



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

Inspector: Carmel McKeegan
Inspection ID: IN023961

Mercer Dental Care
RQIA ID: 11447
97 Brunswick Road
Bangor
BT20 3DW

Tel: 028 9127 0634

**Announced Care Inspection
of
Mercer Dental Care**

24 February 2016

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
9th Floor Riverside Tower, 5 Lanyon Place, Belfast, BT1 3BT
Tel: 028 9051 7500 Fax: 028 9051 7501 Web: www.rqia.org.uk

1. Summary of Inspection

An announced care inspection took place on 24 February 2016 from 10.30 to 12.00. On the day of the inspection the management of medical emergencies and recruitment and selection were found to be safe, effective and compassionate. The outcome of the inspection found no areas of concern.

This inspection was underpinned by 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, The DHSSPS Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011), Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines on quality standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation practice and training in primary dental care (November 2013), Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines on minimum equipment list for cardiopulmonary resuscitation in primary dental care (November 2013), and the British National Formulary (BNF) guidelines on medical emergencies in dental practice.

1.1 Actions/Enforcement Taken Following the Last Care Inspection

No actions were required to be taken following the last care inspection on 13 November 2014.

1.2 Actions/Enforcement Resulting from This Inspection

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

1.3 Inspection Outcome

	Requirements	Recommendations
Total number of requirements and recommendations made at this inspection	0	0

This inspection resulted in no requirements or recommendations being made. Findings of the inspection can be found in the main body of the report.

2. Service Details

Registered Organisation/Registered Person: Bangor Smiles Ltd Mr Andrew Mercer	Registered Manager: Mrs Janice Barr
Person in Charge of the Practice at the Time of Inspection: Mr Andrew Mercer	Date Manager Registered: 15 December 2014
Categories of Care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of Registered Dental Chairs: 2

3. Inspection Focus

The themes for the 2015/16 year are as follows:

- medical and other emergencies; and
- recruitment and selection

4. Methods/Process

Specific methods/processes used in this inspection include the following:

Prior to inspection the following records were analysed: staffing information, patient consultation report and complaints declaration.

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr Andrew Mercer, registered person, Mrs Janice Barr, registered manager, a dental nurse and a receptionist.

The following records were examined during the inspection: relevant policies and procedures, training records, three staff personnel files, job descriptions, contracts of employment and the procedure for obtaining and reviewing patient medical histories.

5. The Inspection

5.1 Review of Requirements and Recommendations from the Previous Inspection

The previous inspection of the practice was an announced care inspection dated 13 November 2014. No requirements or recommendations were made during this inspection.

5.2 Review of Requirements and Recommendations from the last Care Inspection dated 13 November 2014

As above

5.3 Medical and Other Emergencies

Is Care Safe?

Review of training records and discussion with Mr Mercer, Mrs Barr and 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 the General Dental Council (GDC) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements.

Discussion with Mr Mercer, Mrs Barr and staff confirmed that they were knowledgeable regarding the arrangements for managing a medical emergency and the location of medical emergency medicines and equipment.

Review of medical emergency arrangements evidenced that emergency medicines are provided in keeping with the British National Formulary (BNF), and that emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines is retained in the practice. A robust system is in place to ensure that emergency medicines and equipment do not exceed their expiry date. There is an identified individual within the practice with responsibility for checking emergency medicines and equipment.

Discussion with Mr Mercer, Mrs Barr and staff and review of documentation demonstrated that recording and reviewing patients' medical histories is given high priority in this practice.

On the day of the inspection the arrangements for managing a medical emergency were found to be safe.

Is Care Effective?

The policy for the management of medical emergencies reflected best practice guidance. Protocols are available for staff reference outlining the local procedure for dealing with the various medical emergencies.

Discussion with Mr Mercer, Mrs Barr and staff demonstrated that they have a good understanding of the actions to be taken in the event of a medical emergency and the practice policies and procedures.

Discussion with Mr Mercer, Mrs Barr and staff confirmed that there have been no medical emergencies in the practice since the previous inspection.

On the day of the inspection the arrangements for managing a medical emergency were found to be effective.

Is Care Compassionate?

Review of standard working practices demonstrated that the management of medical and other emergencies incorporate the core values of privacy, dignity and respect.

During discussion Mr Mercer, Mrs Barr and staff demonstrated a good knowledge and understanding of the core values that underpins all care and treatment in the practice.

On the day of the inspection the arrangements for managing a medical emergency were found to be compassionate.

Areas for Improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of Requirements:	0	Number of Recommendations:	0
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5.4 Recruitment and Selection

Is Care Safe?

