



Announced Care Inspection Report 2 February 2021



Lisburn Road Dental & Implant Clinic

Type of Service: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment
Address: 424 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GN
Tel No: 028 9038 2262
Inspector: Carmel McKeegan

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

Lisburn Road Dental and Implant Clinic 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 three registered dental surgeries and provides general dental services, private and National Health Care (NHS) treatment. The practice also offers dental treatment by conscious sedation using intravenous (IV) sedation.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Person: Mr Greg Finnegan Responsible Individual: Mr Greg Finnegan	Registered Manager: Mr Greg Finnegan
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mr Greg Finnegan	Date manager registered: 22 October 2012
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: Three

4.0 Inspection summary

We undertook an announced inspection on 2 February 2020 from 10:00 to 11.45 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).

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 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.

We undertook a tour of some areas of the premises, met with Mr Greg Finnegan, Registered Person, a dental nurse and a receptionist; and reviewed relevant records and documents in relation to the day to day operation of the practice.

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 a dental nurse and a receptionist 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 6 March 2020

The most recent inspection of the establishment was an announced 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 6 March 2020

Areas for improvement from the last care inspection		
Action required to ensure compliance with The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005		Validation of compliance
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 15 (1) (b) Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that a critical examination and acceptance test is completed for the cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) machine, and forwarded to RQIA upon return of the QIP. Once completed, the critical examination report must be reviewed and endorsed by the radiation protection advisor (RPA), and any recommendations made addressed. This report should be retained in the radiation protection folder.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We confirmed that a critical examination and acceptance test was completed for the CBCT machine on 17 March 20 which was endorsed by the RPA. A copy of this report was retained and available for 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 12.4 Stated: Second time	The registered person shall ensure that Buccolam pre-filled syringes are available in the various doses and quantity as recommended by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB).	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We reviewed the emergency medications retained for use in the event of a medical emergency and were able to confirm that Buccolam medication in pre-filled syringe format was provided in sufficient doses and quantity compliant with HSCB guidance.	
Area for improvement 2 Ref: Standard 13.4 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that the equipment used in the decontamination process is appropriately validated in keeping with Health Technical Memorandum HTM 01-05.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We found that a washer disinfector, a DAC Universal and a steam steriliser were in place to meet the decontamination requirements of the practice. We reviewed records which confirmed that these machines had been validated on 25 September 2020.	
Area for improvement 3 Ref: Standard 13.4 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that periodic tests for the equipment used in the decontamination process are undertaken and recorded in keeping with Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We confirmed that individual log books were retained in respect of the washer disinfector, the DAC Universal and the steriliser machines. We found staff were knowledgeable of the required periodic tests to be completed in respect of each machine and confirmed that all periodic tests had been undertaken and recorded in keeping with HTM 01-05.	

Area for improvement 4 Ref: Standard 8.3 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that the reports of the most recent visits by the RPA for the CBCT and the hand-held intra-oral x-ray equipment are made available for review by RQIA. Evidence of compliance with any recommendations made by the RPA must be retained in the radiation protection folder.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: As previously stated the most recent RPA report for the CBCT undertaken on 27 March 2020 was in place. We confirmed that any recommendations made regarding the CBCT machine had been addressed. We were confirmed the most recent critical examination of the hand held oral-x-ray machine was undertaken on 18 June 2019. We were informed that due to the impact of Covid-19 the RPA was providing a test kit by post to complete annual performance report for the hand held oral-x-ray machine to be completed later this month.	
Area for improvement 5 Ref: Standard 8.3 Stated: First time	The registered person shall ensure that x-ray equipment is serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Service reports should be retained in the radiation protection folder.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We confirmed through discussion with staff and review of documentation that the CBCT machine had been serviced and arrangements had been made for the annual performance report for the hand held x-ray machine.	

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.

We issued posters to the practice prior to the inspection inviting patients and staff to complete an electronic questionnaire. No completed patient or staff questionnaires were received by us prior to the inspection.

We spoke with Mr Greg Finnegan, Registered Person, at the beginning of the inspection who advised us that the dental nurse and the receptionist present would facilitate the inspection. We found the dental nurse and receptionist knowledgeable in all areas discussed and reviewed throughout our inspection.

The findings of the inspection were provided to the dental nurse and the receptionist 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 Mr Finnegan 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 during December 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
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 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 FFP2 or FFP3 masks. An FFP2 or 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 FFP2 or 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 majority of appropriate staff had been fit tested for FFP3 masks. We were informed that where FFP3 fit testing was not successful these staff had been successfully fit tested for FFP2 masks in keeping with HSCB guidance.

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 a new member of staff, who would work in the clinical area, was in the process of being recruited. We confirmed that the Hepatitis B record regarding this staff member, generated by an occupational health (OH) department, was in place to evidence their Hepatitis B vaccination status. We confirmed that a process was in place to ensure that any new clinical staff member, who was 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 on 6 October 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 disinfector, a DAC Universal and a 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.

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 Finnegan was in day to day charge of the practice, therefore the unannounced quality monitoring visits by the Registered Provider were not applicable.

6.6 Nitrous oxide risk assessment

Nitrous Oxide is therapeutically important in the delivery of inhalational sedation for the provision of certain procedures, or the treatment of particular individuals. On 6 September 2017 the Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC) issued an alert about the risks associated

with nitrous oxide waste gases. This alert included specific actions to be taken by practices offering inhalational sedation.

On 3 February 2021 the Public Health Agency in conjunction with the HSCB issued a reminder of best practice guidance with regard to the NIAIC alert issued on 6 September 2017.

As previously discussed the practice offers dental treatment by conscious sedation using intravenous (IV) sedation only. Mr Finnegan and staff informed us that inhalation sedation is not offered within the practice.

6.7 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 who spoke with us demonstrated that equality data collected was managed in line with best practice.

6.8 Patient and staff views

As discussed in section 5.0 of this report we invited patients and staff to complete an online questionnaire. No completed patient or staff questionnaires were submitted to RQIA.

6.9 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

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