

Announced Care Inspection Report

03 December 2020



Causeway Dental

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

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Inspectors: Stephen O'Connor and Emer McCurry

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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 2020/21 inspection year we are moving to a more focused, shorter inspection which will concentrate on the following key patient safety areas:

- management of operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- management of medical emergencies;
- infection prevention and control (IPC);
- decontamination of reusable dental instruments;
- governance arrangements and review of the report of the visits undertaken by the Registered Provider in line with Regulation 26, where applicable; and
- review of the areas for improvement identified during the previous care inspection (where applicable).

2.0 Profile of service

Causeway Dental is registered with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) as an independent hospital (IH) with a dental treatment category of care. The practice has five registered dental surgeries and provides general dental services.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Providers: Mr Robin Alexander and Mr David Wilson	Registered Manager: Mr David Wilson
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mr David Wilson	Date manager registered: 04 January 2012
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: Five

Causeway Dental was initially registered with RQIA as a partnership between Mr Alexander and Mr Wilson. During this inspection we were informed that this partnership has been dissolved and that Mr Wilson is the sole person operating the practice. Following the inspection Mr Wilson told us that a new partnership between himself and Ms Lorna Dysart had been formed. This is discussed further in section 6.8 of this report.

4.0 Inspection summary

We undertook an announced inspection on 03 December 2020 from 09:55 to 12:15.

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).

The purpose of this inspection was to focus on the themes for the 2020/21 inspection year. A poster informing patients that an inspection was being conducted was displayed during the inspection.

We undertook a tour of the premises, met with Mr David Wilson, Registered Person, the practice manager and a dental nurse; reviewed relevant records and documents in relation to the day to day operation of the practice.

We found evidence of good practice in relation to the management of medical emergencies; infection prevention and control; decontamination of reusable dental instruments; the practice’s adherence to best practice guidance in relation to COVID-19; and governance arrangements.

No immediate concerns were identified regarding the delivery of front line patient care.

4.1 Inspection outcome

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Mr David Wilson, Responsible Individual, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report. A quality improvement plan (QIP) was not generated as a result of this inspection.

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

4.2 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 05 September 2019

The most recent inspection of Causeway Dental was an announced care inspection. The completed quality improvement plan (QIP) was returned and approved by the care inspector.

4.3 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 05 September 2019

Areas for improvement from the last care inspection		
Action required to ensure compliance with The Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011)		Validation of compliance
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 8.5 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that a policy and procedure in relation to the management of conscious sedation is developed in keeping with best practice.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We confirmed that a conscious sedation policy was developed following the previous inspection. Review of this policy evidenced that it fully reflected best practice guidance.	

5.0 How we inspect

Before 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; and
- the returned QIP from the previous care inspection.

Questionnaires were provided to patients prior to the inspection by the establishment on our behalf. We also invited staff to complete an electronic questionnaire prior to the inspection. Returned completed patient questionnaires were analysed prior to the inspection and are discussed in section 6.7 of this report. No completed staff questionnaires were submitted.

During the inspection, we spoke with Mr Wilson, Registered Person, the practice manager and a dental nurse.

The findings of the inspection were provided to Mr Wilson at the conclusion of the inspection.

6.0 Inspection findings

6.1 Management of operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

We discussed the management of operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with Mr Wilson and staff, and application of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) operational guidance. We found that COVID-19 policies and procedures were in place in keeping with best practice guidance.

Areas of good practice: Management of operations in response to COVID-19 pandemic

We confirmed the practice had identified a COVID-19 lead; had reviewed and amended policies and procedures in accordance with the HSCB operational guidance to include arrangements to maintain social distancing; prepare staff; implement enhanced infection prevention and control procedures; and the patient pathway.

Areas for improvement: Management of operations in response to COVID-19 pandemic

We identified no areas for improvement regarding the management of operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.2 Management of medical emergencies

We reviewed the arrangements in place for the management of medicines within the practice, including medicines used during intravenous (IV) sedation, to ensure that medicines were safely, securely and effectively managed in compliance with legislative requirements, professional standards and guidelines and we found them to be satisfactory. We evidenced a system was in place for the ordering, administration, reconciliation and disposal of all medicines.

We found that medicines were stored safely and securely and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. We confirmed that all emergency medicines as specified within the British National Formulary (BNF) for use in the event of a medical emergency in a dental practice were available. We also confirmed that all emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines were available.

We noted 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 event of a medical emergency.

We spoke with staff who told us the management of medical emergencies was included in the staff induction programme and that training was updated on an annual basis in keeping with best practice guidance. We reviewed training records and evidenced that staff last completed medical emergency refresher training during November 2020. We found that this training included first aid and scenario-based exercises that simulated medical emergencies that have the potential to occur in a dental practice. These included; anaphylaxis; asthma; cardiac emergencies; myocardial infarction; epileptic seizures; hypoglycaemia; syncope; choking and aspiration; and adrenaline insufficiency.

Staff who spoke with us 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 were in place and staff were well prepared to manage a medical emergency should this occur.

We observed that Adrenaline medication, for emergency use to treat anaphylaxis, was due to expire at the end of December 2020. We advised that when replenishing Adrenaline medication, Adrenaline should be provided in ampoule format and not in auto-injector format as outlined by DoH guidance. We also advised that appropriate syringes and needles to enable intramuscular administration are in place for immediate use. When the format of Adrenaline medication changes, Mr Wilson should ensure that all clinical staff are notified of the new arrangements and that all clinical staff are knowledgeable of the correct dose to be administered according to the age of the patient, in the event of an emergency.

