

Announced Care Inspection Report 21 April 2016



SperrinSmile Dental Care

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Inspector: Carmel McKeegan

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Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

1.0 Summary

An announced inspection of SperrinSmile Dental Care took place on 21 April 2016 from 10:50 to 12:50.

The inspection sought to assess progress with any issues raised during and since the previous inspection and to determine if the service was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

Is care safe?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mrs Kegan Lewis, Registered Person, and staff demonstrated that systems and processes were in place to ensure that care to patients was safe and avoids and prevents harm. Areas reviewed included staffing, recruitment and selection, safeguarding, management of medical emergencies, infection prevention control and decontamination, radiology and the general environment. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

Is care effective?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mrs Lewis and staff demonstrated that systems and processes were in place to ensure that care provided in the establishment was effective. Areas reviewed included clinical records, health promotion, audits and communication. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

Is care compassionate?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mrs Lewis and staff demonstrated that arrangements are in place to promote patients' dignity, respect and involvement in decision making. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

Is the service well led?

Information gathered during the inspection evidenced that there was effective leadership and governance arrangements in place which creates a culture focused on the needs of patients in order to deliver safe, effective and compassionate care. Areas reviewed included organisational and staff working arrangements, the arrangements for policy and risk assessment reviews, the arrangements for dealing with complaints, incidents and alerts, insurance arrangements and the registered person's understanding of their role and responsibility in accordance with legislation. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

This inspection was underpinned by 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, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011).

While we assess the quality of services provided against regulations and associated DHSSPS care standards, we do not assess the quality of dentistry provided by individual dentists.

1.1 Inspection outcome

	Requirements	Recommendations
Total number of requirements and recommendations made at this inspection	0	0

This inspection resulted in no requirements or recommendations being made. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Mrs Kegan Lewis, Registered Person, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.

Enforcement action did not result from the findings of this inspection.

1.2 Actions/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection

Other than those actions detailed in the previous QIP there were no further actions required to be taken following the last inspection.

2.0 Service details

Registered organisation/registered person: Mrs Kegan Lewis	Registered manager: Mrs Kegan Lewis
Person in charge of the service at the time of inspection: Mrs Kegan Lewis	Date manager registered: 22 May 2015
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 2

3.0 Methods/processes

Questionnaires were provided to patients and staff prior to the inspection by the practice on behalf of the RQIA. Prior to inspection we analysed the following records: staffing information, complaints declaration and returned completed patient and staff questionnaires.

During the inspection the inspector met with Mrs Kegan Lewis, Registered Person, an associate dentist, two dental nurses and a receptionist. A tour of the premises was also undertaken.

Records were examined during the inspection in relation to the following areas:

- staffing
- recruitment and selection
- safeguarding
- management of medical emergencies
- infection prevention and control

- radiography
- clinical record recording arrangements
- health promotion
- management and governance arrangements
- maintenance arrangements

4.0 The inspection

**4.1 Review of requirements and recommendations from the most recent inspection
Dated 15 May 2015**

The most recent inspection of the establishment was an announced pre-registration care inspection. The completed QIP was returned and approved by the care inspector.

4.2 Review of requirements and recommendations from the last care inspection dated 15 May 2015

Last care inspection statutory requirements		Validation of compliance
Requirement 1 Ref: Regulation 15 (3) Stated: First time	Dental hand pieces should be decontaminated in line with the manufacturer’s instructions and any hand pieces which are compatible with an automated validated process should be decontaminated using this method.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Discussion with Mrs Lewis and staff confirmed that a new washer disinfecter has been purchased and all hand pieces are now processed in the washer disinfecter.	
Last care inspection recommendations		Validation of compliance
Recommendation 1 Ref: Standard 12.4 Stated: First time	It is recommended that advice and guidance is sought from your medico-legal advisor in relation to the provision of an automated external defibrillator (AED) in the practice. Any recommendations made should be addressed.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: An AED was provided in the dental practice and staff confirmed that they have received training in this regard.	

