

Announced Care Inspection Report 27 March 2019



Cassidy Dental

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

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Inspector: Carmel McKeegan

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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 2018/19 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
- infection prevention and control
- decontamination of reusable dental instruments
- radiology and radiation safety
- review of areas for improvement from the last inspection

2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with four registered places.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: Mr Tom Cassidy	Registered Manager: Mr Tom Cassidy
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mr Tom Cassidy	Date manager registered: 17 January 2012
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 4

4.0 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 12 January 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 12 January 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 27 March 2019 from 10.00 to 11.55.

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 Tom Cassidy, registered person, a senior dental nurse and a dental nurse who also undertakes reception duties. A tour of some areas of the premises was also undertaken.

The findings of the inspection were provided to Mr Cassidy and the senior dental nurse at the conclusion of the inspection.

5.1 Management of medical emergencies

Management of medical emergencies

A review of medical emergency arrangements evidenced that, in general, emergency medicines were provided in keeping with the British National Formulary (BNF). A discussion took place in regards to the procedure for the safe administration of Buccolam and the various doses and quantities needed as recommended by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and the BNF. Mr Cassidy confirmed that additional doses and quantities of Buccolam would be sourced. On 16 April 2019 RQIA received confirmation by email that Buccolam 2.5mg and Buccolam 5mg in prefilled syringe format, had been purchased for the practice, in sufficient quantities as recommended by the HSCB.

Emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines was retained with the exception of an automated external defibrillator (AED). Staff confirmed that an AED was available in the health centre in close proximity to the practice and could be accessed within three minutes of collapse in keeping with the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines. The use of this AED had been incorporated into the practice's medical emergency policy and procedure.

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. The most recent occasion staff completed medical emergency refresher training was during January 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 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 March 2019 carried out by the senior dental nurse and another dental nurse, evidenced that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice. The senior dental nurse confirmed that should areas for improvement be identified an action plan would be developed and any learning from audits is shared with staff at the time and discussed again during 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.

During discussion it was identified that conventional needles and syringes are used by the dentists when administering local anaesthetic as opposed to using safer sharps. Regulation 5 (1) (b) of The Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 states that 'safer sharps are used so far as is reasonably practicable'. Staff confirmed that it is the responsibility of the user of sharps to safely dispose of them. Sharps risk assessments were not in place for the dentists who do not use safer sharps. On 16 April 2019 RQIA received an email to confirm that a risk assessment has been completed on the management of sharps and shared with all staff. Mr Cassidy was advised that the use of safer sharps should be considered.

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

5.3 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.

As discussed a review of the most recent IPS audit, completed during March 2019 evidenced that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice.

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 two washer disinfectors 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

5.4 Radiology and radiation safety

Radiology and radiation safety

The practice has four surgeries, three of which has an intra-oral x-ray machine. In addition there is a cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) machine, which is located in a separate area.

Mr Cassidy as the radiation protection supervisor (RPS) 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.

Two separate dedicated radiation protection files in respect of the intra-oral x-ray units and the CBCT were in place. It was noted that the local rules and employers procedures were not contained in the CBCT file, however on 16 April 2019, a copy of this document was provided to RQIA and it was confirmed the document had been retained within the CBCT file. Mr Cassidy confirmed that both files will be reviewed regularly to ensure the information contained within each file is current.

The appointed RPA completes a quality assurance check every three years for the intra-oral machines and annually for the CBCT machine. A review of the reports of the most recent visits 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.

Mr Cassidy 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

5.5 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 Mr Cassidy.

5.6 Patient and staff views

Three patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All three 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 three patients also indicated that they were very satisfied with each of these areas of their care.

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

5.7 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.



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