

Announced Care Inspection Report 6 November 2019



South Down Dental Clinic

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

Address: Custom House, 22 Merchant Quay, Newry, BT35 6AH

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Inspector: Bridget Dougan

www.rqia.org.uk

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 2019/20 inspection year we are moving to a more focused, shorter inspection which will concentrate on the following key patient safety areas:

- management of medical emergencies
- arrangements in respect of conscious sedation, if applicable
- infection prevention and control
- decontamination of reusable dental instruments
- radiology and radiation safety
- management of complaints
- regulation 26 visits, if applicable
- review of areas for improvement from the last inspection, if applicable

2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with five registered places which provides specialised dental care and treatment to adults on a referral only basis.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: Miss Paula McHenry Mr Andrew Linton	Registered Manager: Miss Paula McHenry
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Miss Paula McHenry	Date manager registered: 13 June 2012
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 5

4.0 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 07 August 2018

The most recent inspection of the establishment was an announced care inspection. No areas for improvement were made during this inspection.

5.0 Inspection findings

An announced inspection took place on 06 November 2019 from 11.00 to 13.00.

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).

A poster informing patients that an inspection was being conducted was displayed.

During the inspection the inspector met with Miss Paula McHenry, registered person, the lead dental nurse, a dental nurse, a trainee dental nurse and a receptionist. A tour of some areas of the premises was also undertaken.

The findings of the inspection were provided to Miss McHenry and the lead dental nurse at the conclusion of the inspection.

5.1 Management of medical emergencies

Management of medical emergencies

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

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. The most recent occasion staff completed medical emergency refresher training was during February 2019.

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.

Areas of good practice

The review of the arrangements in respect of the management of a medical emergency confirmed that this dental practice takes a proactive approach to this key patient safety area. This includes ensuring that staff have the knowledge and skills to react to a medical emergency, should it arise.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

5.2 Conscious sedation

Conscious sedation helps reduce anxiety, discomfort, and pain during certain procedures. This is accomplished with medications and (sometimes) local anaesthesia to induce relaxation.

Miss McHenry confirmed that conscious sedation is provided in South Down Dental Clinic.

The practice offers intravenous sedation (IV) to patients. Medicines used during IV sedation were appropriately stored. A system was in place for each individual dentist, providing this type of sedation, for the ordering, administration, reconciliation and disposal of these drugs.

A policy and procedure in relation to the management of conscious sedation is in place.

It was established 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 best practice. Refresher training had been planned for 22 November 2019 for all clinical staff providing treatment under conscious sedation.

Review of the environment and equipment evidenced that conscious sedation is being managed in keeping with Conscious Sedation in The Provision of Dental Care (2003).

Review of care records evidenced that the justification for using sedation, consent for treatment; pre, peri and post clinical observations were recorded. Information was available for patients in respect of the treatment provided and aftercare arrangements.

Areas of good practice

A review of arrangements in respect of conscious sedation evidenced that all dental practitioners are providing conscious sedation treatments in keeping with best practice guidance.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

5.3 Infection prevention and control

Infection prevention and control (IPC)

During a tour of the premises, it was evident that the practice, including the clinical and decontamination areas, was clean, tidy and uncluttered.

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 personal protective equipment, hand hygiene practice, and waste and sharps management.

A review of the most recent IPS audit, completed during October 2019, evidenced that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice. The lead dental nurse confirmed that the dental nursing team completes the audit on a six monthly basis and, should the audit identify issues, an action plan would be generated and any learning would be immediately discussed with relevant staff.

Arrangements were in place to ensure that staff received IPC training commensurate with their roles and responsibilities and during discussion with staff it was confirmed that they had a good level of knowledge and understanding of IPC procedures.

Miss McHenry confirmed that a record was retained to evidence the Hepatitis B vaccination status of the most recently recruited staff member. Miss McHenry confirmed that the staff member had been referred to occupational health and was waiting to be seen and confirmation of this was submitted to RQIA following the inspection. Miss McHenry confirmed that all clinical staff members, new to dentistry, are referred to occupational health.

