



The Regulation and  
Quality Improvement  
Authority

## **Announced Inspection**

**Name of Establishment:** M B McElhom Dental Practice  
**Establishment ID No:** 11594  
**Date of Inspection:** 26 November 2014  
**Inspector's Name:** Stephen O'Connor  
**Inspection No:** 20444

**The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority**  
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**1.0 General Information**

<b>Name of establishment:</b>	M B McElholm Dental Practice
<b>Address:</b>	54 Malone Road Belfast BT9 5BS
<b>Telephone number:</b>	028 9066 1511
<b>Registered organisation / registered provider:</b>	Ms Maria McElholm
<b>Registered manager:</b>	Ms Maria McElholm
<b>Person in charge of the establishment at the time of inspection:</b>	Ms Maria McElholm
<b>Registration category:</b>	IH-DT
<b>Type of service provision:</b>	Private dental treatment
<b>Maximum number of places registered: (dental chairs)</b>	4
<b>Date and type of previous inspection:</b>	Announced Inspection 13 December 2013
<b>Date and time of inspection:</b>	26 November 2014 09:55–11:55
<b>Name of inspector:</b>	Stephen O'Connor

## 2.0 Introduction

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) is empowered under The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 to inspect dental practices providing private dental care and treatment. A minimum of one inspection per year is required.

This is a report of the announced inspection to assess the quality of services being provided. The report details the extent to which the standards measured during inspection were met.

## 3.0 Purpose of the Inspection

The purpose of this inspection was to consider whether the service provided to patients was in accordance with their assessed needs and preferences and was in compliance with legislative requirements, minimum standards and other good practice indicators. This was achieved through a process of analysis and evaluation of available evidence.

RQIA not only seeks to ensure that compliance with regulations and standards is met but also aims to use inspection to support providers in improving the quality of services. For this reason, inspection involves in-depth examination of an identified number of aspects of service provision.

The aims of the inspection were to examine the policies, practices and monitoring arrangements for the provision of dental care, and to determine the provider's compliance with the following:

- The HPSS (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;
- The Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment 2011; and
- Health Technical Memorandum HTM 01-05: Decontamination in Primary Care Dental Practices and Professional Estates Letter (PEL) (13) 13.

Other published standards which guide best practice may also be referenced during the inspection process.

#### 4.0 Methods/Process

Committed to a culture of learning, the RQIA has developed an approach which uses self-assessment, a critical tool for learning, as a method for preliminary assessment of achievement of the Minimum Standards.

The inspection process has three key parts; self-assessment (including completion of self-declaration), pre-inspection analysis and the inspection visit by the inspector.

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

- a self-assessment was submitted prior to the inspection and has been analysed;
- discussion with Ms Maria McElholm, registered provider;
- examination of relevant records;
- consultation with relevant staff;
- tour of the premises; and
- evaluation and feedback.

Any other information received by RQIA about this practice has also been considered by the inspector in preparing for this inspection.

#### 5.0 Consultation Process

During the course of the inspection, the inspector spoke with staff on duty. Questionnaires were provided to staff prior to the inspection by the practice, on behalf of the RQIA to establish their views regarding the service. Matters raised by staff were addressed by the inspector during the course of this inspection:

	<b>Number</b>	
<b>Discussion with staff</b>	3	
<b>Staff Questionnaires</b>	10 issued	8 returned

Prior to the inspection the registered person/s were asked, in the form of a declaration, to confirm that they have a process in place for consulting with service users and that a summary of the findings has been made available. The consultation process may be reviewed during this inspection.

## 6.0 Inspection Focus

The inspection sought to establish the level of compliance achieved with respect to the selected DHSSPS Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment and a thematic focus incorporating selected standards and good practice indicators. An assessment on the progress in relation to the issues raised during and since the previous inspection was also undertaken.

In 2012 the DHSSPS requested that RQIA make compliance with best practice in local decontamination, as outlined in HTM 01-05 Decontamination in Primary Care Dental Premises, a focus for the 2013/14 inspection year.

