

Announced Care Inspection Report 26 November 2020



Clear Dental Antrim

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

Address: 26 Church Street, Antrim BT41 4BA

Tel No: 028 9446 3234

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 2020/21 inspection year we are moving to a more focused, shorter inspection which will concentrate on the following key patient safety areas:

- management of operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- management of medical emergencies
- infection prevention and control (IPC)
- decontamination of reusable dental instruments
- governance arrangements and review of the report of the visits undertaken by the Registered Provider in line with Regulation 26, where applicable
- review of the areas for improvement identified during the previous care inspection (where applicable).

2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with three registered places providing general dental services.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: Clear Dental Care (NI) Limited Responsible Individual: Mr Mark Tosh	Registered Manager: Ms Megan Dowie
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Ms Megan Dowie	Date manager registered: 27 September 2019
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: Three

The Clear Dental Care Group operate 13 dental practices registered with RQIA. Mr Mark Tosh is the Responsible Individual for the Clear Dental Care Group.

4.0 Inspection summary

We undertook an announced inspection on 26 November 2020 from 09:50 to 11:00.

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).

The purpose of this inspection was to focus on the themes for the 2020/21 inspection year. A poster informing patients that an inspection was being conducted was displayed during the inspection.

We undertook a tour of the premises, met with Ms Megan Dowie, Registered Manager, a dental nurse and a receptionist. We reviewed relevant records and documents in relation to the day to day operation of the practice.

We found evidence of good practice in relation to the management of medical emergencies; infection prevention and control; decontamination of reusable dental instruments; the practices' adherence to best practice guidance in relation to COVID-19; and governance arrangements.

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

4.1 Inspection outcome

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Ms Dowie, as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report. A quality improvement plan (QIP) was not generated as a result of this inspection.

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

4.2 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 15 October 2019

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

4.3 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 15 October 2019

Areas for improvement from the last care inspection		
Action required to ensure compliance with The Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011)		Validation of compliance
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 13.4 Stated: First time	The responsible individual shall ensure the procedure for the decontamination of dental handpieces is reviewed to ensure that they are decontaminated in keeping with manufacturer’s instructions and Professional Estates Letter (PEL) (13) 13. Compatible handpieces should be processed in the washer disinfector.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Ms Dowie confirmed that the procedure for the decontamination of dental handpieces has been reviewed, since the previous inspection, to ensure that they are decontaminated in keeping with manufacturer’s instructions and Professional Estates Letter (PEL) (13) 13. The dental nurse confirmed compatible handpieces were now being processed in the washer disinfector	

Area for improvement 2 Ref: Standard 13.4 Stated: First time	The responsible individual shall ensure the details of the daily automatic control test (ACT) are recorded in the steam steriliser logbooks.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Review of the decontamination machine logbooks confirmed that the details of the daily automatic control test (ACT) were recorded in the steam steriliser logbooks.	
Area for improvement 3 Ref: Standard 14.7 Stated: First time	The responsible individual shall ensure that any event which adversely affects the well-being or safety of any patient is notified to RQIA in accordance with RQIA's guidance document 'Statutory notification of incidents and deaths guidance for registered providers and managers of regulated services'.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Ms Dowie confirmed that no incidents had occurred since the previous inspection. Ms Dowie was also aware of her responsibility to notify RQIA of the occurrence of any incidents in accordance with statutory requirements.	

5.0 How we inspect

Before 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 previous care inspection report

Questionnaires were provided to patients prior to the inspection by the establishment on our behalf. We also invited staff to complete an electronic questionnaire prior to the inspection. No staff questionnaires were completed. Returned completed patient questionnaires were analysed prior to the inspection and are discussed in section 6.7 of this report.

During the inspection, we spoke with Ms Dowie, a dental nurse and a receptionist.

The findings of the inspection were provided to Ms Dowie at the conclusion of the inspection.

