

# Announced Care Inspection Report 24 January 2018



## Claire Hughes Dental

**Type of service: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment**  
**Address: Unit 8, Spencer House, 14 - 22 Spencer Road, Londonderry,  
BT47 6QA**  
**Tel no: 028 7131 1333**  
**Inspector: Stephen O'Connor**

[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



## 2.0 Profile of service

This is a registered dental practice with three registered places.

### 3.0 Service details

<b>Registered organisation/registered person:</b> Mrs Claire Hughes	<b>Registered manager:</b> Mrs Claire Hughes
<b>Person in charge of the practice at the time of inspection:</b> Mrs Claire Hughes	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 19 September 2013
<b>Categories of care:</b> Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 3

### 4.0 Inspection summary

An announced inspection took place on 24 January 2018 from 09:50 to 12:35.

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 requiring improvement were identified during the inspection.

In the main patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they were very 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
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Mrs Claire Hughes, registered person, and the practice 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 variation to registration care inspection dated 7 March 2017

No further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 7 March 2017.

#### 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 questionnaires were also analysed prior to the inspection. No completed staff questionnaires were returned to RQIA.

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

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr Claire Hughes, registered person, the practice manager, the lead dental nurse and a dental nurse who also undertakes reception duties. 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 Mrs Hughes, registered person, and the practice manager at the conclusion of the inspection.

## 6.0 The inspection

### 6.1 Review of areas for improvement from the most recent inspection dated 7 March 2017

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

### 6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 7 March 2017

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

Three dental surgeries are in operation in this practice. Discussion with Mrs Hughes and staff and a review of completed patient 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 three 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 two evidenced that appraisals had been completed 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 Mrs Hughes confirmed that three staff have been recruited since the previous inspection. A review of the personnel files for these 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).

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. Mrs Hughes confirmed that the safeguarding policies have been updated to fully reflect the regional guidance documents and policies listed 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). A discussion took place in regards to the procedure for the safe administration of Buccolam and Adrenaline medications and the various doses and quantities needed for each medication as recommended by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and the BNF. Mrs Hughes has given assurances that in the event of a medical emergency all medications will be administered as recommended by the HSCB and the BNF.

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. The most recent occasion staff completed medical emergency training was during January 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.

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. 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 review of documentation evidenced that equipment used in the decontamination process has been appropriately validated during February 2017. 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 December 2017.

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 of which has 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, 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 during August 2017 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 annual servicing of the firefighting equipment and intruder alarm. Portable appliance testing (PAT) of electrical equipment is undertaken every two years.

A legionella risk assessment was completed in house and water temperatures are monitored and recorded as recommended.

A fire risk assessment was completed by an external organisation and routine checks are undertaken and recorded. Staff demonstrated that they were aware of the action to take in the event of a fire.

Mrs Hughes confirmed that arrangements are in place to ensure the legionella and fire risk assessments are revived on an annual basis.

Review of documentation evidenced that the pressure vessels in the practice have been inspected during February 2017, in keeping with the written scheme of examination of pressure vessels.

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**

Twenty patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All 20 patients indicated that they felt their care was safe, 18 patients indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of their care and two indicated that they were very unsatisfied. No comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses.

As discussed no completed staff questionnaires were submitted to RQIA prior to the inspection.

### 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
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

### 6.5 Is care effective?

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

### Clinical records

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

Mrs Hughes 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.

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. It was confirmed that oral health is actively promoted on an individual level with patients during their consultations. Oral health and hygiene information leaflets are available in the practice and models and an electronic educational package are used for demonstration purposes during discussions. A range of oral health products are available for purchase in the practice and free samples of toothpaste and mouth wash are distributed. Mrs Hughes confirmed that oral health awareness sessions have been delivered in local community works. Claire Hughes Dental also has a Facebook page and website both of which include information in relation to oral health and hygiene.

## 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
- completion of medical histories

## Communication

Mrs Hughes 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 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 and formal 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 20 patients who submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA indicated that they felt their care was effective, 18 patients indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of their care and two indicated that they were very unsatisfied. No comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses.

## 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
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	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 dated January 2018 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.

## Patient and staff views

All 20 patients who submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA indicated that they felt they were treated with compassion, 18 patients indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of their care and two indicated that they were very unsatisfied. No comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses.

## 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
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	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. Mrs Hughes 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, discussion with Mrs Hughes and the practice manager and a review of documentation evidenced 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 Hughes 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.

The registered provider/manager demonstrated a clear understanding of their 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 20 patients who submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA indicated that they felt that the service is well led, 18 patients indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of their care and two indicated that they were very unsatisfied. No comments were included in submitted questionnaire responses.

### **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.

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



The Regulation and  
Quality Improvement  
Authority

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

9th Floor

Riverside Tower

5 Lanyon Place

BELFAST

BT1 3BT

Tel 028 9051 7500

Fax 028 9051 7501

Email [info@rqia.org.uk](mailto:info@rqia.org.uk)

Web [www.rqia.org.uk](http://www.rqia.org.uk)

 @RQIANews