The DHSSPS and RQIA took the decision to review compliance with best practice over two years. The focus of the two years is as follows:

- Year 1 – Decontamination – 2013/14 inspection year
- Year 2 - Cross infection control – 2014/15 inspection year

### **Standard 13 – Prevention and Control of Infection [Safe and effective care]**

**The dental service takes every reasonable precaution to make sure you are not exposed to risk of infection.**

The decontamination section of the Infection Prevention Society Audit tool, which has been endorsed by the Department of Health, was used as a framework for development of a self-assessment tool and for planned inspections during 2013/14.

The following sections of the 2013 edition of the Infection Prevention Society Audit tool, which has been endorsed by the Department of Health have been used as a framework for the development of a self-assessment tool and for planned inspections in 2014/15:

- prevention of blood-borne virus exposure;
- environmental design and cleaning;
- hand hygiene;
- management of dental medical devices;
- personal protective equipment; and
- waste.

A number of aspects of the decontamination section of the audit tool have also been revisited.

RQIA have highlighted good practice guidance sources to service providers, making them available on our website where possible. Where appropriate, requirements will be made against legislation and recommendations will be made against DHSSPS Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011) and other recognised good practice guidance documents.

The registered provider/manager and the inspector have each rated the practice's compliance level against each section of the self-assessment.

The table below sets out the definitions that RQIA has used to categorise the service's performance:

<b>Guidance - Compliance statements</b>		
<b>Compliance statement</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Resulting Action in Inspection Report</b>
<b>0 - Not applicable</b>		A reason must be clearly stated in the assessment contained within the inspection report.
<b>1 - Unlikely to become compliant</b>		A reason must be clearly stated in the assessment contained within the inspection report.
<b>2 - Not compliant</b>	Compliance could not be demonstrated by the date of the inspection.	In most situations this will result in a requirement or recommendation being made within the inspection report.
<b>3 - Moving towards compliance</b>	Compliance could not be demonstrated by the date of the inspection. However, the service could demonstrate a convincing plan for full compliance by the end of the Inspection year.	In most situations this will result in a requirement or recommendation being made within the inspection report.
<b>4 – Substantially Compliant</b>	Arrangements for compliance were demonstrated during the inspection. However, appropriate systems for regular monitoring, review and revision are not yet in place.	In most situations this will result in a recommendation, or in some circumstances a requirement, being made within the inspection report.
<b>5 – Compliant</b>	Arrangements for compliance were demonstrated during the inspection. There are appropriate systems in place for regular monitoring, review and any necessary revisions to be undertaken.	In most situations this will result in an area of good practice being identified and comment being made within the inspection report.

## 7.0 Profile of Service

M B McElholm Dental Practice is located within a former residential building which has been adapted to accommodate a dental practice. The practice is situated on the Malone Road in South Belfast.

Private car parking is available for patients.

The establishment is not accessible for patients with a disability as the surgeries are on the first floor. However, arrangements are in place to accommodate patients with a disability who cannot access the surgery.

M B McElholm Dental Practice operates four dental chairs, providing both private and NHS dental care. Ms McElholm is supported by an associate dentist, two hygienists, and a team of dental nurses, administrative staff and a practice manager.

The practice is a training practice approved by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA). A dental foundation year one (DF1) trainee is undergoing a current placement in the practice.

A reception, a waiting area and toilet facilities are available for patient use. A decontamination room and staff and storage facilities and an office are also available.

Ms McElholm has been the registered provider and manager of M B McElholm Dental Practice since initial registration with RQIA on the 02 December 2011.

The establishment's statement of purpose outlines the range of services provided.

This practice is registered as an independent hospital (IH) providing dental treatment (DT).

## 8.0 Summary of Inspection

This announced inspection of M B McElholm Dental Practice was undertaken by Stephen O'Connor on 26 November 2014 between the hours of 09:55 and 11:55. Ms McElholm, registered provider was available during the inspection and for verbal feedback at the conclusion of the inspection. The practice manager facilitated the inspection and was also available for verbal feedback at the conclusion of the inspection.

As the previous inspection resulted in no requirements or recommendations being made, no follow up was required during this inspection.

Prior to the inspection, Ms McElholm completed a self-assessment using the standard criteria outlined in the theme inspected. The comments provided by Ms McElholm in the self-assessment were not altered in any way by RQIA. The self-assessment is included as appendix one in this report.

During the course of the inspection the inspector met with staff, discussed operational issues, examined a selection of records and carried out a general inspection of the establishment.

