

Unannounced Inspection Report 11 February 2020



Castlereagh St Dental Centre

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

Address: 94 Castlereagh Street, Belfast, BT5 4NJ

Tel No: 028 9045 1989

Inspector: Gerry Colgan

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



2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with three registered places providing NHS and private dental care and treatment.

Dental World 1 Limited is the registered provider for ten dental practices registered with RQIA. Mrs Monica Shah is the responsible individual for Dental World 1 Limited.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: Dental World 1 Limited Responsible Individual: Mrs Monica Shah	Registered Manager: Ms Jill Shiells
Person in charge at the time of inspection:	Date manager registered: 20 June 2018
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 3

4.0 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 13 January 2020

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

4.1 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 13 January 2020

There were no areas for improvement made as a result of the last care inspection.

5.0 Inspection Summary

An unannounced inspection was undertaken on 11 February 2020 from 10.00 to 13.30.

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).

Following receipt of information being received by RQIA, from an anonymous source, unannounced inspections were undertaken by RQIA inspectors to nine practices within the Dental World 1 Limited group. The information received alleged issues in relation to patient safety and financial irregularities.

RQIA have a memorandum of understanding with the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and due to the issues raised in relation to financial irregularities the information received by RQIA was shared with the HSCB. The focus of our inspection was to review the issues raised by the anonymous source.

A template to record the findings of the inspection was developed to ensure consistency. Areas examined included decontamination, supply and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and single use equipment, the management of medical emergency medicines and equipment, staff training, the arrangements to accommodate patients with additional needs; staff/patient surveys, management of complaints, which staff work in which practices and the role of the Clinical Director; overall governance of the practice including a review of the unannounced monitoring visits by the registered provider.

It is not within the remit of RQIA to investigate complaints raised by or on behalf of individuals, as this is the responsibility of the registered providers and the commissioners of care. However, if RQIA is notified of a potential breach of regulations or standards, it will review the matter and take appropriate action as required; this may include an inspection of the establishment.

During the inspection the inspector met with the practice coordinator, two associate dentists, two dental nurses and a receptionist. A tour of the premises was also undertaken.

The issues raised by the anonymous source were not substantiated by RQIA. Areas for improvement were not identified.

The findings of the inspection were provided to the person in charge at the conclusion of the inspection.

On 13 February 2020, we provided feedback to Ms Monica Shah, Responsible Individual, Mr Suken Shah, Director Dental World 1, Ms Jill Shiells, Registered Manager for two dental practices within the Dental World 1 group and a Business Development Support Manager for Dental World 1 Limited. Additional information can be found in section 5.1. of this report.

6.0 Inspection Findings

6.1 Staffing

We reviewed the staff duty rotas and found that there was sufficient staff in various roles to fulfil the needs of the patients. Staff told us that they had no concerns in relation to staffing levels. We determined that appropriate systems were in place to ensure that all relevant staff were on the live General Dental Council (GDC) register.

6.2 Staff training

We reviewed training records and found that there was a system in place to ensure that all staff receive appropriate training to fulfil the duties of their role in keeping with the RQIA training guidance.

Records reviewed and discussion with staff evidenced that the following training had been undertaken:

- management of medical emergencies;
- safeguarding children and adults;
- decontamination/infection prevention and control;
- radiology and radiation safety; and
- conscious sedation, if applicable.

6.3 Management of medical emergency medicines and equipment

We reviewed the arrangements in respect of the management of a medical emergency. We found evidence that emergency medicines in keeping with the British National Formulary (BNF), and emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines were retained. We found that a robust system was in place to ensure that emergency medicines and equipment do not exceed their expiry date and were ready for immediate use in the case of a medical emergency.

A review of staff training records and discussion with staff confirmed that the management of medical emergencies is included in the staff induction programme and that training is updated on an annual basis in keeping with best practice guidance. Staff last completed medical emergency refresher training on January 2020.

Staff demonstrated a good understanding of the actions to be taken in the event of a medical emergency and were able to identify to us the location of medical emergency medicines and equipment. Staff told us that they felt well prepared to manage a medical emergency should this occur.

We were satisfied that sufficient emergency medicines and equipment was in place and that staff were well prepared to manage a medical emergency should this occur.

6.4 Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

We confirmed that a decontamination room separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process was available. We observed that the decontamination room facilitated the flow from dirty through to clean areas for the cleaning and sterilising of reusable instruments.

We reviewed the processes for the decontamination of reusable dental instruments and confirmed that best practice as outlined in Decontamination in primary care dental practices (HTM 01-05) is being achieved. We confirmed that decontamination processes are being audited using the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) tool as specified in HTM 01-05.

We reviewed current practice and 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.

We observed appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant and a steam steriliser, has been provided to meet the practice requirements. We confirmed 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.

We found arrangements were in place to ensure that staff received training in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments commensurate with their roles and responsibilities.

6.5 Management of single use devices

We reviewed the management of single use devices to ensure adherence to HTM 01-05. We found that staff were aware of which dental instruments are single use devices or suitable for decontamination. We checked clinical and storage areas and evidenced that single use devices were only used for single-treatment episodes and were disposed of following use.

6.6 Provision and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

We observed adequate supplies of PPE in all clinical areas. PPE available included single use gloves, heavy duty reusable gloves, face masks and visors, eye protection and aprons. Staff described to us how they use, when they change and dispose of PPE.