4.3 Is care safe?

Staffing

Two dental surgeries are in operation in this practice. Discussion with Mrs Lewis and staff and a review of completed patient and staff questionnaires demonstrated that there were sufficient numbers of staff in various roles to fulfil the needs of the practice and patients.

Induction programme templates were in place relevant to specific roles and responsibilities. A sample of two evidenced that induction programmes had been completed when new staff joined the practice.

Procedures were in place for appraising staff performance and staff confirmed that appraisals had taken place. Staff confirmed that they felt supported and involved in discussions about their personal development. Records of appraisal were maintained and available for inspection. There is a system in place to ensure that all staff receive appropriate training to fulfil the duties of their role and training records were maintained in this regard.

A review of records confirmed that a robust system was in place to review the General Dental Council (GDC) registration status and professional indemnity of all clinical staff.

Recruitment and selection

A review of the submitted staffing information and discussion with Mrs Lewis confirmed that four staff have been recruited since the previous inspection. A review of the personnel files for two of these staff demonstrated that all the relevant information as outlined in Schedule 2 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 has been sought and retained.

There was a recruitment policy and procedure available which was comprehensive and reflected best practice guidance.

Safeguarding

Staff spoken with were aware of the types and indicators of abuse and the actions to be taken in the event of a safeguarding issue being identified, including who the nominated safeguarding lead was.

Review of records demonstrated that all staff had received training in safeguarding children and adults as outlined in the Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment 2011. Mrs Lewis was aware of the new regional guidance issued in July 2015 entitled 'Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership' and discussions with staff confirmed this new policy had been included in a recent staff meeting.

Policies and procedures were in place for the safeguarding and protection of adults and children. The policy included the types and indicators of abuse and distinct referral pathways in the event of a safeguarding issue arising with an adult or child. The relevant contact details for onward referral to the local Health and Social Care Trust should a safeguarding issue arise were included.

Management of medical emergencies

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

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.

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.

The policy for the management of medical emergencies reflected best practice guidance. Protocols were available for staff reference outlining the local procedure for dealing with the various medical emergencies.

Infection prevention control and decontamination procedures

Clinical and decontamination areas were tidy and uncluttered and work surfaces were intact and easy to clean. Fixtures, fittings, dental chairs and equipment were free from damage, dust and visible dirt. Staff were observed to be adhering to best practice in terms of the uniform policy and hand hygiene.

Discussion with staff demonstrated that they had an understanding of infection prevention and control policies and procedures and were aware of their roles and responsibilities. Staff confirmed that they have received training in infection prevention and control and decontamination in keeping with best practice. Training records were available for inspection.

There was a nominated lead who had responsibility for infection control and decontamination in the practice.

A decontamination room separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process was available. Appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant and a steam steriliser have been provided to meet the practice requirements. A review of documentation evidenced that equipment used in the decontamination process has been appropriately validated. A review of equipment logbooks evidenced that periodic tests are undertaken and recorded in keeping with Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05 Decontamination in primary care dental practices.

It was confirmed that the practice continues to audit compliance with HTM 01-05 using the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) audit tool. Records were completed and retained on the practice computer in this regard. The lead nurse for decontamination confirmed that the outcome of the IPS audit was shared with staff during staff meetings.

A range of policies and procedures were in place in relation to decontamination and infection prevention and control.

Radiography

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

A dedicated radiation protection file containing the relevant local rules, employer's procedures and other additional information was retained. A review of the file confirmed that staff have been authorised by the radiation protection supervisor (RPS) for their relevant duties and have received local training in relation to these duties. It was evidenced that all measures are taken to optimise dose exposure. This included the use of rectangular collimation, x-ray audits and digital x-ray processing.

A copy of the local rules was on display near each x-ray machine and appropriate staff had signed to confirm that they had read and understood these. Staff spoken with demonstrated sound knowledge of the local rules and associated practice.

