

Announced Care Inspection Report 4 January 2018



Dental Health Matters

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

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Inspector: Norma Munn

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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 two registered places providing NHS and private dental care and treatment.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: DHM (NI) Ltd Responsible Individual(s): Mr Robert Millar	Registered Manager: Mr Robert Millar
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mr Robert Millar	Date manager registered: 6 March 2012
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 2

4.0 Inspection summary

An announced inspection took place on 4 January 2018 from 10.00 to 13.00.

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, 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, the management of medical emergencies and radiology. Other examples included health promotion, engagement to enhance the patients' experience and governance arrangements.

There were no areas requiring improvement identified during this inspection.

Patients who submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA indicated that they were very satisfied with all aspects of care in this service. Comments provided included the following:

- “Excellent dental care.”
- “All staff very professional-especially xxx.”

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 Robert Millar, registered person, 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 24 January 2017

No further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 24 January 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 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 Robert Millar, registered person; an associate dentist; the practice 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 Mr Millar at the conclusion of the inspection.

6.0 The inspection

6.1 Review of areas for improvement from the most recent inspection dated 24 January 2017

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 24 January 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

Two 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.

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. 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 Millar confirmed that one new member of staff has been recruited since the previous inspection. A review of the personnel file for this staff member 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. The policy was not reviewed during this inspection.

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 and two other staff will be attending formal training in safeguarding adults during February 2018 in keeping with the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) training strategy (revised 2016).

It was confirmed that copies of the regional policy 'Co-operating to safeguard children and young people in Northern Ireland' (March 2016), the regional guidance document 'Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership' (July 2015) and the 'Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures' (September 2016) were available for staff reference.

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. The policy did not fully reflect the regional policies and best practice guidance. This was discussed and following the inspection RQIA received confirmation that two new policies had been developed, one in relation to safeguarding children and one in relation to safeguarding adults that fully reflect the regional policies and best practice guidance.

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 regards to the procedure for the safe administration of Buccolam and the various doses and quantities needed as recommended by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and the BNF. During the inspection Mr Millar gave assurances that in the event of a medical emergency Buccolam will be administered as recommended by the HSCB and the BNF.

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.

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.

A policy for the management of medical emergencies was in place. The policy was not reviewed during this inspection. Protocols were available for staff reference outlining the local procedure for dealing with the various medical emergencies. Some out of date protocols were also observed to be displayed and were removed on the day of the inspection.

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 generally free from damage, dust and visible dirt. Issues were identified in relation to infection prevention and control that should be addressed as follows:

- the small tear/rip observed in the dental chair in identified surgery should be repaired.
- the pull cord on the light switch in the identified toilet should be replaced with a wipeable material.
- the roller hand towel in the toilet area should be replaced with disposable hand towels.

Following the inspection RQIA received confirmation that the pull cord on the light switch had been replaced, the roller hand towel in the toilet area will be replaced with wall mounted disposable hand towels and a waste bin will also be provided for these. It was also confirmed that the small tear/rip observed in the dental chair in identified surgery will also be repaired.

Staff were aware of 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.

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, had been provided to meet the practice requirements. 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 December 2017.

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

Radiography

The practice has two surgeries, each of which has an intra-oral x-ray machine. In addition, there is an orthopan tomogram machine (OPG), 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. A small section of the floor covering in the staff room had been removed resulting in uneven flooring and the walls in the staff room need to be repainted. Mr Millar discussed refurbishment plans for the staff room area that will involve painting the walls and recovering the gap in the flooring.

The light bulb which was lit in the ground floor store was observed to be hot to touch and was in direct contact with items stored on the top shelf of the store. As this was identified as a fire hazard it was brought to staff's attention and was addressed with immediate effect.

Detailed cleaning schedules and a colour coded cleaning system was in place.

Arrangements were in place for maintaining the environment. These included the servicing of the fire detection systems and fire-fighting equipment and portable appliance testing (PAT).

A fire risk assessment had been undertaken during July 2017 by an external organisation and staff confirmed fire training and fire drills had been completed. Staff demonstrated that they were aware of the action to take in the event of a fire.

A legionella risk assessment had been undertaken and reviewed. Water temperatures are monitored and recorded as recommended.

A written scheme of examination of pressure vessels was not available to review on the day of the inspection. However, following the inspection RQIA received confirmation that the pressure vessels had been inspected during January 2018.

It was confirmed that arrangements are in place for the management of prescription pads/forms. However, written security policies to reduce the risk of prescription theft and misuse had not been developed. Following the inspection RQIA received a copy of a prescription policy which has been developed to include the procedure to reduce the risk of prescription theft and misuse.

Patient and staff views

Eighteen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm and were very satisfied with this aspect of care.

Five staff submitted questionnaire responses. All indicated that they felt that patients are safe and protected from harm. Four staff indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care and one staff indicated they were satisfied. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. Comments provided included the following:

- “Well trained suitably qualified staff. Good staff induction.”
- “In the short amount of time I have been at this practice there has been no cause for alarm.”

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found in relation to staff recruitment, induction, training, appraisal, the management of medical emergencies, decontamination procedures and radiology.

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 Millar and staff 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.

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 information available in regards to health promotion and Mr Millar confirmed that oral health is actively promoted on an individual level with patients during their consultations.

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 waste management
- clinical records
- review of complaints/accidents/incidents

Communication

Staff confirmed that arrangements are in place for onward referral in respect of specialist treatments.

Staff meetings are held on a two 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.

A breaking bad news policy in respect of dentistry was in place.

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. All of the patients indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care.

All of the 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. Four staff indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care and one staff indicated they were satisfied. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. One comment provided included the following:

- “Everything carried out in a suitable fashion to provide the patient with the most appropriate care in their best interests.”

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 ensures that patients understand 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.

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. All of the patients indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care.

All of the 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. All of the staff indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. One comment provided included the following:

- “Patients are provided with all treatment options available to them and choose the best option for them without judgement. Feedback always welcomed.”

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 whom 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 Millar 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 a yearly 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 returned questionnaire indicated that no complaints have been received for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

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.

Staff 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 Millar 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 were very satisfied with this aspect of the service.

All of the submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they felt that the service is well led. Four staff indicated they were very satisfied with this aspect of the service and one indicated they were satisfied. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. One comment provided included the following:

- “Hierarchy of practice and individual duties clearly outlined. If unsure of something, know who to ask to find out answer.”

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

7.0 Quality improvement plan

There were no areas for improvement identified during this inspection, and a QIP is not required nor included as part of this inspection report.



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