

Announced Care Inspection Report

25 May 2016



Dental 32

Service Type: Dental Practice

Address: 32 Rainey Street, BT45 5AQ, Magherafelt

Tel No: 028 7963 3435

Inspector: Philip Colgan

1.0 Summary

An announced inspection of Dental 32 took place on 25 May 2016 from 08:40 to 10:50.

The inspection sought to determine if the service was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

Is care safe?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mr Robert Wallace and Miss Claire McMullan, registered persons, and a dental nurse demonstrated that systems and processes were in place to ensure that care provided in the establishment was safe and avoids and prevents harm. Areas reviewed included staffing, recruitment and selection, safeguarding, management of medical emergencies, infection prevention control and decontamination, radiology and the general environment. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

Is care effective?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan and a dental nurse demonstrated that systems and processes were in place to ensure that care provided in the establishment was effective. Areas reviewed included clinical records, health promotion, audits and communication. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

Is care compassionate?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan and a dental nurse demonstrated that arrangements were in place to promote patients' dignity, respect and involvement in decision making. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

Is the service well led?

Information gathered during the inspection evidenced that there was effective leadership and governance arrangements in place which creates a culture focused on the needs of patients in order to deliver safe, effective and compassionate care. Areas reviewed included organisational and staff working arrangements, the arrangements for policy and risk assessment reviews, the arrangements for dealing with complaints, incidents and alerts, insurance arrangements and the registered person's understanding of their role and responsibility in accordance with legislation. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

This inspection was underpinned by 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, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011).

While we assess the quality of services provided against regulations and associated DHSSPS care standards, we do not assess the quality of dentistry provided by individual dentists.

1.1 Inspection outcome

	Requirements	Recommendations
Total number of requirements and recommendations made at this inspection	0	0

This inspection resulted in no requirements or recommendations being made. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Mr Robert Wallace and Miss Claire McMullan, registered persons, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.

Enforcement action did not result from the findings of this inspection.

1.2 Actions/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection

There were no further actions required to be taken following the most recent inspection.

2.0 Service details

Registered organisation/ registered persons: Mr Robert Wallace and Miss Claire McMullan	Registered manager: Mr Robert Wallace
Persons in charge of the service at the time of inspection: Mr Robert Wallace and Miss Claire McMullan	Date manager registered: 25 August 2011
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 4

3.0 Methods/processes

Questionnaires were provided to patients and staff prior to the inspection by the practice on behalf of the RQIA. Prior to inspection we analysed the following records: staffing information, complaints declaration and returned completed staff and patient questionnaires.

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr Robert Wallace and Miss Claire McMullan, registered persons, and a dental nurse. A tour of the premises was also undertaken.

Records were examined during the inspection in relation to the following areas:

- staffing
- recruitment and selection
- safeguarding
- management of medical emergencies
- infection prevention and control

- radiography
- clinical record recording arrangements
- health promotion
- management and governance arrangements
- maintenance arrangements.

4.0 The inspection

4.1 Review of requirements and recommendations from the most recent inspection dated 19 May 2015

The most recent inspection of the establishment was an announced care inspection. No requirements or recommendations were made during this inspection.

4.3 Is care safe?

Staffing

Four dental surgeries are in operation in this practice. Discussion with a dental nurse and review of completed staff and patient questionnaires demonstrated that there was sufficient numbers of staff in various roles to fulfil the needs of the practice and patients.

Induction programme templates were in place relevant to specific roles and responsibilities. Review of the personnel files for recently employed staff members evidenced that induction programmes had been completed when new staff joined the practice.

Procedures were in place for appraising staff performance and staff confirmed that appraisals had taken place. The dental nurse confirmed that they felt supported and involved in discussions about their personal development. There is a system in place to ensure that all staff receive appropriate training to fulfil the duties of their role.

A review of records confirmed that a robust system was in place to review the General Dental Council (GDC) registration status and professional indemnity of all clinical staff.

Recruitment and selection

A review of the submitted staffing information and discussion with Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan confirmed that one staff member has been recruited since the previous inspection. A review of the personnel file for this staff member demonstrated that all the relevant information as outlined in Schedule 2 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 has been sought and retained.

There was a recruitment policy and procedure available. The policy was comprehensive and reflected best practice guidance.

Safeguarding

The dental nurse spoken with were aware of the types and indicators of abuse and the actions to be taken in the event of a safeguarding issue being identified including who the nominated safeguarding lead was.

Review of records demonstrated that all staff had received training in safeguarding children and adults as outlined in the Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment 2011.

