

Announced Care Inspection Report 24 April 2019



Dentistry @ Markethill Ltd

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

Address: 82 Main Street, Markethill, Armagh, BT60 1PL

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Inspector: Philip Colgan

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 2019/20 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
- conscious sedation
- infection prevention and control
- decontamination of reusable dental instruments
- radiology and radiation safety
- complaints
- review of areas for improvement from the last inspection

2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with four registered places providing general dental services.

3.0 Service details

Registered organisation/registered person: Dentistry @ Markethill Ltd Mr Paul Reaney	Registered manager: Mr Paul Reaney
Person in charge of the practice at the time of inspection: Mr Paul Reaney	Date manager registered: 12 May 2014
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 4

4.0 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 22 May 2018

No further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 22 May 2018.

4.1 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 22 May 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 24 April 2019 from 08.00 to 09.15.

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).

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

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr Paul Reaney, registered person, and a dental nurse. A tour of some areas of the premises was also undertaken.

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

5.1 Management of medical emergencies

Management of medical emergencies

A review of arrangements in respect of the management of a medical emergency evidenced that emergency medicines, in keeping with the British National Formulary (BNF), and emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines, were retained. A robust system was in place to ensure that emergency medicines and equipment do not exceed their expiry date.

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 October 2018.

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 Conscious sedation

Conscious sedation helps reduce anxiety, discomfort, and pain during certain procedures. This is accomplished with medications and (sometimes) local anaesthesia to induce relaxation.

Mr Reaney confirmed that conscious sedation is not provided.

5.3 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, evidenced that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice. It was confirmed that should the audit identify areas for improvement, an action plan would be generated to address the issues identified.

The audits are carried out by the dental nurses on a rotational basis and staff confirmed that the findings of audits are discussed at staff meetings. This process will help to empower staff and will promote staff understanding of the audit, IPC procedures and best practice and provide the staff member with verifiable continuing professional development (CPD).

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.

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

5.4 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.

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 a washer disinfector, three DAC universals and a steam steriliser, has 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

5.5 Radiology and radiation safety

Radiology and radiation safety

The practice has four surgeries, three of which has an intra-oral x-ray machine and an orthopan tomogram machine (OPG), which is located in a separate room.

Mr Reaney, 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.

A dedicated radiation protection file containing all relevant information was in place. Mr Reaney regularly reviews the information contained within the file to ensure that it is current.

The appointed RPA completes a quality assurance check every three years. A review of the report of the most recent visit by the RPA in April 2018 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.

All dentists take 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

5.6 Complaints management

There was a complaints policy and procedure in place which was in accordance with legislation and Department of Health (DoH) guidance on complaints handling. Patients and/or their representatives were made aware of how to make a complaint by way of the patient's guide and information on display in the practice. Discussion with staff confirmed that they had received training on complaints management and were knowledgeable about how to respond to complaints.

Review of the complaints records confirmed that arrangements were in place to effectively manage complaints from patients, their representatives or any other interested party. Records of complaints included details of any investigation undertaken, all communication with complainants, the outcome of the complaint and the complainant's level of satisfaction. Arrangements were in place to share information about complaints and compliments with staff.

The practice retains compliments received, e.g. thank you letters and cards and there are systems in place to share these with staff.

Areas of good practice

A review of the arrangements in respect of complaints evidenced that good governance arrangements were in place.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

5.7 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 staff.

5.8 Patient and staff views

Patient and staff views

Fifteen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All responses indicated that they felt their care was safe, 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. The following comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses:

- “We have received a very high level of care and attention at the practice. Paul and his team are very professional and we are extremely satisfied with our treatment.”
- “Easy to get an appointment always.”
- “This is the best dentist I have been to in my 66 years.”
- “A very pleasant friendly practice. Always very obliging.”

RQIA also invited staff to complete an electronic questionnaire prior to the inspection. Thirteen completed staff questionnaires were received. No comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses.

5.9 Total 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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