Questionnaires were also issued to staff; eight were returned to RQIA within the timescale required. Review of submitted questionnaires and discussion with staff evidenced that staff were knowledgeable regarding the inspection theme and that they have received training appropriate to their relevant roles. Staff confirmed that they are familiar with the practice policies and procedures and have received training in infection prevention and control. Clinical staff confirmed that they have been immunised against Hepatitis B.

Comments included on submitted questionnaires can be found in section 11.1 of this report.

### Inspection Theme – Cross infection control

Dental practices in Northern Ireland have been directed by the DHSSPS, that best practice recommendations in the Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05, Decontamination in primary care dental practices, along with Northern Ireland amendments, should have been fully implemented by November 2012. HTM 01-05 was updated in 2013 and Primary Care Dental Practices were advised of this through the issue of Professional Estates Letter (PEL) (13) 13 on 01 October 2013. The PEL (13) 13 advised General Dental Practitioners of the publication of the 2013 version of HTM 01-05 and the specific policy amendments to the guidance that apply in Northern Ireland.

RQIA reviewed the compliance of the decontamination aspect of HTM 01-05 in the 2013/2014 inspection year. The focus of the inspection for the 2014/2015 inspection year is cross infection control. A number of aspects of the decontamination section of HTM 01-05 have also been revisited.

A copy of the 2013 edition of HTM 01-05 Decontamination in primary dental care practices is available at the practice for staff reference. Staff are familiar with best practice guidance outlined in the document and audit compliance on an ongoing basis.

The practice has a policy and procedure in place for the prevention and management of blood-borne virus exposure, including management of spillages, sharps and inoculation incidents in accordance with national guidance. Review of documentation and discussion with Ms McElholm and staff evidenced that appropriate arrangements are in place for the prevention and management of blood-borne virus exposure. Staff confirmed that they are aware of, and are adhering to, the practice policy in this regard. Sharps management at the practice was observed to be in line with best practice.

The premises were clean and tidy and clutter was kept to a minimum. Satisfactory arrangements are in place for the cleaning of the general environment and dental equipment. Recommendations were made to remove fabric chairs and curtains from the dental surgeries and that arrangements should be established to repair/reupholstered the torn dental chair.

The practice has a hand hygiene policy and procedure in place and staff demonstrated that good practice is adhered to in relation to hand hygiene. Dedicated hand washing basins are available in the appropriate locations. Information promoting hand hygiene is provided for staff and patients.

A written scheme for the prevention of legionella is available. Procedures are in place for the use, maintenance, service and repair of all medical devices. Observations made and discussion with staff confirmed that dental unit water lines (DUWLs) are appropriately managed.

The practice has a policy and procedure in place for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and staff spoken with demonstrated awareness of this.

Observations made confirmed that PPE was readily available and used appropriately by staff.

Appropriate arrangements were in place for the management of general and clinical waste, including sharps. Waste was appropriately segregated and suitable arrangements were in place for the storage and collection of waste by a registered waste carrier. Relevant consignment notes are retained in the practice for at least three years.

A decontamination room separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process is available. Appropriate validated equipment, including a washer disinfectant and four steam sterilisers have been provided to meet the practice requirements. Equipment logbooks evidenced that periodic tests are undertaken and recorded in keeping with HTM 01-05.

The evidence gathered through the inspection process concluded that M B McElholm Dental Practice is compliant with this inspection theme.

Ms McElholm confirmed on the submitted self-assessment that arrangements are in place for consultation with patients, at appropriate intervals, that feedback provided by patients has been used by the service to improve, and that results of the consultation have been made available to patients.

Two recommendations were made as a result of the announced inspection, details can be found in the main body of the report and the attached Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

The inspector wishes to thank Ms McElholm and staff for their helpful discussions, assistance and hospitality throughout the inspection process.

## **9.0 Follow-up on Previous Issues**

No requirements or recommendations were made as a result of the previous inspection.

