

# Announced Care Inspection Report 23 October 2018



## Gentle Touch Dental Studio

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

**Address: 11 The Diamond Centre, Magherafelt BT45 6ED**

**Tel No: 028 7963 2495**

**Inspector: Philip Colgan**

[www.rqia.org.uk](http://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 2018/19 inspection year we are moving to a more focused, shorter inspection which will concentrate on the following key patient safety areas:

- management of medical emergencies
- infection prevention and control
- decontamination of reusable dental instruments
- radiology and radiation safety
- review of areas for improvement from the last inspection

## 2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with three registered places.

## 3.0 Service details

<b>Organisation/Registered Provider:</b> Mr Robert Craig & Mr Christopher Gocher  <b>Responsible Individual:</b> Mr Robert Craig Mr Christopher Gocher	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Mr Robert Craig
<b>Persons in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Mr Robert Craig Mr Christopher Gocher	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 29 February 2012
<b>Categories of care:</b> Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	<b>Number of registered places:</b> Three

## 4.0 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent inspection dated 7 August 2017

The most recent inspection of the Gentle Touch Dental Studio was an announced care inspection. The completed QIP was returned and approved by the care inspector.

#### 4.1 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 7 August 2017

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
<b>Area for improvement 1</b> <b>Ref:</b> Standard 13.2 <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered person shall ensure that 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 dental handpieces should be processed in the washer disinfectant.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b>  Discussion with staff evidenced that this area for improvement has been met.	

#### 5.0 Inspection findings

An announced inspection took place on 23 October 2018 from 08.30 to 09.50.

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 (DOH) Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011).

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

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr Christopher Gocher, registered provider; the patient care co-ordinator; and the lead dental nurse. A tour of some areas of the premises was also undertaken.

The findings of the inspection were provided to Mr Gocher at the conclusion of the inspection.

## 5.1 Management of medical emergencies

### Management of medical emergencies

A review of arrangements in respect of the management of a medical emergency evidenced that emergency medicines, in keeping with the British National Formulary (BNF), and emergency equipment as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines, were retained.

The practice does not have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). This was discussed with Mr Gocher and staff who confirmed that there are two AED(s) available within close proximity to the practice. A discussion took place in relation to how the practice should ensure there is timely access to an AED (within three minutes of collapse) in accordance with the Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines. It was identified that the location of the AED(s) had been incorporated into the practice's medical emergency protocols.

A robust system was in place to ensure that emergency medicines and equipment do not exceed their expiry date.

Review of training records and discussion with staff confirmed that the management of medical emergencies is included in the induction programme and training is updated on an annual basis in keeping with best practice guidance. The most recent medical emergency refresher training took place in February 2018.

Discussion with staff demonstrated that they have a good understanding of the actions to be taken in the event of a medical emergency and the location of medical emergency medicines and equipment.

### Areas of good practice

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

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.2 Infection prevention and control

### Infection prevention and control (IPC)

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

The practice continues to audit compliance with Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05: Decontamination in Primary Care Dental Practices using the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) audit tool. This audit includes key elements of IPC, relevant to dentistry, including the arrangements for environmental cleaning, the use of personal protective equipment, hand hygiene practice, and waste and sharps management.

A review of the most recent IPS audit, completed in June 2018, evidenced that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice. It was confirmed that should the audit identify areas for improvement, an action plan would be generated to address the issues identified.

In discussion, it was suggested that the audits be carried out by the dental nurses on a rotational basis. This process will help to empower staff and increase their understanding of the audit, IPC procedures and best practice and provide them with verifiable Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Staff confirmed that the findings of audits are discussed at staff meetings.

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

### Areas of good practice

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

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Areas for improvement	0	0

## 5.3 Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

### Decontamination of reusable dental instruments

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

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

As discussed, a review of the most recent IPS audit evidenced that the audit had been completed in a meaningful manner and had identified areas of good practice.

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

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

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

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

**Areas of good practice**

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

**Areas for improvement**

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	<b>Regulations</b>	<b>Standards</b>
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**5.4 Radiology and radiation safety**

**Radiology and radiation safety**

The practice has three surgeries each of which has an intra-oral x-ray machine. In addition there is a cone-beam computed tomograph (CBCT) machine which is housed in a separate room.

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

A dedicated radiation protection file containing all relevant information was in place. The radiation protection supervisor (RPS) regularly reviews the information contained within the file to ensure that it is current.

The appointed RPA completes a quality assurance check annually. A review of the report of the most recent visit by the RPA demonstrated that any recommendations made have been addressed.

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

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

**Areas of good practice**

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

**Areas for improvement**

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**5.5 Equality data**

**Equality data**

The arrangements in place in relation to the equality of opportunity for patients and the importance of staff being aware of equality legislation and recognising and responding to the diverse needs of patients was discussed with staff.

**5.6 Patient and staff views**

**Patient and staff views**

Twenty patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All responses indicated that they felt their care was safe and effective, that they were treated with compassion and that the service was well led. All patients indicated that they were very satisfied with each of these areas of their care.

No comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses:

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



**5.7 Total areas for improvement**

	<b>Regulations</b>	<b>Standards</b>
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**6.0 Quality improvement plan**

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



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