

Announced Care Inspection Report 22 June 2016



Warrenpoint Dental Practice

Type of Service: Dental service
Address: 42B Church Street, Warrenpoint, Newry, BT34 3HN
Tel No: 028 4175 4548
Inspector: Winnie Maguire

1.0 Summary

An announced inspection of Warrenpoint Dental Practice took place on 22 June 2016 from 10:00 to 12:45.

The inspection sought to assess progress with any issues raised during and since the previous inspection and to determine if the service was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

Is care safe?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mr James McLarnon, Registered Person and staff demonstrated that, in the main, systems and processes were in place to ensure that care to patients was safe and avoids and prevents harm. Areas reviewed included staffing, recruitment and selection, safeguarding, management of medical emergencies, infection prevention control and decontamination, radiology and the general environment. Three issues arose in relation to staff appraisal, the safeguarding policy and the fixed electrical wiring installation certificate. All were immediately addressed after inspection and the evidence forwarded to RQIA. One recommendation has been made to re-establish the servicing and maintenance arrangements of the X-ray equipment in accordance to manufacturer's instructions.

Is care effective?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mr McLarnon and staff demonstrated that systems and processes were in place to ensure that care provided in the establishment was effective. Areas reviewed included clinical records, health promotion, audits and communication. A suggestion was made to formalise staff meetings and establish written minutes of the meetings. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

Is care compassionate?

Observations made, review of documentation and discussion with Mr McLarnon and staff demonstrated that arrangements are in place to promote patients' dignity, respect and involvement in decision making. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

Is the service well led?

Information gathered during the inspection evidenced that there was effective leadership and governance arrangements in place which creates a culture focused on the needs of patients in order to deliver safe, effective and compassionate care. Areas reviewed included organisational and staff working arrangements, the arrangements for policy and risk assessment reviews, the arrangements for dealing with complaints, incidents and alerts, insurance arrangements and the registered provider's understanding of their role and responsibility in accordance with legislation. One issue arose with the complaints procedure which was addressed immediately following inspection and the evidence forwarded to RQIA. No requirements or recommendations have been made.

This inspection was underpinned by 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).

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.

1.1 Inspection outcome

	Requirements	Recommendations
Total number of requirements and recommendations made at this inspection	0	1

Details of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) within were discussed with Mr McLarnon, Registered Person as part of the inspection process. The timescales for completion commence from the date of inspection.

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

1.2 Actions/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection

Other than those actions detailed in the previous QIP there were no further actions required to be taken following the last inspection.

2.0 Service details

Registered organisation/registered provider: Mr James McLarnon	Registered manager: Mr James McLarnon
Person in charge of the service at the time of inspection: Mr James McLarnon	Date manager registered: 7 March 2013
Categories of care: Independent Hospital (IH) – Dental Treatment	Number of registered places: 1

3.0 Methods/processes

Questionnaires were provided to patients and staff prior to the inspection by the practice on behalf of the RQIA. Prior to inspection we analysed the following records: staffing information, complaints declaration and returned completed patient and staff questionnaires.

During the inspection the inspector met with Mr McLarnon, Registered Person and dentist, one dental nurse and one trainee dental nurse. A tour of the premises was also undertaken.

Records were examined during the inspection in relation to the following areas:

- staffing
- recruitment and selection
- safeguarding
- management of medical emergencies
- infection prevention and control
- radiography
- clinical record recording arrangements
- health promotion
- management and governance arrangements
- maintenance arrangements

4.0 The inspection

4.1 Review of requirements and recommendations from the most recent inspection dated 4 June 2015

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

4.2 Review of requirements and recommendations from the last care inspection dated 4 June 2015

Last care inspection recommendations		Validation of compliance
Recommendation 1 Ref: Standard 12.4 Stated: First time	It is recommended that advice and guidance is sought from your medico-legal advisor in relation to the provision of an automated external defibrillator (AED) in the practice. Any recommendations made should be addressed.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: The practice has purchased an AED and it was readily available in the practice. Staff have received training on the use of an AED.	

