

Announced Care Inspection Report 02 October 2020



B M Withers Dental Practice

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

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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

B M Withers Dental Practice is an independent hospital (IH) with a dental treatment category of care. The practice has one registered dental surgery and provides general dental services.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: Mr Benjamin Withers	Registered Manager: Mr Benjamin Withers
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mr Benjamin Withers	Date manager registered: 29 July 2014
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 1

4.0 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 05 July 2019

The most recent inspection of B M Withers Dental Practice was an announced care inspection. The completed Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) was returned and approved by the care inspector.

4.1 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 05 July 2019

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 38 (a) Stated: First time	The Registered Person must ensure that all members of the dental team providing treatment under conscious sedation have received appropriate supervised theoretical, practical and clinical training before undertaking independent practice in keeping with Conscious Sedation in The Provision of Dental Care (2003).	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: We reviewed training records and found that all members of the dental team providing treatment under conscious sedation had received relevant training in keeping with best practice.	

<p>Area for improvement 2</p> <p>Ref: Regulation 15 (6)</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>The Registered Person shall develop and maintain a system for the reconciliation of Midazolam used for the purposes of intravenous (IV) sedation in keeping with legislative and best practice guidance.</p>	<p>Met</p>
<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>We were told that a system for the reconciliation of Midazolam used for the purposes of IV sedation had been developed.</p> <p>We reviewed the Midazolam reconciliation log and noted a discrepancy in the recording of the amount of Midazolam retained in the practice. This is discussed further in section 6.2.</p>		
<p>Action required to ensure compliance with The Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011)</p>		<p>Validation of compliance</p>
<p>Area for improvement 1</p> <p>Ref: Standard 8.6</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>The Registered Person shall develop an overarching conscious sedation policy in keeping with best practice guidelines as specified in 'Conscious Sedation In The Provision of Dental Care' (2003).</p>	<p>Met</p>
<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>We reviewed the conscious sedation policy and found that it was in keeping with best practice guidelines as specified in 'Conscious Sedation In The Provision of Dental Care' (2003).</p>		
<p>Area for improvement 2</p> <p>Ref: Standard 13</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>The procedure for the decontamination of dental handpieces should be reviewed to ensure that they are decontaminated in keeping with manufacturer's instructions and Professional Estates Letter (PEL) (13) 13. Compatible handpieces should be processed in the washer disinfector.</p>	<p>Met</p>
<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>We were informed that all compatible handpieces were being processed in the washer disinfector.</p>		

5.0 Inspection summary

We undertook an announced inspection on 02 October 2020 from 11:00 to 12:30 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 undertook a tour of the premises, met with Mr Benjamin Withers, Registered Person and the lead dental nurse; and reviewed relevant records and documents in relation to the day to day operation of the practice.

We found evidence of good practice in relation to the 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; and governance arrangements.

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

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

5.1 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 Mr Withers, Registered Person, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.

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 with Mr Withers, and application of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) operational guidance. 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, in general, medicines were safely, securely and effectively managed in compliance with legislative requirements, professional standards and guidelines. As discussed we noted a discrepancy in regards to the recording of Midazolam in the reconciliation log and the amount of Midazolam available in stock. Mr Withers agreed to investigate this discrepancy and immediately following the inspection evidence was submitted to RQIA to account for the discrepancy identified.

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 the lead dental nurse 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 October 2019. 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 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 FFP3 masks. An FFP3 face 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 FFP3 mask offers the desired level of protection is for the wearer to be fit tested for a particular make and model of the mask. We reviewed the fit testing records and confirmed that the appropriate staff had been fit tested for FFP3 masks.

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. Mr Withers 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.

Mr Withers told us that no new staff have commenced work in the practice since the previous inspection and that records confirming the Hepatitis B vaccination status of staff have been retained. Mr Withers is aware that in the future all newly recruited clinical staff members, who are new to dentistry, would be automatically referred to occupational health.

Areas of good practice: Infection prevention and control

We reviewed the current arrangements with respect to infection prevention and control practice and evidenced good practice that was being actively reviewed.

Areas for improvement: Infection prevention and control

We identified no areas for improvement regarding infection prevention and control.

	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 confirmed that the decontamination of reusable dental instruments was being audited in line with best practice outlined in HTM 01-05 using the IPS audit tool.

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 during July 2020 and found that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified both areas of good practice and areas that require to be improved, as applicable.

We found that appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant and 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 Withers was in day to day charge of the practice, therefore the unannounced quality monitoring visits by the Registered Provider were not applicable.

6.6 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. Mr Withers told us that equality data collected was managed in line with best practice.

6.7 Patient and staff views

The practice distributed questionnaires to patients on our behalf and 18 patients submitted responses to RQIA. Patients told us they felt their care was safe and effective, that they were treated with compassion and that the service was well led. All patients indicated that they were very satisfied with each of these areas of their care.

One comment was included in the submitted questionnaire responses as follows:

- "It's a pleasure to go to Mr Withers and staff, can't speak highly enough about them. Great team."

We invited staff to complete an electronic questionnaire and no staff submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA.

6.8 Total number of areas for improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

7.0 Quality improvement plan

We identified no areas for improvement and a QIP is not required or included, as part of this inspection report.



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