Policies and procedures were in place for the safeguarding and protection of adults and children. The policy included the types and indicators of abuse and distinct referral pathways in the event of a safeguarding issue arising with an adult or child. The relevant contact details for onward referral to the local Health and Social Care Trust should a safeguarding issue arise were included.

Management of medical emergencies

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

Review of training records and discussion with a dental nurse 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.

Discussion with the dental nurse 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.

The policy for the management of medical emergencies reflected best practice guidance. Protocols were available for staff reference outlining the local procedure for dealing with the various medical emergencies.

Infection prevention control and decontamination procedures

Clinical and decontamination areas were tidy and uncluttered and work surfaces were intact and easy to clean. Fixtures, fittings, dental chairs and equipment were free from damage, dust and visible dirt. Staff were observed to be adhering to best practice in terms of uniform and hand hygiene policies.

Staff demonstrated that they had an understanding of infection prevention and control policies and procedures and were aware of their roles and responsibilities. The dental nurse confirmed that they have received training in infection prevention and control and decontamination in keeping with best practice. Training records were available for inspection.

There was a nominated lead who had responsibility for infection control and decontamination in the practice.

A decontamination room, separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process, was available. Appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant, a DAC Universal and three steam sterilisers have been provided to meet the practice requirements. A review of documentation evidenced that equipment used in the decontamination process has been appropriately validated. A review of equipment logbooks evidenced that periodic tests are undertaken and recorded in keeping with Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05 Decontamination in primary care dental practices.

It was confirmed that the practice continues to audit compliance with HTM 01-05 using the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) audit tool. The most recent IPS audit was completed within the last six months.

A range of policies and procedures were in place in relation to decontamination and infection prevention and control.

Radiography

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

The practice had a dedicated radiation protection file containing the relevant local rules, employer's procedures and other additional information. Records retained in the radiation protection file confirmed that staff have been authorised by the Radiation Protection Supervisor (RPS) for their relevant duties and have received local training in relation to these duties. Review of the radiation protection file and discussion with Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan evidenced that all measures are taken to optimise dose exposure. This included the use of rectangular collimation, x-ray audits and digital x-ray processing.

A copy of the local rules was on display near each x-ray machine and appropriate staff had signed to confirm that they had read and understood these. Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan demonstrated sound knowledge of the local rules and associated practice.

A review of the radiation protection file evidenced that the radiation protection advisor (RPA) completes a quality assurance check every three years. Review of the report of the most recent visit by the RPA demonstrated that no recommendations were made. A review of documentation demonstrated that the x-ray equipment has been serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

It was demonstrated during the inspection that quality assurance systems and processes were in place to ensure that all matters relating to x-rays reflect legislative and best practice guidance.

Environment

The environment was maintained to a high standard of maintenance and décor.

Detailed cleaning schedules were in place for all areas which were signed on completion. A colour coded cleaning system was in place.

Arrangements are in place for maintaining the environment. The documents reviewed included: servicing of boiler, fire detection systems, fire-fighting equipment, fixed electrical wiring installation and a legionella risk assessment.

The legionella risk assessment had been undertaken and water temperatures are monitored and recorded as recommended.

A fire risk assessment had been undertaken and staff confirmed that fire training and fire drills had been completed. Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan and the dental nurse demonstrated that they were aware of the action to take in the event of a fire.

A written scheme of examination of pressure vessels was also examined.

Patient and staff views

Five patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm. The following comments were provided:

- “I always feel safe”.
- “Professional care”.

Six staff submitted questionnaire responses. All indicated that they feel that patients are safe and protected from harm. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was provided:

- “Good Health and Safety procedures”.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements:	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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4.4 Is care effective?

Clinical records

Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan spoken with confirmed that clinical records are updated contemporaneously during each patient’s treatment session in accordance with best practice.

Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan confirmed that routine dental examinations include a review of medical history, a check for gum disease and oral cancers and that treatment plans are developed in consultation with patients. Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan confirmed that patients are informed about the cost of treatments, choices and options.

Both manual and computerised records are maintained. Electronic records have different levels of access afforded to staff dependent on their role and responsibilities. Appropriate systems and processes were in place for the management of records and maintaining patient confidentiality.

Policies were available in relation to records management, data protection and confidentiality and consent. The records management policy includes the arrangements in regards to the creation, storage, recording, retention and disposal of records and data protection. The policy is in keeping with legislation and best practice guidance.

Review of documentation demonstrated that the practice is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and that a Freedom of Information Publication Scheme has been established.

Health promotion

The practice has a strategy for the promotion of oral health and hygiene and confirmed that oral health is actively promoted on an individual level with patients during their consultations. There are two hygienists working in the practice. A range of health promotion information leaflets were available in the waiting area.

