

Inspection Report

4 June 2021



Bupa Dental Care – Dungannon

Type of service: Independent Hospital (IH) - Dental Treatment

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Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

Information on legislation and standards underpinning inspections can be found on our website <https://www.rqia.org.uk/> [The Independent Health Care Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2005](#) and [Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment \(March 2011\)](#)

1.0 Service information

Organisation/Registered Provider: Xeon Smiles UK Limited	Registered Manager: Miss Laura Mattingley
Responsible Individual: Ms Zara Doyle	Date registered: 11 May 2021
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Miss Laura Mattingley	Number of registered places: Seven
Categories of care: Independent Hospital – Dental Treatment	
Brief description of the accommodation/how the service operates: Bupa Dental Care Limited is registered with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) as an independent hospital with a dental treatment category of care. The practice provides health service and private dental care and treatment without conscious sedation. Bupa Dental Care Limited is the parent company of Xeon Smiles UK Limited and is the registered organisation for 20 dental practices registered with RQIA. Ms Zara Doyle is the responsible individual for Bupa Dental Care Limited.	

2.0 Inspection summary

This was an announced inspection, undertaken by a care inspector on 4 June 2021 from 9.50 am to 1.05 pm.

It focused on the themes for the 2021/22 inspection year and assessed progress with any areas for improvement identified during or since the last care inspection.

There was evidence of good practice in relation to the recruitment and selection of staff; staff training; management of medical emergencies; infection prevention and control; decontamination of reusable dental instruments; the practices' adherence to best practice guidance in relation to COVID-19; radiology and radiation safety; management of complaints; and governance arrangements.

No immediate concerns were identified regarding the delivery of front line patient care.

3.0 How we inspect

RQIA is required to inspect registered services in accordance with legislation. To do this, we gather and review the information we hold about the service, examine a variety of relevant records, meet and talk with staff and management and observe practices on the day of the inspection.

The information obtained is then considered before a determination is made on whether the practice is operating in accordance with the relevant legislation and minimum standards. Examples of good practice are acknowledged and any areas for improvement are discussed with the person in charge and detailed in the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

4.0 What people told us about the service

We were unable to meet with patients on the day of the inspection. Posters were issued to Bupa Dental Care Limited before the inspection inviting patients and staff to complete an electronic questionnaire.

No patient questionnaires were submitted before the inspection.

One staff member submitted an electronic questionnaire and indicated that they felt patient care was safe and effective, that patients were treated with compassion and that the service was well led. This staff member included a positive comment, indicating that there was good communication and staff worked hard to ensure a high standard of care.

All staff spoken with talked about the practice in positive terms and no areas of concern were raised throughout the inspection.

5.0 The inspection

5.1 What has this practice done to meet any areas for improvement identified at or since last inspection?

The last inspection to Bupa Dental Care Limited was undertaken on 25 August 2020; no areas for improvement were identified.

5.2 Inspection findings

5.2.1 Does the practice's recruitment and selection procedures comply with all relevant legislation?

There were robust recruitment and selection policies and procedures, that adhered to legislative and best practice that ensured suitably skilled and qualified staff work in the practice. It was noted that the recruitment policy was dated January 2016.

Policies should be reviewed at least every three years or sooner if required per best practice. Miss Mattingley was asked to raise this issue with the Bupa compliance team who are responsible for updating corporate policies. Miss Mattingley readily agreed to this.

Bupa Dental Care Limited have a corporate human resources (HR) shared services department. The corporate HR department supports registered managers during the recruitment process. The HR department are responsible for developing job descriptions, induction templates and employment contracts bespoke to roles and responsibilities; and issuing reference requests. The registered managers are responsible for ensuring all recruitment records have been sought and uploaded to the electronic HR system. Discussion with Miss Mattingley confirmed that she had a clear understanding of the legislation and best practice guidance.

Dental practices are required to maintain a staff register. A review of this register confirmed that it needed to be updated to include all required information for the most recently recruited staff members. Following the inspection, an up to date staff register was submitted to RQIA by encrypted email.

Two staff personnel files were reviewed and these evidenced that relevant recruitment records had been sought; reviewed and stored as required.

There was evidence of job descriptions and induction checklists for the different staff roles. A review of records confirmed that if a professional qualification is a requirement of the post, a registration check is made with the appropriate professional regulatory body.

Discussion with members of the dental team confirmed they have been provided with a job description, contract of employment/agreement and received induction training when they commenced work in the practice.

The recruitment of the dental team complies with the legislation and best practice guidance.

5.2.2 Are the dental team appropriately trained to fulfil the duties of their role?

Bupa Dental Care Limited subscribes to an online training provider, clinical staff can access training as identified within the General Dental Council (GDC) enhanced continuing professional development (CPD) scheme. Bupa Dental Care Limited also has an electronic platform called 'Monitoring and Oversight Compliance Tool' (MOT). Bupa Dental Care Limited has developed mandatory training topics bespoke to different roles and responsibilities. Staff can access the MOT system and complete Bupa mandatory training during induction and when refresher training is due. Registered managers can access the MOT system and see an overarching training record for all staff in the practice.