6.0 Inspection findings

6.1 Management of operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

We discussed the management of operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with Ms Dowie, and application of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) operational guidance. We found that COVID-19 policies and procedures were in place in keeping with best practice guidance.

Areas of good practice: Management of operations in response to COVID-19 pandemic

We confirmed the practice had identified a COVID-19 lead; had reviewed and amended policies and procedures in accordance with the HSCB operational guidance to include arrangements to maintain social distancing; prepare staff; implement enhanced infection prevention and control procedures; and the patient pathway.

Areas for improvement: Management of operations in response to COVID-19 pandemic

We identified no areas for improvement regarding the management of operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.2 Management of medical emergencies

We reviewed the arrangements in place for the management of medicines within the practice to ensure that medicines were safely, securely and effectively managed in compliance with legislative requirements, professional standards and guidelines and found them to be satisfactory.

We found that medicines were stored safely and securely and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. We confirmed that all emergency medicines, as specified within the British National Formulary (BNF), for use in the event of a medical emergency in a dental practice were available. We also confirmed that all emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines were available.

We noted a robust system was in place to ensure that emergency medicines and equipment do not exceed their expiry date and were ready for immediate use in the event of a medical emergency.

We spoke with staff who told us the management of medical emergencies was included in the staff induction programme and that training was updated on an annual basis in keeping with best practice guidance. We reviewed training records and evidenced that staff last completed medical emergency refresher training during February 2020. We found that this training included first aid and scenario-based exercises that simulated medical emergencies that have the potential to occur in a dental practice. These included; anaphylaxis; asthma; cardiac

emergencies; myocardial infarction; epileptic seizures; hypoglycaemia; syncope; choking and aspiration; and adrenaline insufficiency.

Staff who spoke with us demonstrated a good understanding of the actions to be taken in the event of a medical emergency and were able to identify to us the location of medical emergency medicines and equipment. Staff told us that they felt well prepared to manage a medical emergency.

We were satisfied that sufficient emergency medicines and equipment were in place and staff were well prepared to manage a medical emergency, should this occur.

Areas of good practice: Management of medical emergencies

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

Areas for improvement: Management of medical emergencies

We identified no areas for improvement regarding the management of medical emergencies.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.3 Infection prevention and control (IPC)

We reviewed arrangements in relation to IPC procedures throughout the practice to evidence that the risk of infection transmission to patients, visitors and staff was minimised. We undertook a tour of the premises and noted that the clinical and decontamination areas were clean, tidy and uncluttered. We observed a small tear in the upholstery of one of the dental chairs. Mrs Dowie confirmed that arrangements had been made for the repair of the dental chair. We found that all areas of the practice were fully equipped to meet the needs of patients.

We established that personal protective equipment (PPE) was readily available in keeping with best practice guidance. A higher level of PPE is required when dental treatment using aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) are undertaken including the use of FFP3 masks. An FFP3 mask is a respirator mask that covers the mouth and nose of the wearer. The performance of these masks depends on achieving good contact between the wearer’s skin and the mask. The only way to ensure that the FFP3 mask offers the desired level of protection is for the wearer to be fit tested for a particular make and model of mask. We reviewed the fit testing records and confirmed that the appropriate staff had been fit tested for FFP3 masks.

We confirmed the practice continues to audit compliance with Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices using the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) audit tool. This audit includes key elements of IPC relevant to dentistry, including the arrangements for environmental cleaning; the use of PPE; hand hygiene practice; and waste and sharps management.

Staff who spoke with us confirmed that IPS audits were completed in a meaningful manner and the process involved all dental nurses on a rotational basis. Staff told us that the outcome of the audit was discussed during regular staff meetings. Ms Dowie informed us that should the audit identify areas for improvement, an action plan would be generated to address the issues identified and that the IPS audit will be completed every six months.

We confirmed that arrangements were in place to ensure that staff received IPC and COVID-19 training commensurate with their roles and responsibilities. Staff who spoke with us demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of IPC procedures.

