

# Announced Care and Variation to Registration Inspection Report

11 July 2017



## Abercorn Dental Care Limited

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

**Address: 16 Newry Road, Banbridge BT32 3HN**

**Tel No: 028 4062 4881**

**Inspector: Winifred Maguire**

[www.rgia.org.uk](http://www.rgia.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 one registered place providing general dental care and treatment. An application of variation was submitted to RQIA during March 2017 in relation to an increase in the number of dental chairs from one to two.

### 3.0 Service details

<b>Organisation/Registered Provider:</b> Abercorn Dental Care Limited  <b>Responsible Individual(s):</b> Ms Joan Lockhart	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Ms Joan Lockhart
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Ms Joan Lockhart	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 10 January 2012
<b>Categories of care:</b> Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	<b>Number of registered places:</b> One increasing to two following this inspection

### 4.0 Inspection summary

An announced care and variation to registration inspection took place on 11 July 2017 from 10:00 to 13:00.

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, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011).

The inspection assessed progress with any areas for improvement identified during the last care inspection and to determine if the practice was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

The inspection also sought to review the readiness of the practice for the provision of private dental care and treatment associated with an application of variation, made to RQIA, to increase the number of dental chairs from one to two. The variation to registration application was approved following this inspection.

Evidence of good practice was evidenced in all four domains. These related to staff training and development, patient safety, the environment, the range and quality of audits, health promotion and engagement to enhance the patients' experience.

There were no areas requiring improvement identified.

One patient was spoken with during the inspection and she commented as follows:

“Excellent dental practice, extremely happy with the standard of care myself and my family receive. They are very accommodating with appointments. Joan and all the staff are helpful and very friendly. I could not speak highly enough of them.”

The findings of this report will provide the practice with the necessary information to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities, enhance practice and patients experience.

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.

#### 4.1 Inspection outcome

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

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Ms Joan Lockhart, 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.

#### 4.2 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection dated 7 June 2016

No further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 7 June 2016.

#### 5.0 How we inspect

Prior to the inspection a range of information relevant to the practice was reviewed. This included the following records:

- notifiable events since the previous care inspection
- the registration status of the establishment
- written and verbal communication received since the previous care inspection
- the previous care inspection report
- submitted staffing information
- submitted complaints declaration
- the variation to registration application

Questionnaires were provided to patients and staff prior to the inspection by the practice on behalf of RQIA. Returned completed patient and staff questionnaires were also analysed prior to the inspection.

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

During the inspection the inspector met with one patient, Ms Lockhart, registered person and a senior dental nurse. A tour of the premises was also undertaken.

A sample of records was examined during the inspection in relation to the following areas:

- staffing
- recruitment and section
- safeguarding
- management of medical emergencies
- infection prevention and control
- radiography
- clinical record recording arrangements
- health promotion
- management and governance arrangements
- maintenance arrangements

The findings of the inspection were provided to Ms Lockhart, registered person, at the conclusion of the inspection.

## 6.0 The inspection

### 6.1 Review of areas for improvement from the most recent inspection dated 7 June 2016

The most recent inspection of the practice was an announced care inspection.

### 6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 7 June 2016

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

## 6.3 Inspection findings

### 6.4 Is care safe?

**Avoiding and preventing harm to patients and clients from the care, treatment and support that is intended to help them.**

## Staffing

The practice is increasing from one to two dental surgeries. Ms Lockhart outlined the planned staffing arrangements for the additional surgery, and confirmed that an additional dentist and dental nurse are in the process of being recruited and will be in post by September 2017.

Discussion with staff and a review of completed patient and staff questionnaires demonstrated that there was 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 one 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. A review of a sample of one evidenced that appraisals had been completed on an annual basis. There was a system in place to ensure that all staff receive appropriate training to fulfil the duties of their role. All the dental nurses have obtained a certificate in dental sedation nursing from the National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN). Ms Lockhart has recently obtained a post graduate diploma in conscious sedation in dentistry with distinction from Trinity College University Dublin.

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 Ms Lockhart confirmed that new staff are in the process of being recruited to facilitate the operation of an additional dental chair. It was confirmed that all the relevant information as outlined in Schedule 2 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 will be sought and retained.

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

### **Safeguarding**

Staff 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. It was confirmed that the safeguarding lead has completed formal training in safeguarding adults in keeping with the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) training strategy (revised 2016).

Policies and procedures were in place for the safeguarding and protection of adults and children at risk of harm. The policies 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.

It was confirmed that copies of the regional policy entitled 'Co-operating to safeguard children and young people in Northern Ireland' (March 2016) and the regional guidance document entitled 'Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership' (July 2015) were both available for staff reference.

## **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. All staff have undertaken immediate life support training and Ms Lockhart has undertaken advanced life support training.

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.

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 and hand hygiene policies.

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 disinfector, a DAC Universal 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. The most recent IPS audit was available for inspection.

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. Review of the radiation protection file evidenced that a critical examination of the newly installed x-ray unit in the additional surgery had been undertaken by the appointed radiation protection advisor (RPA) on 4 July 2017.

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 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 good standard of maintenance and décor.

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

Arrangements are in place for maintaining the environment. A written scheme of examination of pressure vessels was in place.

Ms Lockhart confirmed she had been liaising with a RQIA's estates inspector and had forwarded requested information in relation to a fire assessment, a legionella risk assessment and electrical certification. This matter is being followed up by the estates inspector at RQIA.

The additional surgery on the first floor was observed to be of a high standard. Ms Lockhart confirmed she was awaiting the final finishing touches to the paintwork and gave assurances that the fixed wall equipment for hand washing would be installed in line with best infection prevention control. Ms Lockhart agreed to submit photographs of the completed surgery to RQIA, evidencing that the surgery is ready for patient use. It was confirmed the new dental chair in the additional dental surgery has been included in the equipment maintenance arrangements for the practice.



