

Mr. Martin Nolan

Cramond House Dental Practice

Inspection Report

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Overall summary

We carried out this announced inspection on 22 January 2018 under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. We planned the inspection to check whether the registered provider was meeting the legal requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated regulations. The inspection was led by a CQC inspector who was supported by a specialist dental adviser.

We told the NHS England area team that we were inspecting the practice. We did not receive any information of concern.

To get to the heart of patients' experiences of care and treatment, we always ask the following five questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

These questions form the framework for the areas we look at during the inspection.

Our findings were:

Are services safe?

We found that this practice was providing safe care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Are services effective?

We found that this practice was providing effective care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Are services caring?

We found that this practice was providing caring services in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Are services responsive?

We found that this practice was providing responsive care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Are services well-led?

We found that this practice was providing well-led care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Background

Cramond House Dental Practice is based in Clitheroe and provides private treatment for adults with some NHS provision for children.

There is provision for level access for people who use wheelchairs and pushchairs. Car parking spaces and public transport facilities are available near the practice.

Summary of findings

The dental team includes three dentists, two dental hygienists, ten dental nurses (one of whom is a trainee) and a receptionist.

The practice is jointly owned and registered to an individual who is the principal dentist there. They have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated regulations about how the practice is run.

On the day of inspection we collected 50 CQC comment cards filled in by patients. This information gave us a very positive view of the practice.

During the inspection we spoke with the three dentists, two dental nurses, one dental hygienist and the receptionist/ dental nurse. We looked at practice policies and procedures and other records about how the service is managed.

The practice is open:

Monday to Thursday 9am to 5:30pm. Friday 9 am to 5pm.

Our key findings were:

- The practice was clean and well maintained.
- The practice had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance. The signage of the decontamination needed review to ensure authorised access only.
- Staff knew how to deal with emergencies. Emergency equipment and medicines were available as described in recognised guidance.

- The practice had systems to help them manage risk.
- The practice had suitable safeguarding processes and staff knew their responsibilities for safeguarding adults and children.
- The practice had a recruitment policy in place and this had been adhered to.
- The clinical staff provided patients' care and treatment in line with current guidelines.
- Staff treated patients with dignity and respect.
- Staff took care to protect patient privacy and confidentiality; some of the patients records needed secure storage.
- The appointment system was flexible and met patients' needs.
- The practice had effective leadership. Staff felt involved and supported and worked well as a team.
- The practice asked staff and patients for feedback about the services they provided.
- The practice dealt with complaints positively and efficiently.

There were areas where the provider could make improvements and should:

- Review the signage for the decontamination room door to clarify to patients and visitors this is a restricted area.
- Review the safe storage of patients' records taking into account guidelines published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Are services safe?

We found that this practice was providing safe care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The practice had systems and processes to provide safe care and treatment. They used learning from incidents and complaints to help them improve.

Staff received training in safeguarding and knew how to recognise the signs of abuse and how to report concerns.

Staff were qualified for their roles. The practice had a recruitment policy in place; the practice completed all essential recruitment checks.

Premises and equipment were clean and properly maintained. The practice followed national guidance for cleaning, sterilising and storing dental instruments. We saw that the decontamination room was sited near the main entrance with no signage on the door; there was potential risk of unauthorised access.

No action



Are services effective?

We found that this practice was providing effective care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The dentists assessed patients' needs and provided care and treatment in line with recognised guidance. Patients described the treatment they received as an excellent, first class service. The dentists discussed treatment with patients so they could give informed consent and recorded this in their records.

The practice had clear arrangements when patients needed to be referred to other dental or health care professionals.

The practice supported staff to complete training relevant to their roles and had systems to help them monitor this.

No action



Are services caring?

We found that this practice was providing caring services in accordance with the relevant regulations.

We received feedback about the practice from 50 people. Patients were positive about all aspects of the service the practice provided. They told us staff were considerate, caring and helpful.

Patients said staff treated them with dignity and respect. We saw that staff protected patients' privacy.

