

Announced Care Inspection Report 11 December 2020



Cavehill Dental Care

Type of Service: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment
165 Cavehill Road, Belfast, BT15 5BP
Tel No: 028 9037 0206
Inspectors: Carmel McKeegan and Emer McCurry

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 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

Cavehill Dental Care is a registered dental practice with seven registered places, providing NHS and private dental care and treatment.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/registered provider: Portman Healthcare Limited Responsible individual: Mr Mark Hamburger	Applicant registered manager: Mrs Frances McGrattan - application received
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mrs Frances McGrattan	Date manager registered: Mrs Frances McGrattan - "registration pending".
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: Seven

Portman Healthcare Limited is the Registered Provider for 11 dental practices registered with RQIA. Mr Mark Hamburger is the Responsible Individual for Portman Healthcare Limited.

4.0 Inspection summary

We undertook an announced inspection on 11 December 2020 from 10.30 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).

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 Mrs Frances McGrattan, Applicant Registered Manager; the Northern Ireland Regional Compliance Facilitator for Portman Healthcare Ltd; two dental nurses and a receptionist; and 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 Mrs Frances McGrattan, Applicant Registered Manager and the Northern Ireland Regional Compliance Facilitator for Portman Healthcare Ltd, 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 30 July 2019

The most recent inspection of Cavehill Dental Care was an announced pre-registration care inspection. The completed QIP was returned and approved by the care inspector.

4.3 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 30 July 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 13 Stated: First time	The Registered Person shall ensure the following issues in relation to infection prevention and control are addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • items directly stored on floors should be removed in order to ensure that floors can be effectively cleaned; and • the covering of dental chairs should be intact in order to ensure they can be effectively cleaned; any damaged or ripped coverings should be repaired. 	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We reviewed three dental surgeries and confirmed that there were no items stored on floors. We also observed that all dental	

	chair coverings were intact.	
Area for improvement 2 Ref: Standard 13 Stated: First time	The Registered Person should consider the provision of a wall mounted disposable apron dispenser in the decontamination room.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We reviewed the decontamination room and observed that a wall mounted disposable apron dispenser was in place.	
Area for improvement 3 Ref: Standard 13 Stated: First time	The Registered Person should give consideration to replacing the flooring in the OPG room with a floor covering compliant with flooring specifications as outlined in Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05 guidance.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We reviewed the OPG room and observed that new floor covering had been provided which was impermeable and sealed at the edges.	
Area for improvement 4 Ref: Standard 8.3 Stated: First time	The Registered Person shall ensure that rectangular collimation is in use as recommended by the appointed radiation protection advisor (RPA).	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We reviewed three dental surgeries and confirmed that rectangular collimators were in place as recommended by the RPA.	

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; and
- the previous care inspection report.

Questionnaires were provided to Cavehill Dental Care on our behalf for distribution to patients and we invited staff to complete an electronic questionnaire prior to the inspection. However we found that questionnaires had not been provided to Cavehill Dental Care within the usual timeframe prior to the inspection and therefore patient and staff questionnaires were not available for analysis prior to the inspection. Patient and staff questionnaires are further discussed in section 6.7 of this report.

During the inspection, we spoke with Mrs McGrattan, the Northern Ireland Regional Compliance Facilitator for Portman Healthcare Ltd, two dental nurses and a receptionist

The findings of the inspection were provided to Mrs McGrattan and the Northern Ireland Regional Compliance Facilitator for Portman Healthcare Ltd 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 and the application of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) operational guidance with Mrs McGrattan and staff. 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 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 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 on 20 November 2020. Mrs McGrattan informed us that staff were split into smaller groups to facilitate the practical aspects of this training. 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.

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 the premises 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 staff on a rotational basis. Staff told us that the outcome of the audit was discussed during regular staff meetings. Mrs Mc Grattan 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 confirmed that no new staff had commenced employment since the previous inspection. Mrs McGrattan told us that all newly recruited clinical staff members, who were new to dentistry, would be automatically referred to occupational health and records would be retained in this regard. We confirmed that the practice held records of all clinical staff members’ Hepatitis B vaccination records.

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.

We confirmed that 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 November 2020 and found that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified both areas of good practice and areas that require to be improved, as applicable.

We found that appropriate equipment, including two washer disinfectors 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)

We established that an unannounced quality monitoring visit on behalf of the Registered Provider was undertaken 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. We found that an action plan was developed to address any issues identified during the visit which included timescales and Person responsible for completing the action.

Areas of good practice: Visits by the Registered Provider (Regulation 26)

We evidenced that reports documenting the findings of visits by the Registered Provider were maintained and these evidenced that the visits were in keeping with the legislation.

Areas for improvement: Visits by the Registered Provider (Regulation 26)

We identified no areas for improvement regarding visits by the Registered Provider in line with the legislation.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

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. Mrs McGrattan and staff told us that equality data collected was managed in line with best practice.

6.7 Patient and staff views

Due to unforeseen circumstances RQIA questionnaires were not provided to the practice within the usual timeframe to enable the practice to distribute these to patients. Mrs McGrattan confirmed that Cavehill Dental Care will continue to monitor feedback and responses from patients.

Electronic questionnaires were received by RQIA from staff members following the inspection however responses could not be clearly analysed as some questionnaire responses were incomplete. This was discussed with Mrs McGrattan following the inspection who informed us that some staff had difficulty completing the electronic questionnaire.

During our inspection, through staff discussion, we found that staff were very satisfied with all aspects of dental care, treatment and services provided to patients in Cavehill Dental Care. Staff members also told us they felt supported by management.

6.8 Total number of areas for improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

7.0 Quality improvement plan (QIP)

We identified no areas for improvement and a 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

Web www.rqia.org.uk

Twitter @RQIANews