

Announced Care Inspection Report 19 February 2018



The Gentle Dental Clinic

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

Address: 39 Church Street, Warrenpoint, BT34 3HN

Tel no: 028 4175 2220

Inspector: Winifred Maguire

www.rgia.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



2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with four registered places providing NHS and private dental treatment.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: The Gentle Dental Clinic	Registered Manager: Mr Michael McManus
Responsible Individual: Mr Michael McManus	
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mr Michael McManus	Date manager registered: 11 April 2012
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: Four

4.0 Inspection summary

An announced inspection took place on 19 February 2108 from 10.00 to 12.30.

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, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011).

The inspection assessed progress with any areas for improvement identified 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.

Examples of good practice were evidenced in all four domains. These related to patient safety in respect of staff training and development, recruitment, safeguarding, the management of medical emergencies, infection prevention and control, radiology and the environment. Other examples included health promotion, engagement to enhance the patients' experience and governance arrangements.

There were no areas requiring improvement were identified during this inspection.

Patients who submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA indicated a high level of satisfaction with the services provided by The Gentle Dental Clinic. The following comment was provided:

- “Very happy.”
- “All staff are professional and pleasant. They are very approachable.”
- “I’m allowed the same dentist each time I go. I am always treated with care, dignity and respect. My dentist is always very aware of my health conditions and is always careful not to impact on them.”

The findings of this report will provide the practice with the necessary information to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities, enhance practice and patients experience.

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.

4.1 Inspection outcome

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Ms Deborah Croskey, practice manager and briefly with Mr Michael McManus, 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.

4.2 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection dated 14 December 2016

Other than those actions detailed in the QIP no further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 14 December 2016

5.0 How we inspect

Prior to the inspection a range of information relevant to the practice was reviewed. This included the following records:

- notifiable events since the previous care inspection
- the registration status of the establishment
- written and verbal communication received since the previous care inspection
- the returned QIP from the previous care inspection
- the previous care inspection report
- submitted staffing information
- submitted complaints declaration

Questionnaires were provided to patients prior to the inspection by the practice on behalf of RQIA. Returned completed patient questionnaires were also analysed prior to the inspection. Staff were requested to complete electronic questionnaires and submit them to RQIA and the practice was furnished with details of how to do this during the inspection. However RQIA did not receive any completed staff questionnaires.

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

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr McManus, registered person, Ms Croskey, practice manager and two dental nurses. A tour of the premises was also undertaken.

A sample of records was examined during the inspection in relation to the following areas:

- staffing
- recruitment and selection
- safeguarding
- management of medical emergencies
- infection prevention and control and decontamination
- radiography
- clinical record recording arrangements
- health promotion
- management and governance arrangements
- maintenance arrangements

Areas for improvement identified at the last care inspection were reviewed and assessment of compliance recorded as met, partially met, or not met.

The findings of the inspection were provided to the person in charge at the conclusion of the inspection.

6.0 The inspection

6.1 Review of areas for improvement from the most recent inspection dated 14 December 2016

The most recent inspection of the practice was an announced care inspection. The completed QIP was returned and approved by the care inspector.

6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 14 December 2016

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 of improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 15(1) Stated: First time	The registered person must ensure that all emergency medicines are provided in keeping with the British National Formulary (BNF), and that emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines is retained; a robust checking system should be implemented.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: It was noted all 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. There was a robust checking system in place.	
Action required to ensure compliance with The Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011)		Validation of compliance
Area of improvement 1 Ref: Standard 13(4) Stated: First time	Record the periodic testing of the decontamination equipment in the relevant logbooks.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: The periodic testing of the decontamination equipment was recorded in the relevant logbooks.	

<p>Area of improvement 2</p> <p>Ref: Standard 8(3)</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>Review the radiation protection file and ensure all information is current and up to date; particularly in light of the installation of a new OPG.</p>	<p>Met</p>
	<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>The radiation protection file contained all information including information on the OPG.</p>	
<p>Area of improvement 3</p> <p>Ref: Standard 8(4)</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>Ensure records of training in relation to radiology are retained in respect of all duty holders.</p>	<p>Met</p>
	<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>Records of training in relation to radiology were retained in respect of all duty holders.</p>	
<p>Area of improvement 4</p> <p>Ref: Standard 8(3)</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>Re-establish a quality of image x-ray audit on a six monthly basis and a justification and clinical evaluation audit annually.</p>	<p>Met</p>
	<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>A quality of image x-ray audit on a six monthly basis and a justification and clinical evaluation audit annually had been carried out.</p>	

6.3 Inspection findings

6.4 Is care safe?

Avoiding and preventing harm to patients and clients from the care, treatment and support that is intended to help them.