The practice had systems in place to manage patient's information and confidentiality we noted some records could potentially be viewed from a window at the rear of the premises.

No action



Summary of findings

Are services responsive to people's needs?

We found that this practice was providing responsive care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The practice's appointment system was flexible and met patients' needs. Patients could get an appointment quickly if in pain.

Staff considered patients' different needs. This included providing facilities for disabled patients such as step free access, grab rails, two treatment rooms and a disabled toilet on the ground floor. The practice had arrangements in place to accommodate patients with disabilities.

The practice took patients' views seriously. They valued compliments from patients and responded to concerns quickly and constructively.

No action



Are services well-led?

We found that this practice was providing well-led care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The practice had arrangements to ensure the smooth running of the service. These included systems for the practice team to discuss the quality and safety of the care and treatment provided. There was a clearly defined management structure and staff felt supported and appreciated.

The practice monitored clinical and non-clinical areas of their work to help them improve and learn. This included asking for and listening to the views of patients and staff.

No action



Are services safe?

Our findings

Reporting, learning and improvement from incidents

The practice had policies and procedures to report, investigate, respond and learn from accidents, incidents and significant events. Staff knew about these and understood their role in the process.

The practice recorded, responded to and discussed all incidents to reduce risk and support future learning.

The practice received national patient safety and medicines alerts from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA).

Reliable safety systems and processes (including safeguarding)

Staff knew their responsibilities if they had concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults who were vulnerable due to their circumstances. The practice had safeguarding policies and procedures to provide staff with information about identifying, reporting and dealing with suspected abuse. We saw evidence that staff received safeguarding training. Staff knew about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and how to report concerns.

We looked at the practice's arrangements for safe dental care and treatment. These included risk assessments which staff reviewed every year. The practice followed relevant safety laws when using needles and other sharp dental items. The dentists used rubber dams in line with guidance from the British Endodontic Society when providing root canal treatment.

Medical emergencies

Staff knew what to do in a medical emergency and completed training in emergency resuscitation and basic life support every year.

Emergency equipment and medicines were available as described in recognised guidance. Staff kept records of their checks to make sure these were available, within their expiry date, and in working order.

Staff recruitment

The practice had a staff recruitment policy in place to help them employ suitable staff. This reflected the relevant

legislation. We found that all pre-employment checks were in place. We saw that all checks were in place including annual DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service checks) and evidence of immunisation and medical indemnity.

Clinical staff were qualified and registered with the General Dental Council and had professional indemnity cover.

Monitoring health & safety and responding to risks

The practice's health and safety policies and risk assessments were up to date and reviewed to help manage potential risk. These covered general workplace and specific dental topics. The practice checked each year that the clinicians' professional indemnity insurance was up to date.

The provider had a system in place to ensure clinical staff had received appropriate vaccinations, including the vaccination to protect them against the Hepatitis B virus, and that the effectiveness of the vaccination was identified. People who are likely to come into contact with blood products, and are at increased risk of injuries from sharp instruments, should receive the Hepatitis B vaccination to minimise the risks of acquiring blood borne infections.

Infection control

The practice had an infection prevention and control policy and procedures to keep patients safe. They followed guidance in The Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices (HTM 01-05) published by the Department of Health. Staff completed infection prevention and control training every year.

The practice had suitable arrangements for transporting, cleaning, checking, sterilising and storing instruments in line with HTM 01-05. The records showed equipment staff used for cleaning and sterilising instruments was maintained and used in line with the manufacturers' guidance.

The practice carried out infection prevention and control audits twice a year. The latest audit showed the practice was meeting the required standards.

Access to the decontamination room was not restricted in that the door was not secure or signage to indicate no unauthorised access. We discussed this with the principal dentist who confirmed that a sign would be placed on the door to restrict access.

Are services safe?

Adequate personal protective equipment was available.

The practice had procedures to reduce the possibility of Legionella or other bacteria developing in the water systems.

We saw cleaning schedules for the premises. The practice was clean when we inspected and patients confirmed this was usual.

