

Announced Care Inspection Report 15 February 2017



Saintfield Dental Care

Type of service: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment
Address: 16-18 Main Street, Saintfield, Ballynahinch, BT24 7AA
Tel no: 028 9751 9055
Inspector: Elizabeth Colgan

www.rqia.org.uk

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

1.0 Summary

An announced inspection of Saintfield Dental Care took place on 15 February 2017 from 10.00 to 12.30.

The inspection sought to assess progress with any issues raised during and since the last care inspection and to determine if the practice 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 Peter Thompson, registered person and staff demonstrated that systems and processes were in place to ensure that care to patients 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 Thompson, registered person, and staff 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 Thompson, and staff demonstrated that arrangements are 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 provider'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 Peter Thompson, registered person, 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 person: Mr Peter Thompson	Registered manager: Mr Peter Thompson
Person in charge of the practice at the time of inspection: Mr Peter Thompson	Date manager registered: 4 November 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 patient and staff questionnaires.

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr Peter Thompson, registered person, an associate dentist and two dental nurses. 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 2 March 2016

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

4.2 Review of requirements and recommendations from the last care inspection dated 2 March 2016

As above.

4.3 Is care safe?

Staffing

Four dental surgeries are in operation in this practice. Discussion with staff and a review of completed patient and staff 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 for the majority of staff relevant to specific roles and responsibilities. Mr Thompson confirmed that informal induction programmes were available for dentists and dental hygienists a more formalised approach would be developed.

Procedures were in place for appraising staff performance and staff confirmed that appraisals had taken place. Staff confirmed that they felt supported and involved in discussions about their personal development. A review of a sample of three staff files evidenced that appraisals had been completed on an annual basis. There was a system in place to ensure that all staff receive appropriate training to fulfil the duties of their role. The review of staff training records evidenced that most staff retained an up to date record of their training. Mr Thompson confirmed that he would undertake a review of all staff folders to ensure records are up to date.

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 Thompson confirmed that two staff have been recruited since the previous inspection. A review of the personnel files for these staff 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

Staff 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.

An overarching policy was in place for the safeguarding and protection of adults and children at risk of harm. The policy did not fully reflect the new regional policy and guidance documents issued during July 2015 and March 2016. An updated safeguarding and protection of adults and children at risk of harm policy was forwarded to RQIA by electronic email on 21 February 2017. The relevant contact details for onward referral to the local Health and Social Care Trust should a safeguarding issue arise were included.

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. Mr Thompson confirmed that refresher training would be provided to staff regarding changes made to the safeguarding policy.

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 staff 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 staff 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 the uniform and hand hygiene policies.

Discussion with staff demonstrated that they had an understanding of infection prevention and control policies and procedures and were aware of their roles and responsibilities. Staff 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 one washer disinfectant 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 on 23 February 2017. 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 during January 2017.

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.

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 staff have been authorised by the radiation protection supervisor (RPS) for their relevant duties and have received local training in relation to these duties. It was 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. Staff spoken with demonstrated sound knowledge of the local rules and associated practice.

The radiation protection advisor (RPA) completes a quality assurance check every three years. Review of the report of the most recent visit on 23 July 2016 by the RPA demonstrated that the recommendations made have been addressed.

The x-ray equipment has been serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in February 2017.

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.

A legionella risk assessment was last undertaken in January 2017 and water temperature are monitored and recorded as recommended.

An updated fire risk assessment was forwarded to RQIA on 21 February 2017 and staff confirmed fire drills had been completed. Fire training was undertaken at staff meetings and records were available. A more formalised approach was discussed and Mr Thompson confirmed by electronic email on 21 February 2017 online training has been sourced, and all staff have been instructed to complete the online fire safety awareness training by the end of March 2017. Staff demonstrated that they were aware of the action to take in the event of a fire.

A written scheme of examination of pressure vessels has been undertaken and is to be renewed on 3 August 2017.

Patient and staff views

Sixteen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm.