The radiation protection advisor (RPA) completes a quality assurance check every three years. Review of the report of the most recent visit by the RPA demonstrated that the recommendations made have been addressed.

The x-ray equipment has been serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Quality assurance systems and processes were in place to ensure that all matters relating to x-rays reflect legislative and best practice guidance.

Environment

The environment was maintained to a high standard of maintenance and décor. The patient waiting area had been repainted since the previous inspection.

Detailed cleaning schedules were in place for all areas which were signed on completion. A colour coded cleaning system was in place.

A review of documentation and discussion with Mrs Lewis and staff demonstrated that arrangements are in place for maintaining the environment.

A legionella risk assessment had been undertaken and water temperatures are monitored and recorded as recommended.

A fire risk assessment had been undertaken and staff confirmed fire training and fire drills had been completed. Staff demonstrated that they were aware of the action to take in the event of a fire.

A written scheme of examination of pressure vessels had been undertaken in February 2016

Patient and staff views

Eighteen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm. The following comments were provided:

- “All the staff and treatment is excellent”
- “There is enough staff available when needed. They are helpful and easy to talk to”
- “Yes all staff make me feel you feel very welcome and at ease”

Six staff submitted questionnaire responses. All indicated that they feel that patients are safe and protected from harm. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comments were provided in the submitted questionnaires:

- “Yes, I do feel the patients are safe and protected from harm”
- “A lot of time has been spent by Kegan Lewis to update the practice to a high standard”
- “Practice and working staff are well trained and very well maintained building and policies in place and implemented.”

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements:	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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4.4 Is care effective?

Clinical records

Staff spoken with confirmed that clinical records are updated contemporaneously during each patient’s treatment session in accordance with best practice.

Routine dental examinations include a review of medical history, a check for gum disease and oral cancers and that treatment plans are developed in consultation with patients. It was confirmed that patients are informed about the cost of treatments, choices and options.

Both manual and computerised records are maintained. Electronic records have different levels of access afforded to staff dependent on their role and responsibilities. Appropriate systems and processes were in place for the management of records and maintaining patient confidentiality.

Policies were available in relation to records management, data protection and confidentiality and consent. The records management policy includes the arrangements in regards to the creation, storage, recording, retention and disposal of records and data protection. The policy is in keeping with legislation and best practice guidance.

The practice is registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) and a Freedom of Information Publication Scheme has been established.

Health promotion

The practice has a strategy for the promotion of oral health and hygiene. Clinical staff confirmed that oral health is actively promoted on an individual basis during treatment sessions by both the dentists and the dental therapist.

A range of oral health promotion leaflets were available at reception and the patients' waiting area. A range of oral healthcare products were also available to purchase.

SperrinSmile Dental Practice has also developed an outreach programme with a local nursery school and pupils visit the dental practice each year to learn about the dentist in their community. In addition, Mrs Lewis and staff have provided an oral health programme to a local sports club and offered advice on the use of mouth guards in sport.

Audits

There were arrangements in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to patients at appropriate intervals which included:

- x-ray quality grading
- x-ray justification and clinical evaluation recording
- IPS HTM 01-05 compliance
- clinical records
- review of complaints/accidents/incidents

Communication

Mrs Lewis confirmed that arrangements are in place for onward referral in respect of specialist treatments. A policy and procedure and template referral letters have been established.

Staff meetings are held on a monthly basis to discuss clinical and practice management issues. Review of documentation demonstrated that minutes of staff meetings are retained and evidenced that meetings also facilitated informal in house training sessions.

Staff confirmed that there are good working relationships and there is an open and transparent culture within the practice.

Mrs Lewis confirmed that breaking bad news to a patient, in terms of dentistry, is undertaken in the privacy of the dental surgery and patients are facilitated to make an appointment for private consultation with their dentist should they have any concerns.

Patient and staff views

All of the 18 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they get the right care, at the right time with the best outcome for them. The following comments were provided:

- "Excellent service"
- "I understand the care I am receiving and I am part of it"
- "Number one care every time"

Six submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that patients get the right care, at the right time with the best outcome for them. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this.