Equipment and medicines

We saw servicing documentation for the equipment used. Staff carried out checks in line with the manufacturers' recommendations.

The practice had suitable systems for prescribing, dispensing and storing medicines.

Radiography (X-rays)

The practice had suitable arrangements to ensure the safety of the X-ray equipment. They met current radiation regulations and had the required information in their radiation protection file.

We saw evidence that the dentists justified, graded and reported on the X-rays they took. The practice carried out X-ray audits annually following current guidance and legislation.

Clinical staff completed continuous professional development in respect of dental radiography.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

Monitoring and improving outcomes for patients

The practice kept detailed dental care records containing information about the patients' current dental needs, past treatment and medical histories. The dentists assessed patients' treatment needs in line with recognised guidance.

We saw that the practice audited patients' dental care records to check that the clinicians recorded the necessary information. Other areas were audited regularly for example; patient consent recording and antibiotic prescribing.

Health promotion & prevention

The practice believed in preventative care and supporting patients to ensure better oral health in line with the Delivering Better Oral Health toolkit.

We confirmed dentists discussed smoking, alcohol consumption and diet with patients during appointments. The practice had a selection of dental products for sale.

Staffing

Staff new to the practice had a period of induction based on a structured induction programme.

The practice had a strong focus on training and development and we saw training was provided from the initial appointment of staff, for example, health and safety and information governance training. As part of their on-going professional development the practice delivered a rolling programme of topics delivered by different staff in staff meetings.

Several staff had further qualifications or had undertaken further study, for example, dental nurses had completed oral cancer, oral health, dementia awareness and radiology skills training.

Staff told us the principal dentist provided support, training opportunities and encouragement to assist them in meeting the requirements of their registration and with their professional development.

Staff told us they discussed training needs at annual appraisals. We saw evidence of completed appraisals.

Working with other services

Dentists confirmed they referred patients to a range of specialists in primary and secondary care if they needed treatment the practice did not provide. These included referring patients with suspected oral cancer under the national two week wait arrangements. This was initiated by NICE in 2005 to help make sure patients were seen quickly by a specialist. The practice monitored urgent referrals to make sure they were dealt with promptly.

Consent to care and treatment

The practice team understood the importance of obtaining and recording patients' consent to treatment. The dentists told us they gave patients information about treatment options and the risks and benefits of these so they could make informed decisions. Patients confirmed their dentist listened to them and gave them clear information about their treatment.

The practice's consent policy included information about the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The team had completed training and understood their responsibilities under the act when treating adults who may not be able to make informed decisions. The policy also referred to Gillick competence and the dentists were aware of the need to consider this when treating young people under 16. Staff described how they involved patients' relatives or carers when appropriate and made sure they had enough time to explain treatment options clearly.

Are services caring?

Our findings

Respect, dignity, compassion and empathy

Staff were aware of their responsibility to respect people's diversity and human rights.

Patients commented positively that staff were helpful, caring and made them feel at ease. We saw that staff treated patients with dignity and respect and were reassuring towards patients at the reception desk and over the telephone.

The staff contacted patients to remind them of their appointments and this was by text, email and where appropriate by telephone according to the patients preference.

Staff were aware of the importance of privacy and confidentiality. The reception area was separate to the waiting areas; music was also played to help provide some privacy when reception staff were dealing with patients. Staff told us that if a patient asked for more privacy they would take them into another room.

The reception computer screens were not visible to patients and staff did not leave personal information where

other patients might see it. Generally patients' records were stored securely and out of view, we noted dental care records were potentially in view from one window with no blinds or privacy glass in place. The principal dentist confirmed that measures would be taken to secure these records.

Staff password protected patients' electronic care records and backed these up to secure storage.

Information leaflets and price lists were available in the waiting rooms. These covered the most frequently asked questions about treatment and costs.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

The practice gave patients clear information to help them make informed choices. Patients confirmed that staff listened to them, did not rush them and discussed options for treatment with them.

Patients told us staff were kind and helpful when they were in pain, distress or discomfort.