We also confirmed that a medical emergency had occurred in the practice during July 2020 and that the medical emergency had been effectively managed per best practice guidelines. We advised Mr Wilson and staff that the medical emergency met the threshold of a notifiable event as outlined in Regulation 28 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005. Mr Wilson readily agreed to submit a retrospective notification in this regard which was received by RQIA on 8 December 2020.

Areas of good practice: Management of medical emergencies

We reviewed the arrangements in respect of the management of a medical emergency and confirmed that the dental practice takes a proactive approach to this key patient safety area. This included ensuring that staff had the knowledge and skills to react to a medical emergency, should it arise.

Areas for improvement: Management of medical emergencies

We identified no areas for improvement regarding the management of medical emergencies.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.3 Infection prevention and control (IPC)

We reviewed arrangements in relation to IPC procedures throughout the practice to evidence that the risk of infection transmission to patients, visitors and staff was minimised. We undertook a tour of some areas of the practice and noted that the clinical and decontamination areas were clean, tidy and uncluttered. We found that all areas of the practice were fully equipped to meet the needs of patients.

We established that personal protective equipment (PPE) was readily available in keeping with best practice guidance. A higher level of PPE is required when dental treatment using aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) are undertaken including the use of FFP3 masks. An FFP3 mask is a respirator mask that covers the mouth and nose of the wearer. The performance of these masks depends on achieving good contact between the wearer’s skin and the mask. The only way to ensure that the FFP3 mask offers the desired level of protection is for the wearer to be fit tested for a particular make and model of mask. We reviewed the fit testing records and confirmed that the appropriate staff had been fit tested for FFP3 masks.

We confirmed 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 PPE; hand hygiene practice; and waste and sharps management.

Staff who spoke with us confirmed that IPS audits were completed in a meaningful manner and the process involved all dental nurses on a rotational basis. Staff told us that the outcome of the audit was discussed during regular staff meetings. The practice manager informed us that should the audit identify areas for improvement, an action plan would be generated to address the issues identified and that the IPS audit will be completed every six months.

We confirmed that arrangements were in place to ensure that staff received IPC and COVID-19 training commensurate with their roles and responsibilities. Staff who spoke with us demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of IPC procedures.

We examined the staff register and noted that one staff member was recruited since the previous inspection. We reviewed the personnel records regarding this staff member and confirmed that a record was retained to evidence their Hepatitis B vaccination status. We noted this record had been generated by an occupational health (OH) department. The practice manager confirmed that in the future all newly recruited clinical staff members, who were new to dentistry, would be automatically referred to OH.

Areas of good practice: Infection prevention and control

We reviewed the current arrangements with respect to IPC practice and evidenced good practice that was being actively reviewed.

Areas for improvement: Infection prevention and control

We identified no areas for improvement regarding IPC.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.4 Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

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

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

The processes regarding the decontamination of reusable dental instruments were being audited in line with the best practice outlined in HTM 01-05 using the IPS audit tool. We reviewed the most recent IPS audit, completed during September 2020 and found that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice.

We found that appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant, a DAC Universal and two steam sterilisers, had been provided to meet the requirements of the practice. We established that equipment used in the decontamination process had been appropriately validated and inspected in keeping with the written scheme of examination. Equipment logbooks evidenced that periodic tests were undertaken and recorded in keeping with HTM 01-05.

We found staff were aware of what equipment, used by the practice, should be treated as single use and what equipment was suitable for decontamination. We confirmed that single use devices were only used for single-treatment episodes and were disposed of following use.

A review of current practice evidenced that arrangements were in place to ensure that reusable dental instruments were appropriately cleaned, sterilised and stored following use in keeping with the best practice guidance outlined in HTM 01-05.

Areas of good practice: Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

We found the current arrangements evidenced that best practice, as outlined in HTM 01-05, was being achieved in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments. This included proactively auditing practice, taking action when issues were identified and ensuring staff had the knowledge and skills to ensure standards were maintained.

Areas for improvement: Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

We identified no areas for improvement regarding the decontamination of reusable dental instruments.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.5 Visits by the Registered Provider (Regulation 26)

Where the business 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, unannounced quality monitoring visits by the registered provider must be undertaken and documented every six months; as required by Regulation 26 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005. We established that Mr Wilson was in day to day charge of the practice, therefore the unannounced quality monitoring visits by the registered provider were not applicable.

6.6 Equality data

We discussed the arrangements in place regarding 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. Mr Wilson and staff told us that equality data collected was managed in line with best practice.

6.7 Patient and staff views

The practice distributed questionnaires to patients on our behalf and 14 patients submitted responses to RQIA. All patients 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 submitted questionnaire responses are as follows:

- 'First class service'
- 'Excellent practice happy to recommend to others. Very helpful staff.'
- 'Always made to feel very welcome.'

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

6.8 Registration Issues

Causeway Dental was initially registered with us on 4 January 2012 as a partnership between Mr Alexander and Mr Wilson. Mr Wilson told us that during 2020 the partnership was formally dissolved and that he is now the sole person operating the practice.

Mr Wilson was advised that the change in entity operating the practice from a partnership to a sole owner would require an application for a new registration to be made to RQIA. Following the inspection Mr Wilson told us that he had formed a new partnership with Ms Lorna Dysart, therefore a registration application was not required as the entity remains the same. Subsequently a Responsible Person application was submitted by Ms Dysart. This application is currently being processed by RQIA.

6.9 Total number of areas for improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

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



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