The following comments were provided in the submitted questionnaires:

- “Yes, very much”
- “Clinical records are fully written up. Audits in place to maintain clinical effectiveness”

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements:	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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4.5 Is care compassionate?

Dignity, respect and involvement in decision making

Staff spoken with demonstrated a good understanding of the core values of privacy, dignity, respect and patient choice. Staff confirmed that if they needed to speak privately with a patient that arrangements are provided to ensure the patient’s privacy is respected. Observations confirmed that staff conversed with patients and conducted telephone enquiries in a professional and confidential manner.

The importance of emotional support needed when delivering care to patients who were very nervous or fearful of dental treatment was clear.

It was confirmed that treatment options including the risks and benefits were discussed with each patient. This ensured patients understood what treatment is available to them in order that they can make an informed choice. Mrs Lewis and staff demonstrated how consent would be obtained.

The practice undertakes patient satisfaction surveys on an annual basis. Review of the most recent patient satisfaction report demonstrated that the practice pro-actively seeks the views of patients about the quality of treatment and other services provided. Patient feedback whether constructive or critical, is used by the practice to improve, as appropriate. For example, a suggestion had been made that another hand rail on the stairs would be of benefit for patients, this was subsequently provided.

A policy and procedure was in place in relation to confidentiality which included the arrangements for respecting patient’s privacy, dignity and providing compassionate care and treatment.

Patient and staff views

All 18 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care. The following comments were provided:

- “Lovely friendly staff and bright practice”
- “Treated with dignity and respect every time”

Six submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that patients are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comments were provided on submitted questionnaires:

- “All patients and staff are treated well and respected fully. All information is stored and regarded as confidential at all times”

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements:	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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4.6 Is the service well led?

Management and governance arrangements

There was a clear organisational structure within the practice and staff were able to describe their roles and responsibilities and were aware of who to speak to if they had a concern. Staff confirmed that there were good working relationships and that management were responsive to any suggestions or concerns raised. Mrs Lewis is the nominated individual with overall responsibility for the day to day management of the practice

Policies and procedures were available for staff reference. Observations made confirmed that policies and procedures were indexed, dated and systematically reviewed on an annual basis. Staff were aware of the policies and how to access them.

Arrangements were in place to review risk assessments.

A copy of the complaints procedure was displayed in the practice. Staff demonstrated good awareness of complaints management. A complaints questionnaire was forwarded by RQIA to the practice for completion. The returned questionnaire indicated that no complaints have been received for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

A system was in place to ensure that notifiable events were investigated and reported to RQIA or other relevant bodies as appropriate. A system was also in place to ensure that urgent communications, safety alerts and notices are reviewed and where appropriate, made available to key staff in a timely manner.

Mrs Lewis confirmed that arrangements were in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to patients at appropriate intervals. If required an action plan is developed and embedded into practice to address any shortfalls identified during the audit process.

A whistleblowing/raising concerns policy was available. Discussion with staff confirmed that they were aware of who to contact if they had a concern.

Mrs Lewis demonstrated a clear understanding of her role and responsibility in accordance with legislation. Information requested by RQIA has consistently been submitted within specified timeframes.

A review of the Statement of Purpose and Patient Guide confirmed that these documents had been updated and included detail of new staff members recruited in the interim period since the previous inspection.

The RQIA certificate of registration was up to date and displayed appropriately.

Observation of insurance documentation confirmed that current insurance policies were in place.

Patient and staff views

All eight patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that they feel the service is well managed. The following comments were provided:

- “Brilliant”
- “I am informed when any changes are being made. The staff within the dental surgery provide good quality care at all times”
- “ A1 service, great staff “

Six submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel the service is well led. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was provided on a submitted questionnaire:

- “Well led team, this is a great practice”

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements:	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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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 registered person/manager from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with the regulations and standards.



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