<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>Ref: Standard 11.0</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>It is recommended that personnel files for newly recruited staff should include the information as indicated in Regulation 19(2) Schedule 2 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Met</p>
<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>Mr McLarnon confirmed all new staff will be recruited in line with Regulation 19(2) Schedule 2 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>Ref: Standard 11</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>It is recommended that a formal written induction programme for all newly recruited staff should be devised.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Met</p>
<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>A written induction programme was in place.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>Ref: Standard 11</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>It is recommended that a robust system for checking professional indemnity status of registered dental professionals who require individual professional indemnity cover should be established.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Met</p>
<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>There were formal arrangements in place for checking professional indemnity status of registered dental professionals who require individual professional indemnity cover.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>Ref: Standard 11</p> <p>Stated: First time</p>	<p>It is recommended that an application form is introduced as part of the recruitment and selection procedures for the practice.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Met</p>
<p>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</p> <p>The practice has devised an application form as part of the recruitment and selection procedures for the practice.</p>		

4.3 Is care safe?

Staffing

One dental surgery is 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.

No new staff have been recruited since the previous care inspection, however, induction programme templates were in place relevant to specific roles within the practice.

Procedures were in place for informal appraisal of staff performance and it was suggested a formal appraisal document be devised to evidence staff appraisals. Mr McLarnon forwarded a sample appraisal form to RQIA following inspection which he confirmed would be fully implemented in the practice. 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 McLarnon confirmed that no new staff have been recruited since the previous inspection. It was confirmed that, should staff be recruited in the future robust systems and processes have been developed to ensure that all recruitment documentation as outlined in Schedule 2 of The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 is sought and retained for inspection.

There was a recruitment policy and procedure available. The policy was comprehensive and reflected best practice guidance.

Safeguarding

Staff spoken with 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.

Policies and procedures were in place for the safeguarding and protection of adults and children. Immediately following inspection Mr McLarnon updated the safeguarding policy and procedure to reference the regional guidance issued in July 2015 and forwarded a copy of it to RQIA. 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.

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 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.

The policy for the management of medical emergencies reflected best practice guidance. Protocols were available for staff reference outlining the local procedure for dealing with the various medical emergencies.

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 uniform policy and hand hygiene.

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. Training records were available for inspection.

There was a nominated lead who had responsibility for infection control and decontamination in the practice.

A decontamination room, separate from patient treatment areas and dedicated to the decontamination process, was available. Appropriate equipment, including a washer disinfectant and steam steriliser have been provided to meet the practice requirements. However the washer disinfectant was out of the practice for repair and manual cleaning of dental instruments in accordance with procedures was in operation. Mr McLarnon confirmed the washer disinfectant would be re-installed in line with best practice in the coming days. 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. Mr McLarnon confirmed the audit was carried out annually but he would re-establish a six monthly audit.

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. Only one surgery is presently operational and registered with RQIA.

A dedicated radiation protection file containing the relevant local rules, employer's procedures and other additional information was retained. Mr McLarnon and staff confirmed that Mr McLarnon is the only member of the team involved in radiology services in the practice. He acts as radiation protection supervisor (RPS). 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. Mr McLarnon had signed to confirm that he had read and understood these. Mr McLarnon 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 some years ago. A recommendation was made to re-establish servicing and maintenance arrangements for the X-ray equipment 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 high 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 were in place for maintaining the environment.

A legionella risk assessment was last undertaken in June 2016 and water temperature was monitored and recorded as recommended.

A fire risk assessment had been undertaken 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 written scheme of examination of pressure vessels has been undertaken in the last year.

Patient and staff views

Seventeen patients submitted questionnaire responses to RQIA. All indicated that they felt safe and protected from harm. Comments provided included the following:

- “Very safe”
- “Excellent”
- “Excellent and efficient dental surgery”
- “Everything is always fine”
- “Best dentist I ever had”

Two staff submitted questionnaire responses. All indicated that they felt that patients are safe and protected from harm. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. No written comments were provided.

