

# Announced Care and Variation to Registration Inspection Report 28 January 2021



## Dental Solutions

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

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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
- review of the areas for improvement identified during the previous care inspection (where applicable)

## 2.0 Profile of service

Dental Solutions is registered with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) as an independent hospital (IH) with a dental treatment category of care. The practice provides general dental services. An application to vary the registration was submitted to us by Mr Ciaran Gillan, Responsible Individual, in respect of Dental Solutions to increase the number of dental chairs from one to two.

## 3.0 Service details

<b>Organisation/Registered Provider:</b> C G Advance Solutions Ltd  <b>Responsible Individual:</b> Mr Ciaran Gillan	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Mr Ciaran Gillan
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Mr Ciaran Gillan	<b>Date Manager registered:</b> 26 March 2012
<b>Categories of care:</b> Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	<b>Number of registered places:</b> One increasing to two following the inspection

## 4.0 Inspection summary

We undertook a combined announced and variation to registration inspection on 28 January 2021 from 11:00 to 12:30 hours.

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 variation to registration application was submitted to RQIA to increase the number of registered dental chairs from one to two.

Mr Phil Cunningham, RQIA senior estates inspector, completed a remote review of the application and supporting documents and approved the variation to registration application from an estates perspective.

We undertook a tour of some areas of the premises and met with the practice manager and a dental nurse. We reviewed relevant records and documents in relation to the day to day operation of the practice and in respect of the variation application.

A poster informing patients that an inspection was being conducted was displayed during the inspection.

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.

The variation to registration, in respect of the increase in the number of registered dental chairs from one to two, was approved from a care and estates perspective following this inspection.

#### 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 the practice manager 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 18 November 2019

The most recent inspection of the establishment was an announced care inspection.

#### 4.3 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 18 November 2019

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

#### 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
- the variation application and associated documents

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. Questionnaire responses are discussed in section 6.7 of the report.

The findings of the inspection were provided to the practice manager 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 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
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**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 was 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 June 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.

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

**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 premises including the new dental surgery. We noted that the clinical and decontamination areas were clean, tidy and uncluttered. We found that the areas of the practice reviewed were fully equipped to meet the needs of patients.

We observed an area on one wall in the decontamination room, where a notice board had previously been situated, required redecorating. We also noted signage that had not been laminated. This was discussed during feedback and following the inspection we were informed the areas identified had been addressed.

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 face 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 the 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. Staff 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 were informed that one member of staff had commenced work 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. We were informed that all newly recruited clinical staff members, who were new to dentistry, would be automatically referred to occupational health.

**Areas of good practice: Infection prevention and control**

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

**Areas for improvement: Infection prevention and control**

We identified no areas for improvement regarding infection prevention and control.

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

**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 confirmed that the decontamination of reusable dental instruments was being audited in line with best practice outlined in HTM 01-05 using the IPS audit tool.

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 found that appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfecter and steam steriliser 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. Staff confirmed that sufficient dental instruments were available to service the second dental surgery.

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

**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 Gillan, Responsible Individual, 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. 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 three patients submitted responses to RQIA. We found all three 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.

We also invited staff to complete an electronic questionnaire prior to the inspection. No staff submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA.

## 6.8 Additional areas associated with the Variation to Registration

### 6.8.1 Statement of purpose

A statement of purpose was prepared in a recognised format which covered the key areas and themes outlined in Regulation 7, Schedule 1 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

### 6.8.2 Patient guide

A patient guide was prepared in a recognised format which covered the key areas and themes specified in regulation 8 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

### 6.8.3 Infection Prevention and Control

We assessed the additional second surgery and found that it was finished to a good standard. The flooring was impervious and coved where it meets the walls. The cabinetry was compliant with best practice providing seamless surfaces conducive to effective cleaning with the exception of some identified gaps in the worktops. Following the inspection we were informed that the gaps in the worktops had been sealed effectively.

We observed that a dedicated hand washing basin was available and a laminated/wipe-clean poster promoting hand hygiene was displayed close to the hand wash basin. We noted an adequate supply of liquid soap and disposable paper towels were provided.

We discussed the arrangements for the storage and collection of general and clinical waste, including sharps waste. Staff told us that used sharps boxes will be locked with the integral lock and stored ready for collection away from public access. We observed that the access to clinical and general waste in the new surgery was not in keeping with best practice guidance. We discussed this with the practice manager and following the inspection we were informed that this issue had been addressed.

Staff told us the new dental chair operated an independent bottled-water system and confirmed that the dental unit water lines (DUWLs) would be appropriately managed.

#### 6.8.4 Radiology and radiation safety

We observed an intra-oral x-ray machine had been installed in the new surgery.

Following installation, x-ray producing equipment is subject to a critical examination and acceptance test in accordance with The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018. We noted that this was completed for the x-ray machine in the new surgery. We confirmed that the critical examination report had been reviewed and endorsed by the Radiation Protection Advisor (RPA) on 29 June 2020.

We were informed that the new intra-oral x-ray machine is under manufacturer's warranty and will be serviced and maintained in keeping with the manufacturer's instructions.

### 6.9 Conclusion

As discussed in Section 4.0 of this report Mr Phil Cunningham, RQIA senior estates inspector, undertook a remote review of the premises section of the variation to registration application and approved the registration application from an estates perspective.

The variation to registration in respect of the increase in the number of registered dental chairs from one to two was approved from a care and estates perspective following this inspection.

### 6.10 Total number of areas for improvement

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

### 7.0 Quality improvement plan (QIP)

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



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