## 10.0 Inspection Findings

### 10.1 Prevention of Blood-borne virus exposure

<p><b>STANDARD 13 – Prevention and Control of Infection (Safe and effective care)</b>  <b>The dental service takes every reasonable precaution to make sure you are not exposed to risk of infection.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criteria Assessed:</b>  <b>11.2</b> You receive care and treatment from a dental team (including temporary members) who have undergone appropriate checks before they start work in the service.  <b>13.2</b> Your dental service adheres to the appropriate infection control policies and procedures in line with current best practice and legislation.  <b>13.3</b> Your dental service has systems in place, including induction and ongoing training, to make sure these policies and procedures are known, and are being appropriately applied to the service at all times.</p>	
<p><b>Inspection Findings:</b>  Ms McElholm rated the practice arrangements for the prevention of blood-borne virus exposure as compliant on the self-assessment.</p> <p>The practice has a policy and procedure in place for the prevention and management of blood-borne virus exposure, including management of spillages, sharps and inoculation incidents in accordance with national guidance.</p> <p>Review of documentation and discussion with staff evidenced that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the prevention and management of blood-borne virus exposure is included in the staff induction programme;</li> <li>• staff training has been provided for clinical staff;</li> <li>• all recently appointed staff have received an occupational health check; and</li> <li>• records are retained regarding the Hepatitis B immunisation status of clinical staff.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion with staff confirmed that they are aware of the policies and procedures in place for the prevention and management of blood-borne virus exposure.</p> <p>Observations made and discussion with staff evidenced that sharps are appropriately handled. Sharps boxes are wall mounted, appropriately used, signed and dated on assembly and final closure. Used sharps boxes are locked with the integral lock and stored ready for collection away from public access.</p> <p>Discussion with staff and review of documentation evidenced that arrangements are in place for the management of a sharps injury, including needle stick injury. Staff are aware of the actions to be taken in the event of a sharps injury.</p>	

<b>Provider’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Compliant</b>
<b>Inspector’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Compliant</b>

## 10.2 Environmental design and cleaning

<p><b>STANDARD 13 – Prevention and Control of Infection (Safe and effective care)</b>  <b>The dental service takes every reasonable precaution to make sure you are not exposed to risk of infection.</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion Assessed:</b>  <b>13.1</b> Your dental service's premises are clean.</p>
<p><b>Inspection Findings:</b></p> <p>Ms McElholm rated the practice arrangements for environmental design and cleaning as moving towards compliance on the self-assessment.</p> <p>The practice has a policy and procedure in place for cleaning and maintaining the environment.</p> <p>The inspector undertook a tour of the premises to include two of the four dental surgeries and the decontamination room; these areas were found to be maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. Clinical and decontamination areas were tidy and uncluttered and work surfaces were intact and easy to clean. The floor covering in the decontamination room is impervious and coved at the edges.</p> <p>Laminated wood effect flooring has been laid in all dental surgeries. Although impervious, clean and in a good state of repair the floors are not in keeping with best practice guidance due to the joints between the laminate boards. Best practice guidance in regards to flooring in clinical areas as outlined in HTM 01-05 was discussed with Ms McElholm and the inspector advised that a time limited refurbishment plan should be developed to replace the floors in all clinical areas.</p> <p>In general fixtures, fittings, dental chairs and equipment were free from damage, dust and visible dirt, with the exception of the dental chair in surgery two which is torn. This was discussed with Ms McElholm who confirmed that temporary infection prevention and control measures are in place in regards to the torn dental chair. A recommendation was made to establish arrangements to repair/reupholstered the torn dental chair.</p> <p>Surgery two has a fabric covered armchair and the windows are dressed with fabric curtains and pelmets, surgery four also has fabric curtains. The inspector advised that the use of porous materials in clinical areas should be avoided and a recommendation was made to address this.</p> <p>The two surgeries reviewed both were wallpapered with an embossed wallpaper that had been painted. The use of wallpaper in clinical areas was discussed with Ms McElholm and the inspector advised that the use of wallpaper in clinical areas should be avoided. The inspector advised that consideration should be given to finished wall surfaces during the next refurbishment of the dental surgeries.</p> <p>Discussion with staff confirmed that appropriate arrangements are in place for cleaning including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equipment surfaces, including the dental chair, are cleaned between each patient;</li> <li>• daily cleaning of floors, cupboard doors and accessible high level surfaces;</li> <li>• weekly/monthly cleaning schedule;</li> <li>• cleaning equipment is colour coded;</li> <li>• cleaning equipment is stored in a non-clinical area; and</li> <li>• dirty water is disposed of at an appropriate location.</li> </ul>

Discussion with staff and review of submitted questionnaires confirmed that staff had received relevant training to undertake their duties.

