity permit for providing nursing care to up to 32 patients. The hospital was providing nursing care to 31 persons at the time of the inspection.

The Chancellor of Justice had not inspected the Nursing Care Centre of Kuressaare Hospital before.

As a result of the inspection the Chancellor of Justice makes the following recommendations to the Kuressaare Hospital to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons:

- take account of the observations and recommendations concerning the provision of nursing services and improve the quality of the nursing care service accordingly;
- guarantee that when nursing care is provided to patients whose ability to give informed consent is doubtful, the appropriate consent for the provision of nursing care is always requested from their legal representatives or from themselves (if they are able to give such consent) and recorded in writing;
- in the case of patients who are unable to consider the pros and cons in a responsible manner and whose active legal capacity is limited, explain to them (if the patient's condition permits it), their close family members or the local authority that if there is no need to provide the service immediately, it is necessary to ask a court to appoint a legal representative for the patient who could give the appropriate consent for the provision of the service on behalf of the patient, before the provision of the nursing care starts;
- ascertain in each case whether the court has granted the patient's legal representative the right to decide on the provision of a health service on behalf of the patient;
- guarantee that the explanation of why the nursing care provider found the patient to be incapable of making decisions or that a patient with limited active legal capacity is unable to responsibly consider the pros and cons of the provision of the nursing care service is recorded in the patient's medical records;
- guarantee the existence of the required system for calling a nurse for nursing care patients;
- to guarantee that the button used to call a nurse is within the patient's reach in such a manner that they can use it easily, quickly and safely when they need help; and
- bring the manner in which medicines are handled in the centre in compliance with established requirements.

The Chancellor of Justice requests that Kuressaare Hospital send information about compliance with the above recommendations by 2 February 2015.