Ms Dowie confirmed that one new clinical staff member had been recruited since the last inspection and a referral had been made to an occupational health (OH) department. Ms Dowie confirmed that she retains a record of the Hepatitis B vaccination status of all clinical staff. We noted these records had been generated by an occupational health (OH) department. Ms Dowie was aware that in the future all newly recruited clinical staff members, who were new to dentistry, should be automatically referred to occupational health.

Areas of good practice: Infection prevention and control

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

Areas for improvement: Infection prevention and control

We identified no areas for improvement regarding IPC.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.4 Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

We observed a decontamination room, separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process, was available. We evidenced the decontamination room facilitated the flow from dirty through to clean areas for the cleaning and sterilising of reusable instruments.

We found arrangements were in place to ensure staff received training in respect to the decontamination of reusable dental instruments commensurate with their roles and responsibilities.

The processes regarding the decontamination of reusable dental instruments were being audited in line with the best practice outlined in HTM 01-05 using the IPS audit tool. We reviewed the most recent IPS audit, completed during July 2020 and found that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice.

We found that appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant and two steam sterilisers had been provided to meet the requirements of the practice. We discussed the arrangements for the annual validation of equipment used in the decontamination process with Ms Dowie. We were informed that due to the impact of COVID-19, annual validations had been undertaken, however, the pressure vessels written scheme of examination inspection reports were not

available. These reports were submitted to RQIA following the inspection and we established that equipment used in the decontamination process had been appropriately validated and inspected in keeping with the written scheme of examination. Equipment logbooks evidenced that periodic tests were undertaken and recorded in keeping with HTM 01-05.

We found staff were aware of what equipment, used by the practice, should be treated as single use and what equipment was suitable for decontamination. We confirmed that single use devices were only used for single-treatment episodes and were disposed of following use.

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

Areas of good practice: Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

We found the current arrangements evidenced that best practice, as outlined in HTM 01-05, was being achieved in respect of the decontamination of reusable dental instruments. This included proactively auditing practice, taking action when issues were identified and ensuring staff had the knowledge and skills to ensure standards were maintained.

Areas for improvement: Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

We identified no areas for improvement regarding the decontamination of reusable dental instruments.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.5 Visits by the Registered Provider (Regulation 26)

Where the business entity operating a dental practice is a corporate body or partnership or an individual owner who is not in day to day management of the practice, unannounced quality monitoring visits by the Registered Provider must be undertaken and documented every six months; as required by Regulation 26 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

We established that an unannounced quality monitoring visit on behalf of the Registered Provider was undertaken on 08 July 2020, under Regulation 26 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005. A report was produced and made available for patients, their representatives, staff, RQIA and any other interested parties to read. We found that an action plan was not developed as no issues had been identified during the visit. .

Areas of good practice

We evidenced that reports documenting the findings of visits by the registered provider were maintained and these evidenced that the visits were in keeping with the legislation.

Areas for improvement

We identified no areas for improvement regarding visits by the Registered Provider in line with the legislation.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

6.6 Equality data

We discussed the arrangements in place regarding the equality of opportunity for patients and the importance of staff being aware of equality legislation and recognising and responding to the diverse needs of patients. Ms Dowie told us that equality data collected was managed in line with best practice.

6.7 Patient and staff views

The practice distributed questionnaires to patients on our behalf and one patient submitted a response to RQIA. The patient felt their care was safe and effective, that they were treated with compassion and that the service was well led. The patient indicated that they were very satisfied with each of these areas of their care.

Comments included in submitted questionnaire response are as follows:

“Brilliant staff and hardworking. Very satisfied with the treatment.”

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

6.8 Total number of areas for improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

7.0 Quality improvement plan (QIP)

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



The **Regulation** and
Quality Improvement
Authority

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
9th Floor
Riverside Tower
5 Lanyon Place
BELFAST
BT1 3BT

Tel 028 9536 1111
Email info@rqia.org.uk
Web www.rqia.org.uk
 [@RQIANews](https://twitter.com/RQIANews)

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