The practice has a local policy and procedure for spillage in accordance with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) and staff spoken with demonstrated awareness of this.

<b>Provider's overall assessment of the dental practice's compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Moving Towards Compliance</b>
<b>Inspector's overall assessment of the dental practice's compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Substantially compliant</b>

### 10.3 Hand Hygiene

<p><b>STANDARD 13 – Prevention and Control of Infection (Safe and effective care)</b>  <b>The dental service takes every reasonable precaution to make sure you are not exposed to risk of infection.</b></p>
<p><b>Criteria Assessed:</b>  <b>13.2</b> Your dental service adheres to the appropriate infection control policies and procedures in line with current best practice and legislation.  <b>13.3</b> Your dental service has systems in place, including induction and ongoing training, to make sure these policies and procedures are known, and are being appropriately applied to the service at all times.</p>
<p><b>Inspection Findings:</b>  Ms McElholm rated the practice arrangements for hand hygiene as compliant on the self-assessment.</p> <p>The practice has a hand hygiene policy and procedure in place.</p> <p>Review of documentation and discussion with Ms McElholm and staff demonstrated that hand hygiene is included in the induction programme and that hand hygiene training is updated periodically.</p> <p>Discussion with staff confirmed that hand hygiene is performed before and after each patient contact and at appropriate intervals. Observations made evidenced that clinical staff had short clean nails and jewellery such as wrist watches and stoned rings were not worn in keeping with good practice.</p> <p>Dedicated hand washing basins are available in the dental surgeries and the decontamination room and adequate supplies of liquid soap, paper towels and disinfectant rub/gel were available. Staff confirmed that nail brushes and bar soap are not used in the hand hygiene process in keeping with good practice.</p> <p>Laminated /wipe-clean posters promoting hand hygiene were on display in dental surgeries and the decontamination room. The inspector suggested that these posters are also displayed in toilet facilities.</p>

<p><b>Provider’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b></p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>
<p><b>Inspector’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b></p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>

## 10.4 Management of Dental Medical Devices

<p><b>STANDARD 13 – Prevention and Control of Infection (Safe and effective care)</b>  <b>The dental service takes every reasonable precaution to make sure you are not exposed to risk of infection.</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion Assessed:</b>  <b>13.4</b> Your dental service meets current best practice guidance on the decontamination of reusable dental and medical instruments.</p>
<p><b>Inspection Findings:</b>  Ms McElholm rated the practice approach to the management of dental medical devices as compliant on the self-assessment.</p> <p>The practice has an infection control policy that includes procedures for the use, maintenance, service and repair of all medical devices.</p> <p>The inspector reviewed the written scheme for the prevention of legionella contamination in water pipes and other water lines and discussion with Ms McElholm and staff demonstrated that this is adhered to.</p> <p>Staff confirmed that impression materials, prosthetic and orthodontic appliances are decontaminated prior to despatch to laboratory and before being placed in the patient's mouth.</p> <p>Observations made and discussion with staff confirmed that DUWLs are appropriately managed. This includes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• filters are cleaned/replaced as per manufacturer's instructions;</li> <li>• an independent bottled-water system is used to dispense reverse osmosis (RO) water to supply the DUWLs;</li> <li>• self-contained water bottles are removed, flushed with RO water and left open to the air for drying on a daily basis in accordance with manufacturer's guidance;</li> <li>• DUWLs are drained at the end of each working day;</li> <li>• DUWLs are flushed at the start of each working day and between every patient;</li> <li>• DUWLs and handpieces are fitted with anti-retraction valves; and</li> <li>• DUWLs are purged using disinfectant as per manufacturer's recommendations.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Provider's overall assessment of the dental practice's compliance level against the standard assessed</b></p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>
<p><b>Inspector's overall assessment of the dental practice's compliance level against the standard assessed</b></p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>

