

Announced Care Inspection Report 25 October 2017



Whiterose Clinic Limited

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

Address: 7 Culmore Point Road, Culmore, Londonderry, BT48 8JW

Tel No: 028 7135 5566

Inspector: Stephen O'Connor

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



2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with four registered places.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Person: Whiterose Clinic Limited Mr Dan McKenna	Registered Manager: Mrs Rose McKenna
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mr Dan McKenna	Date manager registered: 10 October 2013
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment PT(L) – Prescribed techniques or prescribed technology: establishments using Class 3B or Class 4 lasers	Number of registered places: 4

4.0 Inspection summary

An announced inspection took place on 25 October 2017 from 09:50 to 12:50.

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 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.

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

All of the patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the care and services provided.

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 Mr Dan McKenna, registered person and Mrs Rose McKenna, registered manager, 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 6 December 2016

No further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 6 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 previous care inspection report
- submitted staffing information
- submitted complaints declaration

Questionnaires were provided to patients and staff prior to the inspection by the practice on behalf of RQIA. Returned completed patient and staff questionnaires were also analysed prior to the inspection.

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

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr Dan McKenna, registered person, Mrs Rose McKenna, registered 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

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 6 December 2016

The most recent inspection of the practice was an announced care inspection.

6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 6 December 2016

There were no areas for improvement made as a result of the last care inspection.

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 available in the practice, three of which are in routine operation. 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 one 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 Mr McKenna confirmed that one staff member has been recruited since the previous inspection. A review of the personnel file for the identified 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.

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). Further safeguarding adult training has been scheduled for 9 November 2017; this training will be provided in house facilitated by an external training provider.

One overarching policy was in place for the safeguarding and protection of adults and children at risk of harm. The policy 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. It was confirmed that the adult safeguarding information within the policy has been updated to reflect the regional guidance document discussed below.

It was confirmed that copies of the regional policy entitled 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland' (March 2016) 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 discussion took place in relation to the procedure for the safe administration of Buccolam pre-filled syringes and the various doses and quantity needed as recommended by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB). Mr McKenna has advised that he will ensure that Buccolam will be administered safely in the event of an emergency in keeping with the HSCB recommendation.

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. The most recent occasion staff completed medical emergency refresher training was during October 2017.

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.

There was a policy for the management of medical emergencies and protocols outlining the local procedure for dealing with the various medical emergencies available for staff reference.

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. It was observed that the floors in the dental surgeries and decontamination room are tiled. The use of tiles in clinical areas is not considered best practice. This was discussed with Mr McKenna who confirmed that the tiles are sealed on an annual basis to ensure that they are impervious. 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.

There was a nominated lead with responsibility for infection control and decontamination.

A decontamination room separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process was available. Appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant and a steam steriliser have been provided to meet the practice requirements. A second steam steriliser is available in the practice; this is not routinely used and is retained for use in the event of the primary steam steriliser malfunctioning. 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 September 2017.

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

Radiography

Intra-oral x-ray machines are available in two of the four surgeries. In addition there is a combined orthopan tomogram and cone beam scanner, 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 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.

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 to include routine servicing of the oil fired central heating burner, intruder alarm, fire detection system, firefighting equipment and emergency lighting. Arrangements are also in place to ensure that portable appliance testing is undertaken in respect of electrical equipment and that the fixed electrical installations are inspected.

The fire risk assessment has been completed by an external organisation and this is reviewed in house annually. Routine checks are undertaken in respect of the fire detection system. Staff demonstrated that they were aware of the action to take in the event of a fire.

The legionella risk assessment has been completed by an external organisation and this is reviewed in house annually. Water temperatures are monitored as outlined in the risk assessment.

Arrangements are in place to ensure appropriate risk assessments are reviewed on an annual basis.

Mr McKenna confirmed that the pressure vessels in the practice had been inspected in keeping with the written scheme of examination of pressure vessels during the week prior to the inspection. The practice has yet to receive the inspection reports.

It was observed that a Close Circuit Television (CCTV) system was in operation. This was discussed with Mr McKenna who confirmed that he had reviewed the RQIA guidance document on the use of CCTV systems and that appropriate arrangements are in place in regards to the operation of the CCTV system.