Areas of good practice

A review of the current arrangements evidenced that standards in respect of infection prevention and control practice are being given high priority. This includes proactively auditing practice, taking action when issues are identified and ensuring staff have the knowledge and skills to ensure standards are maintained.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

5.4 Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

A decontamination room separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process was available. The decontamination room facilitates the flow from dirty through to clean areas for the cleaning and sterilising of reusable instruments.

The processes in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments are being audited in line with best practice outlined in HTM 01-05 using the IPS audit tool.

Arrangements were in place to ensure that staff receives training in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments commensurate with their roles and responsibilities.

A review of current practice evidenced that arrangements are in place to ensure that reusable dental instruments are appropriately cleaned, sterilised and stored following use in keeping with best practice guidance as outlined in HTM 01-05.

Appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant and two steam sterilisers had been provided to meet the practice requirements. The equipment used in the decontamination process had been appropriately validated and inspected in keeping with the written scheme of examination and equipment logbooks evidenced that periodic tests are undertaken and recorded in keeping with HTM 01-05.

Staff are aware of what equipment in the practice should be treated as single use and what equipment is suitable for decontamination. It was confirmed that single use devices are only used for single-treatment episodes and disposed of following use.

Areas of good practice

A review of the current arrangements evidenced that best practice as outlined in HTM 01-05 is being achieved in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments. This includes proactively auditing practice, taking action when issues are identified and ensuring staff have the knowledge and skills to ensure standards are maintained.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

5.5 Radiology and radiation safety

Radiology and radiation safety

The practice has five surgeries, each of which has an intra-oral x-ray machine. In addition there is a Cone Beam Computerised Tomography (CBCT) scanner which is located in a separate room.

Miss McHenry, as the radiation protection supervisor (RPS), was aware of the most recent changes to the legislation surrounding radiology and radiation safety. A radiation protection advisor (RPA) and medical physics expert (MPE) have been appointed.

A dedicated radiation protection file containing all relevant information was in place. Miss McHenry regularly reviews the information contained within the file to ensure that it is current.

The appointed RPA completes a quality assurance check of the intra-oral x-ray machines every three years and the CBCT scanner annually. A review of the reports of the most recent visit by the RPA demonstrated that any recommendations made have been addressed.

Staff spoken with demonstrated sound knowledge of radiology and radiation safety in keeping with their roles and responsibilities.

Miss McHenry takes a proactive approach to radiation safety and protection by conducting a range of audits, including x-ray quality grading and justification and clinical evaluation recording.

Areas of good practice

A review of radiology and radiation safety arrangements evidenced that the radiation protection supervisor for this practice takes a proactive approach to the management of radiology and radiation safety.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

5.6 Complaints management

There was a complaints policy and procedure in place which was in accordance with legislation and DoH guidance on complaints handling. Patients and/or their representatives were made aware of how to make a complaint by way of the patient's guide and information on display in the practice. Discussion with staff confirmed that they had received training on complaints management and were knowledgeable about how to respond to complaints.

Review of the complaints records confirmed that arrangements were in place to effectively manage complaints from patients, their representatives or any other interested party. Records of complaints included details of any investigation undertaken, all communication with complainants, the outcome of the complaint and the complainant's level of satisfaction. Arrangements were in place to share information about complaints and compliments with staff. An audit of complaints was used to identify trends, drive quality improvement and to enhance service provision.

Areas of good practice

A review of the arrangements in respect of complaints evidenced that good governance arrangements were in place.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

5.7 Regulation 26 visits

Where the 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, Regulation 26 unannounced quality monitoring visits must be undertaken and documented every six months.

Miss McHenry and Mr Linton are in day to day charge of the practice, therefore Regulation 26 unannounced quality monitoring visits do not apply.

5.8 Equality data

Equality data

The arrangements in place in relation to 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 was discussed with Miss McHenry.

5.9 Patient and staff views

Eleven patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All patients indicated that 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.

RQIA also invited staff to complete an electronic questionnaire prior to the inspection. No completed staff questionnaires were received.

5.10 Total number of areas for improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.0 Quality improvement plan

There were no areas for improvement identified during this inspection, and a quality improvement plan (QIP) is not required or included, as part of this inspection report.



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