## 10.5 Personal Protective Equipment

<p><b>STANDARD 13 – Prevention and Control of Infection (Safe and effective care)</b>  <b>The dental service takes every reasonable precaution to make sure you are not exposed to risk of infection.</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion Assessed:</b>  <b>13.2</b> Your dental service adheres to the appropriate infection control policies and procedures in line with current best practice and legislation.  <b>13.3</b> Your dental service has systems in place, including induction and ongoing training, to make sure these policies and procedures are known, and are being appropriately applied to the service at all times.</p>
<p><b>Inspection Findings:</b>  Ms McElholm rated the practice approach to the management of personal protective equipment (PPE) as compliant on the self-assessment.</p> <p>The practice has a policy and procedure in place for the use of PPE and staff spoken with demonstrated awareness of this. Review of documentation demonstrated that the use of PPE is included in the induction programme.</p> <p>Observations made and discussion with staff evidenced that PPE was readily available and in use in the practice.</p> <p>Discussion with staff confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hand hygiene is performed before donning and following the removal of disposable gloves;</li> <li>• single use PPE is disposed of appropriately after each episode of patient care;</li> <li>• heavy duty gloves are available for domestic cleaning and decontamination procedures where necessary; and</li> <li>• eye protection for staff and patients is decontaminated after each episode.</li> </ul> <p>Staff confirmed that they were aware of the practice uniform policy.</p>

<p><b>Provider’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b></p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>
<p><b>Inspector’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b></p>	<p><b>Compliant</b></p>

**10.6 Waste**

<b>STANDARD 13 – Prevention and Control of Infection (Safe and effective care)</b>	
<b>The dental service takes every reasonable precaution to make sure you are not exposed to risk of infection.</b>	
<b>Criterion Assessed:</b>	
<p><b>13.2</b> Your dental service adheres to the appropriate infection control policies and procedures in line with current best practice and legislation.</p> <p><b>13.3</b> Your dental service has systems in place, including induction and ongoing training, to make sure these policies and procedures are known, and are being appropriately applied to the service at all times..</p>	
<b>Inspection Findings:</b>	
<p>Ms McElholm rated the practice approach to the management of waste as compliant on the self-assessment.</p> <p>The practice has a policy and procedure in place for the management and disposal of waste in keeping with HTM 07-01. Review of documentation demonstrated that the management of waste is included in the induction programme and that waste management training is updated periodically.</p> <p>Review of documentation confirmed that contracted arrangements are in place for the disposal of waste by a registered waste carrier and relevant consignment notes are retained in the practice for at least three years. Review of documentation demonstrated that the practice has incorporated a clinical waste audit into its audit programme.</p> <p>Observations made and discussion with staff confirmed that they are aware of the different types of waste and appropriate disposal streams.</p> <p>Pedal operated bins are available throughout the practice.</p> <p>Appropriate arrangements are in place in the practice for the storage and collection of general and clinical waste, including sharps waste.</p> <p>The inspector observed adequate provision of sharps containers including those for pharmaceutical waste, throughout the practice. These were being appropriately managed as discussed in section 10.1 of the report.</p>	

<b>Provider’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Compliant</b>
<b>Inspector’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Compliant</b>

## 10.7 Decontamination

<p><b>STANDARD 13 – Prevention and Control of Infection (Safe and effective care)</b>  <b>The dental service takes every reasonable precaution to make sure you are not exposed to risk of infection.</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion Assessed:</b> 13.4          Your dental service meets current best practice guidance on the decontamination of reusable dental and medical instruments.</p>
<p><b>Inspection Findings:</b></p> <p>Ms McElholm rated the decontamination arrangements of the practice as compliant on the self-assessment.</p> <p>A decontamination room separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process is available.</p> <p>Appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfector and four steam sterilisers have been provided to meet the practice requirements.</p> <p>Review of documentation evidenced that equipment used in the decontamination process has been appropriately validated.</p> <p>Review of equipment logbooks evidenced that periodic tests are undertaken and recorded in keeping with HTM 01-05.</p>

<b>Provider’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Compliant</b>
<b>Inspector’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Compliant</b>

<b>Inspector’s overall assessment of the dental practice’s compliance level against the standard assessed</b>	<b>Compliance Level</b>
	Compliant

## **11.0 Additional Areas Examined**

### **11.1 Staff Consultation/Questionnaires**

During the course of the inspection, the inspector spoke with the practice manager and two dental nurses. Questionnaires were also provided to staff prior to the inspection by the practice on behalf of the RQIA. Eight were returned to RQIA within the timescale required.