Ms Lockhart confirmed that robust arrangements are in place for the management of prescription pads/forms and that written security policies are in place to reduce the risk of prescription theft and misuse.

### Patient and staff views

Nineteen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Comments provided included the following:

- “Cannot speak well enough of Dr Joan and all of her staff.”
- “The practice is spotless.”
- “Very high standards in cleanliness of environment and can see staff changing equipment after use and clean glove changes observed.”
- “Staff are very friendly and excellent with children.”
- “Staff are all so helpful and have great empathy for patients and a very clean environment.”
- “Best dentist ever.”
- “Very friendly staff.”
- “It is a very clean practice and the staff are committed to our every need.”

Five staff submitted questionnaire responses. All indicated that they felt that patients are safe and protected from harm and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was provided:

- “All staff are trained and the premises are well maintained to keep patients safe and protected.”

### Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found in relation to staff recruitment, induction, training, supervision and appraisal, safeguarding, management of medical emergencies, infection prevention control and decontamination procedures, radiology and the environment.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

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

## 6.5 Is care effective?

**The right care, at the right time in the right place with the best outcome.**

### Clinical records

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

Ms Lockhart confirmed that 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. A patient spoken with during the inspection confirmed that she had been 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. A range of health promotion information leaflets were available in the reception area. Patients are also signposted to reputable websites such as the British Society of Oral Medicine, for oral health information. Ms Lockhart and staff confirmed that oral health is actively promoted on an individual level with patients during their consultations. The patient spoken with also confirmed she had been given oral health advice during dental consultations.

### 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 waste management
- clinical records
- review of complaints/accidents/incidents

## Communication

Ms Lockhart 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.

Ms Lockhart is a member of the Irish Society of Disability and Oral Health and the Society of Advancement in Anaesthesia in Dentistry.

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. Staff spoken with confirmed 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.

A breaking bad news policy in respect of dentistry was in place. Ms Lockhart confirmed it will be updated to reflect the SPIKES (Specially Prepared Individuals for Key Events) approach – a six-step protocol to breaking bad news, following recent training on this subject.

## Patient and staff views

All patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Comments provided included the following:

- “Always effective.”
- “I’m always informed of what is to be done.”
- “All treatment is fully discussed and explained.”
- “Treatment is always discussed clearly.”
- “I feel free to ask staff for advice and have done so, feel staff are attentive and listen to me.”
- “Very competent staff.”

All submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that patients get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was provided:

- “All nurses have completed NEBDN certificate in dental sedation nursing and the dentist has completed postgraduate diploma in conscious sedation in dentistry to allow the continued use of inhalation sedation and a new intravenous sedation service in response to patient needs.”

## Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found in relation to the management of clinical records, the range and quality of audits, health promotion strategies and ensuring effective communication between patients and staff.

## Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

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

### 6.6 Is care compassionate?

**Patients and clients are treated with dignity and respect and should be fully involved in decisions affecting their treatment, care and support.**

## Dignity, respect and involvement in decision making

Staff 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. Staff were observed to converse with a patient and conduct 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 and can make an informed choice. Staff demonstrated how consent would be obtained.

The practice undertakes patient satisfaction surveys on an ongoing basis which are collated into a summary report annually. 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.

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 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Comments provided included the following:

- "Excellent team – kids love the dentist."
- "Always treated with care and compassion."
- "Fantastic, feel at ease, great dentist and staff. Nurses are great and friendly, held my hand during injections. Great girls."
- "Excellent care especially for my daughter who has numerous medical issues."
- "Very friendly and respectful, always."

- “Always treated with respect and professionally.”
- “The team are friendly and professional. It is a pleasure to come for an appointment; I know I am in good hands.”

All submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that patients are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. No comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses.

**Areas of good practice**

There were examples of good practice found in relation to maintaining patient confidentiality, ensuring the core values of privacy and dignity were upheld and providing the relevant information to allow patients to make informed choices.

**Areas for improvement**

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

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

**6.7 Is the service well led?**

**Effective leadership, management and governance which creates a culture focused on the needs and experience of service users in order to deliver safe, effective and compassionate care.**

**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.

Ms Lockhart 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 a three yearly basis. Staff spoken with 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 a 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 2016 to 31 March 2017.

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.

Ms Lockhart 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.

Ms Lockhart demonstrated a clear understanding of her role and responsibility in accordance with legislation. Information requested by RQIA has been submitted within specified timeframes. It was confirmed that the Statement of Purpose and Patient's Guide are kept under review, revised and updated when necessary and available on request.

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 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well led and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of the service. Comments provided included the following:

- “Always a pleasure to come to a spotless clean and friendly place.”
- “Without a doubt the team are 100% effective.”
- “Always notified of changes.”
- “It's the best dental surgery I have been to.”
- “Brilliant staff and well managed.”
- “Staff are professional and seem to work well together- as a result I feel I get a good quality of care at the surgery.”
- “Very competent staff.”
- “Dr Joan is excellent.”

All submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well led and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of the service. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. No comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses.

### **Areas of good practice**

There were examples of good practice found in relation to governance arrangements, management of complaints and incidents, quality improvement and maintaining good working relationships.

**Areas for improvement**

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

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

**7.0 Quality improvement plan**

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

RQIA will phase out the issue of draft reports via paperlite in the near future. Registered providers should ensure that their services are opted in for the receipt of reports via Web Portal. If you require further information, please visit [www.rqia.org.uk/webportal](http://www.rqia.org.uk/webportal) or contact the web portal team in RQIA on 028 9051 7500.



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