Audits

There were arrangements in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to patients at appropriate intervals which included:

- x-ray quality grading
- x-ray justification and clinical evaluation recording
- IPS HTM 01-05 compliance
- records
- review of complaints/ accidents/ incidents.

Communication

Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan confirmed that arrangements are in place for onward referral in respect of specialist treatments. A policy and procedure and template referral letters have been established.

Staff meetings are held on a regular basis to discuss clinical and practice management issues. Review of documentation demonstrated that minutes of staff meetings are retained. The dental nurse spoken with confirmed that meetings also facilitated both informal and formal in-house training sessions.

The dental nurse confirmed that there are good working relationships and there is an open and transparent culture within the practice.

A breaking bad news policy in respect of dentistry was in place.

Patient and staff views

All of the patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them. The following comments were provided:

- "Treatment and Care excellent".
- "All treatments carried out to a high standard".

All submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that patients get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comments were provided:

- “Lovely friendly staff who are always informative”
- “We have staff meetings to keep us up to date”.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements:	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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4.5 Is care compassionate?

Dignity, respect and involvement in decision making

The dental nurse demonstrated a good understanding of the core values of privacy, dignity, respect and patient choice. Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan confirmed that if they needed to speak privately with a patient that arrangements are provided to ensure the patient’s privacy is respected. Staff were observed to converse with patients and conduct telephone enquiries in a professional and confidential manner.

Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan were clear about the importance of emotional support needed when delivering care to patients who were very nervous or fearful of dental treatment.

Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan confirmed that treatment options including the risks and benefits were discussed with each patient. This ensured patients understood what treatment is available to them in order that they can make an informed choice. Discussion with Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan demonstrated how consent would be obtained.

The practice undertakes patient satisfaction surveys on an annual basis. Review of the most recent patient satisfaction report demonstrated that the practice pro-actively seeks the views of patients about the quality of treatment and other services provided. Patient feedback whether constructive or critical, is used by the practice to improve, as appropriate.

A policy and procedure was in place in relation to confidentiality which included the arrangements for respecting patient’s privacy, dignity and providing compassionate care and treatment.

Patient and staff views

All of the patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care. The following comment was provided:

- “Have always been treated with the utmost care”.

All submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that patients are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was provided:

- “Patients are given very high level of service”.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements:	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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4.6 Is the service well led?

Management and governance arrangements

There was a clear organisational structure within the practice and the dental nurse was able to describe their roles and responsibilities and were aware of who to speak to if they had a concern. The dental nurse confirmed that there were good working relationships and that management were responsive to any suggestions or concerns raised. There was a nominated individual with overall responsibility for the day to day management of the practice.

Policies and procedures were available for staff reference. Observations made confirmed that policies and procedures were indexed, dated and systematically reviewed on a three yearly basis. The dental nurse was aware of the policies and how to access them.

Arrangements were in place to review risk assessments.

A copy of the complaints procedure was available in the practice. Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan demonstrated a good awareness of complaints management. A complaints questionnaire was forwarded by RQIA to the practice for completion. The evidence provided in the returned questionnaire indicated that complaints have been managed in accordance with best practice.

A system was in place to ensure that notifiable events were investigated and reported to RQIA or other relevant bodies as appropriate. A system was also in place to ensure that urgent communications, safety alerts and notices are reviewed and where appropriate, made available to key staff in a timely manner.

Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan confirmed that arrangements were in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to patients at appropriate intervals. If required an action plan is developed and embedded into practice to address any shortfalls identified during the audit process.

A whistleblowing/raising concerns policy was available. Discussion with the dental nurse confirmed that they were aware of who to contact if they had a concern.

Mr Wallace and Miss McMullan demonstrated a clear understanding of their role and responsibility in accordance with legislation.

Information requested by RQIA has been submitted within specified timeframes. It was confirmed that the Statement of Purpose and Patient’s Guide are kept under review, revised and updated when necessary and available on request.

The RQIA certificate of registration was up to date and displayed appropriately.

Observation of insurance documentation confirmed that current insurance policies were in place.

Patient and staff views

All of the patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that the service is well managed. The following comment was provided:

- “Yes, I feel that the service is extremely well managed. All the staff are courteous, friendly and professional”.

All submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that the service is well led. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comments were provided:

- “Practice owners always very approachable and listen to ideas”.
- “We have staff meetings to keep us up to date”.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements:	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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No requirements or recommendations resulted from this inspection.

Please provide any additional comments or observations you may wish to make below:

**Please ensure this document is completed in full and returned to RQIA’s Office.*



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