Policies and procedures are in place that outlines training to be undertaken, in line with any professional requirements, and the [training guidance](#) provided by RQIA.

Induction programmes relevant to roles and responsibilities had been completed when new staff joined the practice.

A record is kept of all training (including induction) and professional development activities undertaken by staff, which is overseen by the registered manager, to ensure that the dental team are suitably skilled and qualified.

The care and treatment of patients is being provided by a dental team that is appropriately trained to carry out their duties.

5.2.3 Is the practice fully equipped and are the dental team trained to manage medical emergencies?

The British National Formulary (BNF) and the Resuscitation Council (UK) specify the emergency medicines and medical emergency equipment that must be available to safely and effectively manage a medical emergency.

There was a medical emergency policy and procedure in place and a review of this evidenced that it was comprehensive, reflected legislation and best practice guidance. Protocols were available to guide the dental team on how to manage recognised medical emergencies.

Robust systems were in place to ensure that emergency medicines and equipment do not exceed their expiry date and are immediately available.

Managing medical emergencies is included in the dental team induction programme and training is updated annually. The records reviewed verified that the staff last completed medical emergency refresher training during September 2020.

Members of the dental team were able to describe the actions they would take, in the event of a medical emergency, and were familiar with the location of medical emergency medicines and equipment.

Sufficient emergency medicines and equipment were in place and the dental team are trained to manage a medical emergency in compliance with legislative requirements, professional standards and guidelines.

5.2.4 Does the dental team provide dental care and treatment using conscious sedation in line with the legislation and guidance?

Conscious sedation helps reduce anxiety, discomfort, and pain during certain procedures. This is accomplished with medications or medical gases to relax the patient.

Miss Mattingley confirmed that conscious sedation is not provided in Bupa Dental Care Limited.

5.2.5 Does the dental team adhere to infection prevention and control (IPC) best practice guidance?

The IPC arrangements were reviewed throughout the practice to evidence that the risk of infection transmission to patients, visitors and staff was minimised.

There was an overarching IPC policy and associated procedures in place. Review of these documents demonstrated that they were comprehensive and reflected legislative and best practice guidance in all areas. Miss Mattingley told us there was a nominated lead who had responsibility for IPC and decontamination in the practice.

During a tour of the practice, it was observed that clinical and decontamination areas were clean, tidy and uncluttered. All areas of the practice were fully equipped to meet the needs of patients.

The arrangements for personal protective equipment (PPE) were reviewed and it was noted that appropriate PPE was readily available for the dental team in accordance with the treatments provided.

Using the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) audit tool, IPC audits are routinely undertaken by members of the dental team to self-assess compliance with best practice guidance. The purpose of this audit is to assess compliance with 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. This audit also includes the decontamination of reusable dental instruments which is discussed further in the following section of this report. A review of these audits evidenced that they were completed on a six-monthly basis and, where applicable, an action plan was generated to address any improvements required.

Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for clinical members of the dental team as it protects them if exposed to this virus. A system was in place to ensure that relevant members of the dental team have received this vaccination. A review of two staff personnel files confirmed that vaccination history is checked during the recruitment process and retained in the staff members' personnel file.

Discussion with members of the dental team confirmed that they had received IPC training relevant to their roles and responsibilities and they demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of these procedures. A review of training records evidenced that the dental team had completed relevant IPC training and had received regular updates.

IPC arrangements evidenced that the dental team adheres to best practice guidance to minimise the risk of infection transmission to patients, visitors and staff.

5.2.6 Does the dental team meet current best practice guidance for the decontamination of reusable dental instruments?

Robust procedures and a dedicated decontamination room must be in place to minimise the risk of infection transmission to patients, visitors and staff in line with [Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices, \(HTM 01-05\)](#), published by the Department of Health.

There was a range of policies and procedures in place for the decontamination of reusable dental instruments that were comprehensive and reflected legislation, minimum standards and best practice guidance.

There was a designated decontamination room separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process. The design and layout of this room complied with best practice guidance and the equipment was sufficient to meet the requirements of the practice. The records showed the equipment for cleaning and sterilising instruments was inspected, validated, maintained and used in line with the manufacturers' guidance. A review of equipment logbooks demonstrated that all required tests to check the efficiency of the machines had been undertaken.

There was a lead for IPC as recommended by the published guidance. The lead had undertaken IPC training in line with their continuing professional development and had retained the necessary training certificates as evidence.

Discussion with members of the dental team confirmed that they had received training on the decontamination of reusable dental instruments in keeping with their role and responsibilities. They demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of the decontamination process and were able to describe the equipment treated as single use and the equipment suitable for decontamination.

Decontamination arrangements demonstrated that the dental team are adhering to current best practice guidance on the decontamination of dental instruments.