Areas for improvement

A recommendation was made to re-establish servicing and maintenance arrangements for the X-ray equipment in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations:	1
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4.4 Is care effective?

Clinical records

Staff spoken with confirmed that clinical records are updated contemporaneously during each patient’s treatment session in accordance with best practice.

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 records management policy includes the arrangements in regards to the creation, storage, recording, retention and disposal of records and data protection. The policy is in keeping with legislation and best practice guidance.

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 including a range of health promotion information leaflets in the reception area. Mr McLarnon and staff 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
- record keeping

Communication

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

Staff confirmed informal meetings are held on a regular basis to discuss clinical and practice management issues. It was suggested that minutes of staff meetings are devised and retained. Staff spoken with confirmed that meetings also facilitated 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 seventeen patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them. Comments provided included the following:

- “Always”
- “Very caring advice always”
- “Brilliant”
- “Great care”

Two submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that patients get the right care, at the right time and with the best outcome for them. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. No written comments were provided.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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4.5 Is care compassionate?

Dignity, respect and involvement in decision making

Staff spoken with 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.

A policy and procedure was in place in relation to confidentiality which included the arrangements for respecting patient's privacy, dignity and providing compassionate care and treatment.

Patient and staff views

All of the seventeen patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care. Comments provided included the following:

- "Feel free to be myself"
- "Very professional and caring advice always"
- "Everything is always fine"
- "Excellent"
- "Great service"

Two submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that patients are treated with dignity and respect and are involved in decision making affecting their care. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. No written comments were provided.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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4.6 Is the service well led?

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. There was a 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 displayed in the practice. A minor amendment to the complaints procedure was suggested. An amended copy of the complaints procedure was forwarded to RQIA following inspection. 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 2015 to 31 March 2016.

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 McLarnon 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. Mr McLarnon outlined a wide ranging record keeping audit that is presently being undertaken and should be completed by 27 July 2016.

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 McLarnon 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 seventeen patients who submitted questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that the service is well managed.

Comments provided included the following:

- “Very professional”
- “Efficient dental surgery, James McLarnon is a great caring professional dentist”
- “Everything done well and top quality”

Two submitted staff questionnaire responses indicated that they feel that the service is well led. Staff spoken with during the inspection concurred with this. No written comments were provided.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations:	0
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5.0 Quality improvement plan

The issue identified during this inspection is detailed in the QIP. Details of this QIP were discussed with Mr McLarnon as part of the inspection process. The timescales commence from the date of inspection.

The registered provider/manager should note that failure to comply with regulations may lead to further enforcement action including possible prosecution for offences. It is the responsibility of the registered provider to ensure that all requirements and recommendations contained within the QIP are addressed within the specified timescales.

Matters to be addressed as a result of this inspection are set in the context of the current registration of the dental service. The registration is not transferable so that in the event of any future application to alter, extend or to sell the premises, RQIA would apply standards current at the time of that application.

5.1 Statutory requirements

This section outlines the actions which must be taken so that the registered provider meets legislative requirements based on The Independent Health Care Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

5.2 Recommendations

This section outlines the recommended actions based on research, recognised sources and DHSSPS Minimum Standards for Dental Care and Treatment (2011). They promote current good practice and if adopted by the registered provider may enhance service, quality and delivery.

5.3 Actions taken by the Registered Provider

The QIP should be completed and detail the actions taken to meet the legislative requirements stated. The registered provider should confirm that these actions have been completed and return completed QIP to RQIA's office by the inspector.

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 registered provider from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with the regulations and standards. It is expected that the requirements and recommendations outlined in this report will provide the registered provider with the necessary information to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities and enhance practice within the service.

Quality Improvement Plan	
Recommendations	
Recommendation 1	Response by registered provider detailing the actions taken: <i>To be completed within timescale.</i>
Ref: Standard 22	
Stated: First time	
To be completed by: 22 September 2016	



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