



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

Announced Care Inspection Report 24 March 2017



Clear Dental Care (NI) Limited

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

Address: 11 Victoria Road, Larne, BT40 1RT

Tel no: 028 2826 0797

Inspector: Philip Colgan

www.rqia.org.uk

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

1.0 Summary

An announced inspection of Clear Dental Care (NI) Limited took place on 24 March 2017 from 08.45 to 10.55.

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 Mrs Karen Moxham, registered manager, 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. One recommendation made during the previous care inspection in regards to staff personnel files has been partially addressed and this has been stated for a second time. An additional recommendation has been made in regards to x-ray audits during this inspection.

Is care effective?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mrs Moxham 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 Mrs Moxham 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 managers understanding of her 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	2

Details of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) within this report were discussed with Ms Karen Moxham, registered manager, as part of the inspection process. The timescales for completion commence from the date of inspection.

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

1.2 Actions/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection

Other than those actions detailed in the QIP there were no further actions required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 16 December 2015.

2.0 Service details

Registered organisation/registered person: Clear Dental Care (NI) Limited Mr Mark Tosh	Registered manager: Mrs Karen Moxham
Person in charge of the practice at the time of inspection: Mrs Karen Moxham	Date manager registered: 26 April 2012
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 3

Clear Dental Care (NI) Limited is the registered provider for seven dental practices registered with RQIA. Mr Tosh is the responsible person for Clear Dental Care (NI) Limited.

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 Mrs Karen Moxham, registered manager, 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 16 December 2015

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

4.2 Review of requirements and recommendations from the last care inspection dated 16 December 2015

Last care inspection recommendations		Validation of compliance
Recommendation 1 Ref: Standard 11.1 Stated: First time	It is recommended that staff personnel files for newly recruited staff, including self-employed staff must contain all information as specified in Schedule 2 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.	Partially Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Review of staff files evidenced that all required information has been retained with the exception of and a criminal conviction declaration. This recommendation is stated for the second time.	

<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>Ref: Standard 11.1</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>It is recommended that AccessNI enhanced disclosure certificates should be handled in keeping with the AccessNI code of practice, and a record retained of the date the check was applied for and received, the unique identification number and the outcome.</p>	<p>Met</p>
<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>Review of submitted staff information evidence that three new staff have commenced employment since the previous inspection. Review of the identified staff personnel files evidenced that AccessNI enhanced disclosure certificated had been handled in keeping with the AccessNI Code of Practice.</p>		

4.3 Is care safe?

Staffing

Three 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.

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. There was a system in place to ensure that all staff receive appropriate training to fulfil the duties of their role.

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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 Mrs Moxham confirmed that three new staff members have been recruited since the previous inspection. A review of the personnel files for these staff members 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 with the exception of confirmation of physical and mental fitness to fulfil their duties and a criminal conviction declaration. As discussed, a recommendation had been made during this previous care inspection in regards to staff personnel files. This recommendation has been stated for a second time.

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

Safeguarding

The 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.

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 at risk of harm. The policies 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 emergency 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.

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.

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 a washer disinfectant and two 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 in December 2016. 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.

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

Radiography

The practice has three surgeries each equipped with 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 and a six monthly x-ray quality grading audits. The annual audit of justification and clinical evaluation recording has not been completed and a recommendation has been made.

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.

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 in January 2017 demonstrated that no recommendations have been made.

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 an excellent 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.

Mrs Moxham confirmed that arrangements are in place for maintaining the environment. Control measures as outlined in the legionella risk assessment are undertaken and recorded. There was evidence that fire systems including fire-fighting equipment are maintained.

A review of the records demonstrated that the fire systems are checked by staff and include regular fire drills.

Patient and staff views

Three patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm. The following comment was made:

- “Checked current medication. Staff put on clean gloves and masks ”

Eleven 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. No comments were included in the returned questionnaires.

Areas for improvement

Staff personnel files for newly recruited staff, including self-employed staff must contain all information as specified in The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, Regulation 19 (2) Schedule 2.

Justification and clinical evaluation recording audits should be completed on an annual basis.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	2
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4.4 Is care effective?