The practice's website provided patients with information about the range of treatments available at the practice.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

Responding to and meeting patients' needs

The practice had an efficient appointment system to respond to patients' needs. Staff told us that patients who requested an urgent appointment were seen the same day. Appointments ran smoothly on the day of the inspection and patients were not kept waiting.

Staff told us that they currently had some patients for whom they needed to make adjustments to enable them to receive treatment. This could mean a longer appointment for an anxious patient.

Promoting equality

The practice made reasonable adjustments for patients with disabilities. There was level access throughout the ground floor with two treatment rooms, grab rails at the main entrance and a disabled toilet.

A hearing loop had been installed for patients who had hearing impairments and a magnifier and large print information brochures were in place.

Staff said they could provide information in different formats to meet individual patients' needs and had access to language translation services where required.

Access to the service

The practice displayed its opening hours on the premises, in their information leaflet and on their website.

We confirmed the practice kept waiting times and cancellations to a minimum.

The practice was committed to seeing patients experiencing pain on the same day. The website, information leaflet and answerphone provided telephone numbers for patients needing emergency dental treatment during the working day and when the practice was not open.

Patients confirmed they could make routine and emergency appointments easily and were rarely kept waiting for their appointment.

Concerns & complaints

The staff told us they aimed to settle complaints in-house and invited patients to speak with them in person to discuss these.

The practice had a complaints procedure explained to patients how to raise a concern or complaint. The principal dentist was responsible for dealing with these. The complaints procedure was displayed on the web site and within the information leaflet.

We looked at concerns, comments and compliments received in the last 12 months. These showed the practice responded to concerns appropriately and discussed outcomes with staff to share learning and improve the service.

Are services well-led?

Our findings

Governance arrangements

The provider and a second dentist had overall responsibility for the management and clinical leadership of the practice. Several staff had specific roles and responsibilities. We saw staff had access to suitable supervision and support for their roles and responsibilities.

We saw the practice had arrangements in place to monitor the quality of the service and make improvements where required, for example, regular spot checks were carried out around the practice by the compliance lead to identify any areas for improvement. We saw records of actions taken to address improvements required.

The practice had policies, procedures and risk assessments to support the management of the service and to protect patients and staff. These included arrangements to monitor the quality of the service and make improvements.

The practice had information governance arrangements and staff were aware of the importance of these in protecting patients' personal information.

Leadership, openness and transparency

Staff were aware of the duty of candour requirements to be open, honest and to offer an apology to patients should anything go wrong.

Staff told us there was an open, transparent culture in the practice. They said they were encouraged to raise issues and they felt confident to do this. They told us the principal dentist was approachable, would listen to their concerns and act appropriately. We saw several examples demonstrating clear lines of communication and team work.

The practice held regular team meetings where staff could communicate information, exchange ideas and discuss updates.

Learning and improvement

The practice held monthly meetings where staff could communicate information, exchange ideas and discuss updates. Staff meetings included a training element with different topics each month.

The practice had quality assurance processes in place to encourage learning and continuous improvement. These included, for example, audits. We reviewed audits of patient dental care records, antibiotic prescribing, X-rays and infection prevention and control. Staff kept records of the results of these and produced action plans where necessary. We saw the auditing process resulted in improvements.

The principal dentist showed a commitment to learning and improvement and valued the contributions made to the team by all staff. The practice was committed to learning and improving. We saw evidence of learning from complaints, incidents, audits and both staff and patient feedback.

Staff had annual appraisals, which helped identify individual learning needs. Staff told us the practice provided support and training opportunities for their on-going learning.

Practice seeks and acts on feedback from its patients, the public and staff

The practice had a system in place to seek the views of patients about all areas of service delivery through the use of regular patient surveys. We saw that patient feedback was acted upon, for example, the practice had introduced children books in the waiting area and a grab rail at the main entrance.

The practice gathered feedback from staff through meetings, appraisals, informal discussions and anonymous staff surveys. Staff were encouraged to offer suggestions for improvements to the service and said these were listened to and acted upon.