

# Announced Care Inspection Report 18 February 2020



## Newcastle Family Dental Care

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

**Address: Railway Street, Newcastle, BT33 0SP**

**Tel No: 028 4372 3776**

**Inspector: Steven Smith**

[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 Provider:</b> DJ Maguire and Associates Ltd  <b>Responsible Individual:</b> Mr Derek Maguire	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Ms Ruth Lennon (Acting)
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Ms Ruth Lennon	<b>Date manager registered:</b> Acting manager
<b>Categories of care:</b> Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 2

## 4.0 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 18 October 2018

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 18 October 2018

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

## 5.0 Inspection findings

An announced inspection took place on 18 February 2020 from 10.00 to 12.30.

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 Mr Derek Maguire, responsible individual, Mr Leonard Maguire, clinical director for D J Maguire and Associates Ltd, Ms Heidi Geddis, operations director for D J Maguire and Associates Ltd, Ms Ruth Lennon, acting registered manager, an associate dentist and a dental nurse. Mr Maguire and Ms Geddis took the lead in facilitating the inspection. A tour of some areas of the premises was also undertaken.

The findings of the inspection were provided to Mr Maguire and Ms Geddis at the conclusion of the inspection.

## 5.1 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 May 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.

Mr Maguire confirmed that conscious sedation is provided in the form of inhalation sedation, known as relative analgesia (RA) by two dentists in the practice. A policy and procedure in relation to the management of conscious sedation was in place.

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.

A review of records and discussion with Mr Maguire confirmed that the RA equipment has been serviced in keeping with manufacturer’s instructions with the exception of one RA unit which was scheduled for service following the inspection. Mr Maguire confirmed that a nitrous oxide risk assessment had been completed to identify the risks and control measures required in keeping with the Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC) alert NIA-2017-001 issued on 6 September 2017. This risk assessment was not available for review but was subsequently submitted to RQIA following the inspection.

**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**

Further to information submitted following the inspection, no areas for improvement were identified.

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**5.3 Infection prevention and control**

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 October 2019, evidenced that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice. It was confirmed that an action plan would be developed and embedded into practice if any shortfalls were identified during the audit process. The audits are carried out by a dental nurse and Mr Maguire confirmed that any learning identified as a result of these audits is shared at staff meetings.

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.

It was confirmed that a combination of conventional needles and syringes and safer sharps are used by the dentist when administering local anaesthetic. Safer sharps should be used so far as is reasonably practicable. A risk assessment has been undertaken, in relation to the dentists who do not use safer sharps, and an action plan developed to address any issues identified. Best practice in respect of sharps was discussed and staff confirmed that it is the responsibility of the user to safely dispose of them.

Review of personnel records demonstrated that evidence of the Hepatitis B vaccination status of clinical staff was retained. These records had either been generated by the staff member’s general practitioner (GP) or by an occupational health department. Mr Maguire confirmed that all newly recruited clinical staff members, new to dentistry, were automatically referred to occupational health.

**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
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**5.4 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 steam steriliser and a DAC Universal, has 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, with the exception of the compressor. Documentation to confirm that the compressor had been inspected in keeping with the written scheme of examination was subsequently submitted to RQIA following the inspection. 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

Further to information submitted following the inspection, no areas for improvement were identified.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.5 Radiology and radiation safety

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

Mr Maguire confirmed that the radiation protection supervisor (RPS), a dentist working in the practice, was 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. The 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, completed during October 2018, 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.

All dentists take 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
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 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. Mr Maguire confirmed that an audit of complaints would be used to identify trends, drive quality improvement and to enhance service provision as necessary.

### 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
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## 5.7 Regulation 26 visits

A visit by a manager nominated by the registered provider was undertaken during November 2019 as required under Regulation 26 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005; a report was produced and made available for patients, their representatives, staff, RQIA and any other interested parties to read. Mr Maguire confirmed that an action plan would be developed to address any issues identified during these visits which would include timescales and person responsible for completing the action as necessary.

### Areas of good practice

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

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.8 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 staff.

## 5.9 Patient and staff views

Fourteen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt their care was safe and effective, that they were treated with compassion and that the service was well led. All patients indicated that they were very satisfied with each of these areas of their care. Comments included in the returned patient questionnaires indicated a high level of satisfaction with the treatment, care and service provided by Newcastle Family Dental Care.

RQIA also invited staff to complete an electronic questionnaire prior to the inspection. No completed staff questionnaires were received.

## 5.10 Total number of areas for improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	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.



The **Regulation** and  
**Quality Improvement**  
Authority

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority  
9th Floor  
Riverside Tower  
5 Lanyon Place  
BELFAST  
BT1 3BT

**Tel** 028 9536 1111  
**Email** [info@rqia.org.uk](mailto:info@rqia.org.uk)  
**Web** [www.rqia.org.uk](http://www.rqia.org.uk)  
 [@RQIANews](https://twitter.com/RQIANews)

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care