Comments provided included the following:

- “Staff are all very approachable.”
- “All explained in plain language and friendly.”
- “The staff are considerate and welcoming.”
- “Always friendly and welcoming.”

Six staff submitted questionnaire responses. All indicated that they felt that patients are safe and protected from harm. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this.

Comments provided included the following:

- “Regular updates are provided for above. Premises tidy and nice to work in.”
- “We have regular staff meetings to ensure that we are all keeping patient care as a priority.”

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

Staff spoken with confirmed that clinical records are updated contemporaneously during each patient’s treatment session in accordance with best practice.

Routine dental examinations include a review of medical history, a check for gum disease and oral cancers and it was confirmed that treatment plans are developed in consultation with patients. It was 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.

The practice is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) until November 2017 and a Freedom of Information Publication Scheme has been established.

Health promotion

The practice has a strategy for the promotion of oral health and hygiene. There was a range of health promotion information leaflets available in the reception area. The practice has a health promotion outreach programme that they deliver in schools, girl's brigade and guides. Mr Thompson confirmed that oral health is actively promoted on an individual level with patients during their consultations.

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
- medical histories
- patient satisfaction surveys

Communication

Mr Thompson 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 monthly basis to discuss clinical and practice management issues. Review of documentation demonstrated that minutes of staff meetings are retained. Staff spoken with confirmed that meetings also facilitated informal and formal in house training sessions.

Staff 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 16 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them.

Comments provided included the following:

- “Excellent care here.”
- “Always helpful.”
- “I always get the right care.”

Six submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt 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 comment was provided in submitted questionnaire responses:

- “Patients are very satisfied with the treatment they receive.”

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

Staff spoken with demonstrated a good understanding of the core values of privacy, dignity, respect and patient choice. Staff 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.

The importance of emotional support needed when delivering care to patients who were very nervous or fearful of dental treatment was clear.

It was confirmed that treatment options, including the risks and benefits, were discussed with each patient. This ensured patients understood what treatment is available to them and can make an informed choice. Staff demonstrated how consent would be obtained.

The practice undertakes patient satisfaction surveys on an annual basis. Review of the most recent patient satisfaction report of January 2017 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 16 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care.

Comments provided included the following:

- “Very well looked after.”
- “Open and friendly staff with a professional outlook.”
- “Always treated with dignity and respect.”

Six submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt 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.

Comments provided included the following:

- “Yes patient’s treatment is always discussed with them prior to any work and all options are given to them so they can make an informed decision re their treatment.”
- “Patients are always complimentary about the care they receive and how friendly the staff are.”

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 staff were able to describe their roles and responsibilities and were aware of who to speak to if they had a concern. Staff confirmed that there were good working relationships and that management were responsive to any suggestions or concerns raised.

Mr Peter Thompson registered person has 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 yearly basis. Staff spoken with were aware of the policies and how to access them.

Arrangements were in place to review risk assessments.

A copy of the complaints procedure was displayed in the practice. Staff 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 Thompson 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 staff confirmed that they were aware of who to contact if they had a concern.

Mr Thompson, registered person demonstrated a clear understanding of his 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 16 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well managed.

Comments provided included the following:

- “Very knowledgeable staff.”
- “All staff know their role and function and explain things openly and balanced.”
- “Very well run practice.”
- “Always well informed.”

Six submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well led. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this.

Comments provided included the following:

- “The practice is well managed, management open to suggestions from staff.”
- I find management very approachable should I have any concerns regarding any aspect of our work.”

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	0
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5.0 Quality improvement plan

There were no issues identified during this inspection, and a QIP is neither required, nor included, as part of this inspection report.

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 registered provider from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with the regulations and standards.



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

9th Floor

Riverside Tower

5 Lanyon Place

BELFAST

BT1 3BT

Tel 028 9051 7500

Fax 028 9051 7501

Email info@rqia.org.uk

Web www.rqia.org.uk

 @RQIANews