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 relevant to specific roles and responsibilities. A sample of one 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. Staff confirmed that they felt supported and involved in discussions about their personal development. A review of a sample of eight 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.

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 Ms Croskey, practice manager, confirmed that a new member of staff have been recruited since the previous inspection. A review of this member of staff's personnel file 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. A minor amendment was suggested. The policy was comprehensive and reflected best practice guidance.

Safeguarding

Staff 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. It was confirmed that the safeguarding lead has completed formal training in safeguarding adults in keeping with the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) training strategy (revised 2016).

Policies and procedures were in place for the safeguarding and protection of adults and children at risk of harm did not fully reflect regional guidance. An electronic copy of the regional policy entitled 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland' (August 2017) was forwarded to the practice following the inspection. The safeguarding policies were updated following the inspection and electronic copies forwarded to RQIA which were found to include 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. Some additional minor amendments were suggested.

Copies of the regional policy entitled 'Co-operating to safeguard children and young people in Northern Ireland' (August 2017) and the regional guidance document entitled 'Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership' (July 2015) were both available for staff reference.

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 with responsibility for infection control and decontamination.

Two decontamination rooms separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process were available. Appropriate equipment, including two washer disinfectors, four steam sterilisers and a DAC Universal 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 during January 2018.

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 there is an orthopan tomogram machine (OPG), which is located in a separate room.

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 by the RPA on 8 February 2018 demonstrated that the recommendations made have been addressed.

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

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 good standard of maintenance and décor. There was a redecoration programme ongoing.

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 on 26 July 2017 and water temperatures are monitored and recorded as recommended.

A fire risk assessment had been undertaken and staff confirmed fire training and fire drills had been completed. 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 was in place.

Relative Analgesia (RA) units are in operation in the practice. Mr McManus was aware of the recent guidance on their use and confirmed he will undertake a specific risk assessment in relation to their use. He confirmed that there was an integrated scavenger breathing system in place. The RA units had been serviced on 20 June 2017.

It was confirmed that robust arrangements are in place for the management of prescription pads/forms. A written security policy to reduce the risk of prescription theft and misuse was devised following the inspection and an electronic copy forwarded to RQIA.

Patient and staff views

Twelve patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm and were very satisfied with this aspect of care. All patient comments provided were included in section 4.0 of this report

RQIA did not receive any staff questionnaire responses.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found in relation to staff recruitment, induction, training, appraisal, safeguarding, management of medical emergencies, infection prevention control and decontamination procedures, radiology and the environment.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.5 Is care effective?

The right care, at the right time in the right place with the best outcome.

Clinical records

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

It was 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. 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) 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. A range of health promotion information leaflets are usually available in the reception area however due to the redecoration programme they had been removed. The information will be restored when the redecoration programme is complete. The practice employs a hygienist who offers additional oral health advice. Staff in the practice also participates in an outreach oral education programme in local schools. It was 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
- clinical records

Communication

It was 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 two 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 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 views

All patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them and were very satisfied with this aspect of care

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found in relation to the management of clinical records, the range and quality of audits, health promotion strategies and ensuring effective communication between patients and staff.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.6 Is care compassionate?

Patients and clients are treated with dignity and respect and should be fully involved in decisions affecting their treatment, care and support.

Dignity, respect and involvement in decision making

Staff 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 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 views

All patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care and were very satisfied with this aspect of care.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found in relation to maintaining patient confidentiality ensuring the core values of privacy and dignity were upheld and providing the relevant information to allow patients to make informed choices.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.7 Is the service well led?

Effective leadership, management and governance which creates a culture focused on the needs and experience of service users in order to deliver safe, effective and compassionate care.

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 McManus is the 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 an annual 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 available 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. The practice did not have a written incident policy in place. Following the inspection, the practice devised a written incident policy and submitted it to RQIA. Further amendments were suggested in relation to clear reporting systems to RQIA and an electronic copy of the RQIA incident reporting guidance was forwarded to the practice to assist on this matter. 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 McManus and Ms Croskey 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 McManus 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 views

All patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well led and were very satisfied with this aspect of the service.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found in relation to governance arrangements, management of complaints and incidents, quality improvement and maintaining good working relationships.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

7.0 Quality improvement plan

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



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