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

Three personnel files of staff recruited since registration with RQIA were examined. The following was noted:

- positive proof of identity, including a recent photograph
- evidence that an enhanced AccessNI check was received prior to commencement of employment
- two written references
- details of full employment history, including an explanation of any gaps in employment
- documentary evidence of qualifications, where applicable
- evidence of current GDC registration, where applicable
- criminal conviction declaration on application
- confirmation that the person is physically and mentally fit to fulfil their duties, and
- evidence of professional indemnity insurance, where applicable

A staff register was retained containing staff details including, name, date of birth, position; dates of employment; and details of professional qualification and professional registration with the GDC, where applicable.

Mr Mercer and Mrs Barr confirmed that a robust system is in place to review the professional indemnity status of registered dental professionals who require individual professional indemnity cover. A review of a sample of records demonstrated that the appropriate indemnity cover is in place.

On the day of the inspection recruitment and selection procedures were found to be safe.

Is Care Effective?

The dental service's recruitment and selection procedures comply with all relevant legislation including checks to ensure qualifications, registrations and references are bona fide.

Three personnel files were reviewed. It was noted that each file included a contract of employment/agreement and job description.

Induction programme templates are in place relevant to specific roles within the practice. A sample of three evidenced that induction programmes are completed when new staff join the practice.

Discussion with Mr Mercer, Mrs Barr and staff confirmed that staff have been provided with a job description, contract of employment/agreement and have received induction training when they commenced work in the practice.

Discussion with staff confirmed that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Clinical staff spoken with confirmed that they have current GDC registration and that they adhere to GDC CPD requirements.

On the day of the inspection recruitment and selection procedures were found to be effective.

Is Care Compassionate?

Review of recruitment and selection procedures demonstrated good practice in line with legislative requirements.

Recruitment and selection procedures, including obtaining an enhanced AccessNI check, minimise the opportunity for unsuitable people to be recruited in the practice.

Discussion with Mr Mercer, Mrs Barr and staff demonstrated that they have a good knowledge and understanding of the GDC Standards for the Dental Team and the Scope of Practice.

Discussion with staff demonstrated that the core values of privacy, dignity, respect and patient choice are understood.

On the day of the inspection recruitment and selection procedures were found to be compassionate.

Areas for Improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of Requirements:	0	Number of Recommendations:	0
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5.5 Additional Areas Examined

5.5.1 Staff Consultation/Questionnaires

During the course of the inspection the inspector spoke with Mr Mercer, registered person, Mrs Barr, registered manager, a dental nurse and a receptionist. Questionnaires were also provided to staff prior to the inspection by the practice on behalf of the RQIA. Six were returned to RQIA within the timescale required.

Review of submitted questionnaires and discussion with staff evidenced that they were provided with a job description and contract of employment/agreement on commencing work in the practice. Staff also confirmed that induction programmes are in place for new staff which includes the management of medical emergencies. Staff confirmed that annual training is provided on the management of medical emergencies. Some of the submitted staff questionnaires included comments as follows:

- “I feel confident that the service given within our practice is of a high standard. Everyone tries to give the best care to patients”
- “We aim to provide a high quality service to our patients, ensuring compliance with the health care standards and regulations”
- “All staff take a lot of pride in their work. We all try to make the patients feel at ease and offer a high standard of quality care”
- “I find the practice to a high standard of care and service”

5.5.2 Complaints

It is not in the remit of RQIA to investigate complaints made by or on the behalf of individuals, as this is the responsibility of the providers. However, if there is considered to be a breach of regulation as stated in The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, RQIA has a responsibility to review the issues through inspection.

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 January 2014 to 31 March 2015.

5.5.3 Patient Consultation

The need for consultation with patients is outlined in The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, Regulation 17 (3) and The Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment 2011, Standard 9. A patient consultation questionnaire was forwarded by RQIA to the practice for completion. A copy of the most recent patient satisfaction report was submitted to RQIA prior to the inspection.

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.

No requirements or recommendations resulted from this inspection.

I agree with the content of the report.

Registered Manager	Mrs Janice Barr	Date Completed	18/03/2016
Registered Person	Mr Andrew Mercer	Date Approved	18/03/2016
RQIA Inspector Assessing Response	Carmel McKeegan	Date Approved	25/03/2016

Please provide any additional comments or observations you may wish to make below:

****Please ensure this document is completed in full and returned to independent.healthcare@rqia.org.uk from the authorised email address****

It should be noted that this inspection report should not be regarded as a comprehensive review of all strengths and weaknesses that exist in the practice. The findings set out are only those which came to the attention of RQIA during the course of this inspection. The findings contained within this report do not absolve the registered person(s) from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with minimum standards and regulations.