

# Announced Care Inspection Report 4 December 2019



## Falls Road Dental Care

**Type of Service: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment**

**Address: 139 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6AF**

**Tel No: 028 9032 9092**

**Inspector: Liz Colgan**

[www.rqia.org.uk](http://www.rqia.org.uk)

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

It should be noted that this inspection report should not be regarded as a comprehensive review of all strengths and areas for improvement that exist in the service. The findings reported on are those which came to the attention of RQIA during the course of this inspection. The findings contained within this report do not exempt the service from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with legislation, standards and best practice.

## 1.0 What we look for



In respect of dental practices for the 2019/20 inspection year we are moving to a more focused, shorter inspection which will concentrate on the following key patient safety areas:

- management of medical emergencies
- arrangements in respect of conscious sedation, if applicable
- infection prevention and control
- decontamination of reusable dental instruments
- radiology and radiation safety
- management of complaints
- regulation 26 visits, if applicable
- review of areas for improvement from the last inspection, if applicable

## 2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with two registered places.

## 3.0 Service details

<b>Organisation/Registered Providers:</b> Mrs Anne Higgins and Mr David Mann	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Mrs Anne Higgins
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Mrs Anne Higgins	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 1 May 2015
<b>Categories of care:</b> Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	<b>Number of registered places:</b> Two

## 4.0 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 11 January 2019

The most recent inspection of the establishment was an announced care inspection. No areas for improvement were made during this inspection.

## 5.0 Inspection findings

An announced inspection took place on 4 December 2019 from 10.00 to 11.30.

This inspection was underpinned by The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, The Regulation and Improvement Authority (Independent Health Care) (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Department of Health (DoH) Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011).

A poster informing patients that an inspection was being conducted was displayed.

During the inspection the inspector met with Mrs Anne Higgins and Mr David Mann registered persons, and one dental nurse. A tour of the premises was also undertaken.

The findings of the inspection were provided to Mrs Higgins and Mr Mann at the conclusion of the inspection.

## 5.1 Management of medical emergencies

### Management of medical emergencies

A review of arrangements in respect of the management of a medical emergency evidenced that emergency medicines in keeping with the British National Formulary (BNF), and emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines were retained. A robust system was in place to ensure that emergency medicines and equipment do not exceed their expiry date.

Review of training records and discussion with staff confirmed that the management of medical emergencies is included in the induction programme and training is updated on an annual basis in keeping with best practice guidance. The most recent occasion staff completed medical emergency refresher training was during November 2019.

Discussion with staff demonstrated that they have a good understanding of the actions to be taken in the event of a medical emergency and the location of medical emergency medicines and equipment.

### Areas of good practice

The review of the arrangements in respect of the management of a medical emergency confirmed that this dental practice takes a proactive approach to this key patient safety area. This includes ensuring that staff have the knowledge and skills to react to a medical emergency, should it arise.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.2 Conscious sedation

Conscious sedation helps reduce anxiety, discomfort, and pain during certain procedures. This is accomplished with medications and (sometimes) local anaesthesia to induce relaxation.

Mrs Higgins and Mr Mann confirmed that conscious sedation is provided by intravenous sedation (IV). One dentist provides IV assisted by two dental nurses. Mrs Higgins confirmed that IV sedation is only offered to persons over the age of 18.

Mrs Higgins forwarded a policy and procedure in relation to the management of conscious sedation to RQIA on the 4 December 2019. Review of the environment and equipment evidenced that conscious sedation is being managed in keeping with Conscious Sedation in The Provision of Dental Care (2003).

Review of care records evidenced that the justification for using sedation, consent for treatment; pre, peri and post clinical observations were recorded. Information was available for patients in respect of the treatment provided and aftercare arrangements.

It was established that all members of the dental team providing treatment under conscious sedation have received appropriate supervised theoretical, practical and clinical training before undertaking independent practice in keeping with best practice.

Medicines used during IV sedation were appropriately stored. A system was in place, for the ordering, administration, reconciliation and disposal of these drugs.

### Areas of good practice

A review of arrangements in respect of conscious sedation evidenced that all dental practitioners are providing conscious sedation treatments in keeping with best practice guidance.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.3 Infection prevention and control

### Infection prevention and control (IPC)

During a tour of the premises, it was evident that the practice, including the clinical and decontamination areas, was clean, tidy and uncluttered.

The practice continues to audit compliance with Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices using the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) audit tool. This audit includes key elements of IPC, relevant to dentistry, including the arrangements for environmental cleaning, the use of personal protective equipment, hand hygiene practice, and waste and sharps management.

A review of the most recent IPS audit, completed during August 2019 evidenced that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner.

The audits are carried out by Mrs Higgins with the involvement of the team, who confirmed that any learning identified as a result of these audits is shared with staff.

Arrangements were in place to ensure that staff received IPC training commensurate with their roles and responsibilities and during discussion with staff it was confirmed that they had a good level of knowledge and understanding of IPC procedures.

Discussion with Mrs Higgins confirmed that records were retained to evidence staff's Hepatitis B vaccination status. These records had been generated by the staff member's GP and an occupational health (OH) department. Mrs Higgins was aware that all clinical staff members recruited in the future who are new to dentistry should be referred to OH.