Review of submitted questionnaires and discussion with staff evidenced that staff were knowledgeable regarding the inspection theme and that they have received training appropriate to their relevant roles. Staff confirmed that they are familiar with the practice policies and procedures and have received training in infection prevention and control. Clinical staff confirmed that they have been immunised against Hepatitis B.

The following comments were included in submitted questionnaires:

- “We are provided training throughout the year which is very beneficial for my role in the practice”.
- “Very good and thorough staff training. CPD hours acquired during working hours”.
- “Staff meetings are held at a minimum of every other week which helps with communication and training”.
- “Overall I feel the care and service provided within the practice is to a good standard and there is a good team ethic”.
- “M B McElholm Dental Practice provides very well run and comprehensive staff training on all areas of clinical practice”.

### **11.2 Patient Consultation**

Ms McElholm confirmed on the submitted self-assessment that arrangements are in place for consultation with patients, at appropriate intervals, that feedback provided by patients has been used by the service to improve, and that results of the consultation have been made available to patients. A report generated during November 2014 detailing the findings of the most recent patient satisfaction survey was reviewed during the inspection.

## **12.0 Quality Improvement Plan**

The details of the Quality Improvement Plan appended to this report were discussed with Ms McElholm as part of the inspection process.

The timescales for completion commence from the date of inspection.

The registered provider/manager is required to record comments on the Quality Improvement Plan.

Matters to be addressed as a result of this inspection are set in the context of the current registration of your premises. The registration is not transferable so that in the event of any future application to alter, extend or to sell the premises the RQIA would apply standards current at the time of that application.

Enquiries relating to this report should be addressed to:

**Stephen O'Connor**  
**The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority**  
**9th Floor**  
**Riverside Tower**  
**5 Lanyon Place**  
**Belfast**  
**BT1 3BT**

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**Stephen O'Connor**  
**Inspector/Quality Reviewer**

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**Date**



A completed Quality Improvement Plan from the inspection of this service has not yet been returned.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this report please contact RQIA through the e-mail address [info@rqia.org.uk](mailto:info@rqia.org.uk)



## Quality Improvement Plan

### Announced Inspection

**M B McElholm Dental Practice**

**26 November 2014**

The areas where the service needs to improve, as identified during this inspection visit, are detailed in the inspection report and Quality Improvement Plan.

The specific actions set out in the Quality Improvement Plan were discussed with Ms Maria McElholm either during or after the inspection visit.

Any matters that require completion within 28 days of the inspection visit have also been set out in separate correspondence to the registered persons.

**Registered providers/managers should note that failure to comply with regulations may lead to further enforcement and/or prosecution action as set out in The HPSS (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.**

It is the responsibility of the registered provider/manager to ensure that all requirements and recommendations contained within the Quality Improvement Plan are addressed within the specified timescales.

Matters to be addressed as a result of this inspection are set in the context of the current registration of your premises. The registration is not transferable so that in the event of any future application to alter, extend or to sell the premises the RQIA would apply standards current at the time of that application.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

These recommendations are based on The Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011), research or recognised sources. They promote current good practice and if adopted by the registered person may enhance service, quality and delivery.

NO.	MINIMUM STANDARD REFERENCE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NUMBER OF TIMES STATED	DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN BY REGISTERED PERSON(S)	TIMESCALE
1	13	Establish arrangements to have the torn dental chair repaired/reupholstered.  <b>Ref: 10.2</b>	One		Three months
2	13	The following issues in dental surgeries should be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fabric covered chairs should be removed; and</li> <li>• fabric curtains should be removed.</li> </ul> <b>Ref: 10.2</b>	One		One month

The registered provider/manager is required to detail the action taken, or to be taken, in response to the issues raised in the Quality Improvement Plan. The Quality Improvement Plan is then to be signed below by the registered provider and registered manager and returned to:

Stephen O'Connor  
 The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority  
 9th floor  
 Riverside Tower  
 5 Lanyon Place  
 Belfast  
 BT1 3BT

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registered Provider

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registered Manager

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

QIP Position Based on Comments from Registered Persons		Yes	No	Inspector	Date
A	Quality Improvement Plan response assessed by inspector as acceptable				
B	Further information requested from provider				