Clinical records

Mrs Moxham and staff 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 also confirmed that patients are informed about the cost of treatments, choices and options.

Electronic records are maintained. 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. There was a range of health promotion information available for patients. Oral health promotion appointments are available for patients and are allocated based on patient need by the dentists. Mrs Moxham confirmed that oral health is actively promoted on an individual level with patients during their consultations with the dentists and dental hygienist.

Audits

There were robust 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
- IPS HTM 01-05 compliance
- clinical records
- clinical waste
- patient satisfaction

Communication

Mrs Moxham confirmed that arrangements are in place for onward referral in respect of specialist treatments. A referral policy and procedure has been established.

Staff meetings are held on a regular basis to discuss clinical and practice management issues. Minutes of the topics discussed 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.

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 comment was made;

- “Procedures and recommendations clearly explained”

All 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. No comments were included in the returned questionnaires.

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 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. No comments were included in the returned questionnaires.

All 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. No comments were included in the returned questionnaires.

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. 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. 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. 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.

Mrs Moxham confirmed that arrangements were in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to patients at appropriate intervals. The range of audits includes x-ray quality, infection prevention and control and decontamination audits and patient satisfaction audits. 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.

The registered manager demonstrated a clear understanding of her 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 felt that the service is well managed. The following comment was made:

- "Very efficiently run"

All submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well led. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. No comments were included in the returned questionnaires.

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

Any issues identified during this inspection are detailed in the QIP. Details of the QIP were discussed with Mrs Karen Moxham, registered manager, as part of the inspection process. The timescales commence from the date of inspection.

The registered provider/manager should note that failure to comply with regulations may lead to further enforcement action including possible prosecution for offences. It is the responsibility of the registered provider to ensure that all requirements and recommendations contained within the QIP are addressed within the specified timescales.

Matters to be addressed as a result of this inspection are set in the context of the current registration of the dental practice. The registration is not transferable so that in the event of any future application to alter, extend or to sell the premises RQIA would apply standards current at the time of that application.

5.1 Statutory requirements

This section outlines the actions which must be taken so that the registered provider meets legislative requirements based on The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

5.2 Recommendations

This section outlines the recommended actions based on research, recognised sources and DHSSPS Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011). They promote current good practice and if adopted by the registered provider/manager may enhance service, quality and delivery.

5.3 Actions to be taken by the registered provider

The QIP should be completed and detail the actions taken to meet the legislative requirements and recommendations stated. The registered provider should confirm that these actions have been completed and return the completed QIP to RQIA's office (non- paperlite) for assessment by the inspector.

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. It is expected that the requirements and recommendations outlined in this report will provide the registered provider with the necessary information to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities and enhance practice within the service.

Quality Improvement Plan	
Recommendations	
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>Ref: Standard 11.1</p> <p>Stated: Second time</p> <p>To be completed by: 24 March 2017</p>	<p>In addition to the documents already retained, confirmation that the person is physically and mentally fit to fulfil their duties and a criminal conviction declaration should be retained for all staff who commence employment in the future.</p> <hr/> <p>Response by registered provider detailing the actions taken:</p> <p>3 NEW RECRUITS HAVE NOW COMPLETED DECLARATIONS THAT THEY ARE PHYSICALLY + MENTALLY FIT WITH NO CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS -</p> <p>POINT HAS BEEN NOTED TO HAVE NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF COMPLETE THESE + TO BE KEPT IN THEIR PERSONNEL FILES</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>Ref: Standard 8.3</p> <p>Stated: First time</p> <p>To be completed by: 24 April 2017</p>	<p>Justification and clinical evaluation recording audits should be completed on an annual basis.</p> <hr/> <p>Response by registered provider detailing the actions taken:</p> <p>ANNUAL JUSTIFICATION + CLINICAL EVALUATION AUDITS HAVE BEEN NOTED IN MY DIARY TO BE CARRIED OUT OCTOBER 2017.</p>

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

REGULATION AND QUALITY
 Received Regulation Directorate
02 MAY 2017
 IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

03/05/17
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