### Areas of good practice

A review of the current arrangements evidenced that standards in respect of infection prevention and control practice are being given high priority. This includes proactively auditing practice, taking action when issues are identified and ensuring staff have the knowledge and skills to ensure standards are maintained.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.4 Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

### Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

A decontamination room separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process was available. The decontamination room facilitates the flow from dirty through to clean areas for the cleaning and sterilising of reusable instruments.

The processes in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments are being audited in line with best practice outlined in HTM 01-05 using the IPS audit tool.

Arrangements were in place to ensure that staff receive training in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments commensurate with their roles and responsibilities.

A review of current practice evidenced that arrangements are in place to ensure that reusable dental instruments are appropriately cleaned, sterilised and stored following use in keeping with best practice guidance as outlined in HTM 01-05.

Appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant, a DAC Universal and two steam sterilisers have been provided to meet the practice requirements. The equipment used in the decontamination process had been appropriately validated and inspected in keeping with the written scheme of examination and equipment logbooks evidenced that periodic tests are undertaken and recorded in keeping with HTM 01-05.

Staff are aware of what equipment in the practice should be treated as single use and what equipment is suitable for decontamination. It was confirmed that single use devices are only used for single-treatment episodes and disposed of following use.

## Areas of good practice

A review of the current arrangements evidenced that best practice as outlined in HTM 01-05 is being achieved in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments. This includes proactively auditing practice, taking action when issues are identified and ensuring staff have the knowledge and skills to ensure standards are maintained.

## Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.5 Radiology and radiation safety

### Radiology and radiation safety

The practice has two surgeries, each of which has an intra-oral x-ray machine.

Mrs Higgins and Mr Mann were aware of the most recent changes to the legislation surrounding radiology and radiation safety and a radiation protection advisor (RPA) and medical physics expert (MPE) have been appointed.

A dedicated radiation protection file containing all relevant information was in place. Mrs Higgins the radiation protection supervisor (RPS) regularly reviews the information contained within the file to ensure that it is current.

The appointed RPA completes a quality assurance check every three years. A review of the report of the most recent visit by the RPA demonstrated that any recommendations made have been addressed.

Staff spoken with demonstrated sound knowledge of radiology and radiation safety in keeping with their roles and responsibilities.

Mrs Higgins takes a proactive approach to radiation safety and protection by conducting a range of audits, including x-ray quality grading and justification and clinical evaluation recording.

## Areas of good practice

A review of radiology and radiation safety arrangements evidenced that the radiation protection supervisor for this practice takes a proactive approach to the management of radiology and radiation safety.

## Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0



## 5.6 Complaints management

There was a complaints policy and procedure in place which was in accordance with legislation and DoH guidance on complaints handling. Patients and/or their representatives were made aware of how to make a complaint by way of the patient's guide and information on display in the practice. Discussion with staff confirmed that they had received training on complaints management and were knowledgeable about how to respond to complaints.

Review of the complaints records confirmed that arrangements were in place to effectively manage complaints from patients, their representatives or any other interested party. Records of complaints included details of any investigation undertaken, all communication with complainants, the outcome of the complaint and the complainant's level of satisfaction. Arrangements were in place to share information about complaints and compliments with staff.

The practice retains compliments received, e.g. thank you letters and cards and there are systems in place to share these with staff.

### Areas of good practice

A review of the arrangements in respect of complaints evidenced that good governance arrangements were in place.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.7 Regulation 26 visits

Where the entity operating a dental practice is a corporate body or partnership or an individual owner who is not in day to day management of the practice, Regulation 26 unannounced quality monitoring visits must be undertaken and documented every six months.

Mrs Higgins and Mr Mann are in day to day charge of the practice, therefore Regulation 26 unannounced quality monitoring visits do not apply.

## 5.8 Equality data

### Equality data

The arrangements in place in relation to the equality of opportunity for patients and the importance of staff being aware of equality legislation and recognising and responding to the diverse needs of patients was discussed with Mrs Higgins and Mr Mann.



## 5.9 Patient and staff views

Seventeen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. Sixteen patients indicated that they felt their care was safe and effective, that they were treated with compassion and that the service was well led. All sixteen patients indicated that they were very satisfied with each of these areas of their care. One patient felt their care was safe and was very satisfied in this area; they were undecided if their care was effective, or if they were treated with compassion and if the service was well led.

Comments included in the submitted questionnaire responses are as follows:

- “Staff are all friendly. Treatment always explained. I always recommend this dentist. Xxx is very good at what she does. Thank you to all at Falls Road Dental Care.”
- “Great staff, lovely dentist.”
- “Practice is lovely up here.”
- “Great treatment from reception, to nurses to dentist.”
- “Amazing staff and great atmosphere.”
- “Outstanding practice.”
- “This practice offers a very accommodating pain clinic.”
- “Great dentist.”
- “The service doesn’t seem as personal. Time seems to be a constraint. I feel I have had a lot of appointments for check ups.”

Three staff submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. Two staff indicated that they felt patient care was safe, effective, that patients were treated with compassion and that the service was well led. Two staff indicated that they were very satisfied with each of these areas of patient care. One member of staff indicated that they were very unsatisfied with each of these areas of patient care. Mrs Higgins agreed to raise this with staff. No comments were included in the submitted questionnaire responses.

## 5.10 Total number of areas for improvement

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

## 6.0 Quality improvement plan

There were no areas for improvement identified during this inspection, and a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) is not required or included, as part of this inspection report.



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