5.2.7 Are arrangements in place to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission?

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges in respect of how dental care and treatment is planned and delivered. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission precautions must remain in place as part of the ongoing response to the pandemic.

There were COVID-19 policies and procedures in place which were reflective of best practice guidance. A review of records evidenced that appropriate risk assessments concerning staffing; clinical treatments and clinical and non-clinical areas had been completed.

The management of operations in response to the pandemic was discussed with members of the dental team. These discussions included the application of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) operational guidance and focused on; social distancing, training of staff, and enhanced cross-infection control procedures.

There is an identified COVID-19 lead and arrangements are in place to ensure the dental team are regularly reviewing COVID-19 advisory information, guidance and alerts.

COVID-19 arrangements evidenced that robust procedures are in place to ensure the practice adheres to best practice guidance and to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

5.2.8 How does the dental team ensure that appropriate radiographs (x-rays) are taken safely?

The arrangements concerning radiology and radiation safety were reviewed to ensure that appropriate safeguards were in place to protect patients; visitors and staff from the ionising radiation produced by taking an x-ray.

Dental practices are required to notify and register any equipment producing ionising radiation with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) (Northern Ireland). A review of records evidenced the practice had registered with the HSE.

A radiation protection advisor (RPA), medical physics expert (MPE) and radiation protection supervisor (RPS) have been appointed in line with legislation. A dedicated radiation protection file containing the relevant local rules, employer's procedures and other additional information was retained. A review of the file confirmed that the dental team have been entitled by the RPS for their relevant duties and have received training concerning these duties. It was evidenced that all measures are taken to optimise radiation dose exposure. This included the use of rectangular collimation, x-ray audits and digital x-ray processing.

The RPS oversees radiation safety within the practice and regularly reviews the radiation protection file to ensure that it is accurate and up to date. A review of records confirmed that the RPS had entitled the dental team to undertake specific roles and responsibilities associated with radiology and ensure that these staff had completed appropriate training. Discussions with members of the dental team indicated they had good knowledge of radiology and radiation safety.

The appointed RPA must undertake critical examination and acceptance testing of all x-ray equipment within the timeframes specified in legislation. Review of the most recent report generated by the RPA dated August 2020 evidenced that the x-ray equipment had been examined and any recommendations made had been actioned.

The equipment inventory evidenced that the practice has seven surgeries, each of which has an intra-oral x-ray machine. In addition, there is a combined orthopan tomogram (OPG) and cone beam scanner (CBCT), which is located in a separate room. A copy of the local rules was on display near x-ray machines in the surgeries reviewed and appropriate staff had signed to confirm that they had read and understood these. The dental team demonstrated sound knowledge of the local rules and associated practice.

The x-ray equipment has been serviced and maintained following the manufacturer's instructions.

Quality assurance systems and processes were in place to ensure that all matters relating to x-rays reflect legislation and best practice guidance.

The radiology and radiation safety arrangements evidenced that robust procedures are in place to ensure that appropriate x-rays are taken safely.

5.2.9 How does a registered provider who is not in day to day management of the practice assure themselves of the quality of the services provided?

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.

As discussed in section 1.0, Bupa Dental Care Limited is operated by Xeon Smiles UK Limited which is part of Bupa Dental Care Limited. Ms Zara Doyle is the Responsible Individual for Bupa Dental Care Limited and she nominates a member of the senior management team to undertake the unannounced quality monitoring visits on her behalf. Ms Doyle receives a copy of the report generated for review and sign off. We reviewed the most recent unannounced quality monitoring visit reports dated 20 May 2021. Miss Mattingley stated that should these unannounced visits identify issues an action plan would be developed to address any deficits; including timescales and persons responsible for completing the actions. Miss Mattingley also confirmed that these reports are made available for patients, their representatives, staff, RQIA and any other interested parties to read.

5.2.10 Are complaints being effectively managed?

The arrangements for the management of complaints were reviewed to ensure that complaints were being managed in keeping with legislation and best practice guidance.

The complaints policy and procedure provided clear instructions for patients and staff to follow. 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.

Arrangements were in place to record any complaint received in a complaints register and retain all relevant records including details of any investigation undertaken, all communication with complainants, the outcome of the complaint and the complainant's level of satisfaction.

A review of records concerning complaints evidenced that complaints had been managed following best practice guidance. Miss Mattingley confirmed that a complaints audit would be undertaken to identify trends, drive quality improvement and enhance service provision.

The dental team were knowledgeable on how to deal with and respond to complaints in keeping with practice policy and procedure. Arrangements were in place to share information with the dental team about complaints, including any learning outcomes, and also compliments received.

Complaints were being managed effectively in accordance with legislation best practice guidance.

5.2.11 Does the dental team have suitable arrangements in place to record equality data?

The arrangements concerning 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 were discussed with staff. Miss Mattingley and staff advised that equality data collected is managed in line with best practice.

6.0 Conclusion

Based on the inspection findings and discussions held this service is well led and provides safe, effective and compassionate care.

7.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Miss Mattingley, Registered Manager, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.



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