We discussed the ordering of PPE with the practice coordinator and we were informed that there were no issues in relation to ordering PPE.

6.7 Complaints management

We reviewed the arrangements in respect of complaints and confirmed that there was a complaints policy and procedure in place which was in accordance with legislation and DoH guidance on complaints handling. We were informed that 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. We discussed the arrangements in respect of complaints management with staff.

We reviewed complaints records and confirmed that complaints received had been managed appropriately. Records pertaining to complaints reviewed evidenced they included details of the 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.

6.8 Management and governance arrangements

We reviewed the governance arrangements and managerial oversight. We confirmed 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. There was a nominated individual with overall responsibility for the day to day management of the practice.

We were advised prior to the inspection that Dental World 1 Limited had recently appointed a Clinical Director for Northern Ireland. Staff who spoke with us had an understanding of who the Clinical Director was, what their role entailed or how to contact them. This is discussed further in section 7.1 of this report.

6.9 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.

We reviewed the Regulation 26 unannounced quality monitoring visit reports on behalf of the Registered Provider. We were informed these reports are made available for patients, their representatives, staff, RQIA and any other interested parties to read. We confirmed that Regulation 26 reports included an action plan to address any issues identified. We noted that the action plan included timescales and details of the person responsible for completing the action.

A review of reports generated to document the findings of Regulation 26 visits evidenced that the visits were in keeping with the legislation.

6.10 Arrangements to accommodate patients with additional needs

We reviewed the arrangements in respect of patients with additional needs. We found that staff were aware of the procedure to be followed with respect to patients with additional needs. Staff informed us that an electronic record would be made; this would take the form of a pop up note to alert staff of the identified need. Staff informed us that all patients are treated with dignity and respect and fully informed and involved in making decisions with regards to their care and treatment.

6.11 Patient questionnaires

Prior to RQIA inspections we issue patient questionnaires to the practice to distribute to patients. We discussed this with staff who confirmed that they distribute these to patients to complete and return to RQIA. Staff spoken with confirmed that they had not completed and returned patient questionnaires.

7.0 Feedback to Registered Provider

7.1 Dental World 1 Limited Corporate Governance

On 13 February 2020, we provided feedback to Ms Monica Shah, Responsible Individual, Mr Suken Shah, Director, Dental World 1 Limited, Ms Jill Shiells, Registered Manager for two dental practices within the Dental World 1 Limited group and the Business Development Support Manager for Dental World 1 Limited.

This feedback focused on the corporate governance themes arising from the nine unannounced inspections undertaken in response to information shared with RQIA from an anonymous source.

During the feedback we also presented the findings of the HSCB dental advisors. The HSCB were unable to substantiate any of the claims made in relation to financial irregularities and indicated that they had no major concerns.

We confirmed that the concerns raised by the anonymous source were unsubstantiated. However, we identified some common themes and areas in relation to corporate governance that could be strengthened.

In respect of complaints management we found that complaints were not being consistently managed across all nine sites. We found inconsistencies in relation to staff recognising and recording complaints. We reinforced that from a governance perspective complaints, are a valuable source of information which may help to identify trends and patterns not immediately apparent. We confirmed that the arrangements in regards to complaints management should be strengthened to provide assurance that they are being managed in keeping with best practice guidance and that any learning arising from complaints is shared with staff, imbedded into practice and assured.

In respect of decontamination procedures we identified a number of issues across multiple sites. We found that dental handpieces were not being decontaminated in accordance with HTM 01-05 in a number of sites. We also found long delays in repairing faulty equipment. In one site we confirmed that endodontic reamers and files were being treated as single patient use by one dentist. The DoH in Northern Ireland have applied a precautionary principal towards reusable endodontic reamers and files in that they should be treated as single use regardless of the manufacturer's designation. We reinforced that Dental World 1 Limited need to focus on the governance of decontamination arrangements to provide assurance that decontamination is being consistently adhered to across all sites.

We identified a number of issues in relation to Regulation 26 visits which are undertaken on behalf of the Registered Provider. We found that in some practices the reports of the unannounced quality monitoring visits were not available or if available the reports had not been signed by Mrs Shah, Responsible Individual. Whilst Mrs Shah can delegate the task of completing Regulation 26 visits to a nominated individual she remains responsible for reviewing the outcome of the visits and ensuring that all appropriate actions are taken to address any issues identified.

We also evidenced that Regulation 26 visits were not consistently being carried out six monthly in line with legislation. It was concerning to note that the Regulation 26 reports reviewed did not reflect the issues found by RQIA during these inspections. We also noted that the reports did not include a review of the previous quality improvements plans (QIPs) issued by RQIA, where applicable. We advised that the template used to undertake Regulation 26 visits should be reviewed and updated to ensure it provides the necessary assurance to the Registered Provider and further enhances quality improvement initiatives within Dental World 1 Limited.

In respect of the Clinical Director we recognised that this was a newly developed position. This important role will provide clinical advice and support to staff and strengthen their governance structures. However, we found that not all staff spoken with had an understanding of who the Clinical Director was, what their role entailed or how to contact them. We advised that this information should be immediately shared with all staff. We also advised that records of all site visits, minutes of meetings and reports must be held in individual practices. We advised that reports of Regulation 26 visits should be shared with the Clinical Director to ensure that themes and trends are identified and managed across the practices.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

8.0 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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