It was confirmed that robust arrangements are in place for the management of prescription pads/forms and that written security policies are in place to reduce the risk of prescription theft and misuse.

Patient and staff views

Nineteen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm and that they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. The following comment was included in a submitted questionnaire response:

- “As far as I can see all is ok.”

Four staff submitted questionnaire responses. All indicated that they felt that patients are safe and protected from harm and that they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was included in a submitted questionnaire response:

- “Very well maintained premises and trained staff.”

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.

Mr McKenna 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. It was confirmed that the records management policy includes the arrangements in regards to the creation, storage, recording, retention and disposal of records and data protection.

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. Oral health is actively promoted on an individual level with patients during their consultations and when appropriate patients are referred to the hygienist. Mr McKenna has developed an extensive range of information leaflets and these are used during discussions. Demonstration models, an electronic educational programme and an intra-oral camera are also available for use during oral hygiene discussions. The intra-oral camera helps patients to see for themselves exactly what is happening in their mouth and they can make informed decisions about what to do. The provision of intra-oral cameras exceeds best practice guidance.

Samples of products are freely distributed to patients. Mr McKenna has facilitated oral health awareness sessions in local schools. A television was observed in the waiting room, a slideshow detailing information about the practice and oral hygiene is played on the television. It was confirmed that the practice website includes information in regards to oral health and hygiene and that the practice participates in national campaigns such as National Smile Month. Mr McKenna is qualified in hypnotherapy and he offers weight loss and smoking cessation treatments. The practice also offers cholesterol and blood sugar testing.

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
- prescribing history
- attendance
- types of treatment provided
- disability access
- safe use of x-ray equipment

Communication

Mr McKenna 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.

Mrs McKenna confirmed that staff meetings are held on a quarterly 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. Mr McKenna has produced a number of training videos for staff and each staff member has been given a USB stick containing the training videos.

Staff confirmed that there are good working relationships and there is an open and transparent culture within the practice.

Patient and staff views

All 19 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them. All 19 patients indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. The following comment was included in a submitted questionnaire response:

- “It’s fine.”

All four 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. Three staff indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care and one indicated they were satisfied. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was included in a submitted questionnaire response:

- “Regular recall periods set and effective notes recorded at each visit.”

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.

There was a policy and procedure was in place in relation to confidentiality.

Patient and staff views

All 19 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care. Eighteen patients indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care and one patient did not provide a response. Comments provided included the following:

- "Very well treated, great staff. Dr Dan explained treatment plan very well."
- "Yes."
- "Very happy with treatment. Friendly staff."

All four staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that patients are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care and indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was included in a submitted questionnaire response:

- "Very well treated, great staff. Dr Dan explained treatment plan very well."
- "Yes."
- "Very happy with treatment. Friendly staff."

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 and Mrs McKenna are the nominated individuals with overall responsibility for the day to day management of the practice.

Mr McKenna confirmed that the practice have appointed CODE to provide advice and guidance in relation to the operation of the practice. CODE offers a complete software solution that schedules compliance and task management. CODE offers online and phone support. Although CODE is primarily concerned with compliance with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Mr McKenna confirmed that they are aware of the legislative requirements in Northern Ireland.

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 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 McKenna 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 McKenna, 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 patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well led and that they were very satisfied with this aspect of the service. Comments provided included the following:

- “Very happy with how I am treated here.”
- “Yes.”
- “Lovely staff very helpful.”

All four submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well led and indicated that they were very satisfied with this aspect of the service. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. The following comment was included in a submitted questionnaire response:

- “Very approachable and supportive staff.”

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

6.8 Laser

Whiterose Clinic Limited is registered with RQIA for the provision of prescribed techniques or prescribed technology using a class 4 laser. Review of the laser register and discussion with Mr McKenna confirmed that no laser treatments had been provided since 2012. Mr McKenna confirmed that there have been no changes to the arrangements in the practice with regard to the provision of prescribed techniques or prescribed technology using a class 4 laser since the previous inspection. Mr McKenna confirmed that all staff employed at the practice, but not directly involved in the use of the laser equipment have received laser safety awareness training. Laser procedures are carried out by Mr McKenna in accordance with medical treatment protocols. Local rules were in place and were last reviewed in May 2017.

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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