

We are the regulator: Our job is to check whether hospitals, care homes and care services are meeting essential standards.

Babybond Ltd

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Date of Inspection: 01 October 2013

Date of Publication: October
2013

We inspected the following standards to check that action had been taken to meet them. This is what we found:

Respecting and involving people who use services ✓ Met this standard

Care and welfare of people who use services ✓ Met this standard

Safeguarding people who use services from abuse ✓ Met this standard

Requirements relating to workers ✓ Met this standard

Details about this location

Registered Provider	Babybond Limited
Overview of the service	Babybond provides a private ultrasound scanning service. Scans are carried out by a sonographer using a mobile scan and laptop system. The service operates from 16 locations. The service is appointment driven. People requiring a scan book an appointment at their nearest location. Two staff members are present at each scan; a qualified sonographer to carry out the scan and a scan buddy who assists the sonographer.
Type of service	Diagnostic and/or screening service - single handed sessional providers
Regulated activity	Diagnostic and screening procedures

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Summary of this inspection

Why we carried out this inspection

We carried out this inspection to check whether Babybond Ltd had taken action to meet the following essential standards:

- Respecting and involving people who use services
- Care and welfare of people who use services
- Safeguarding people who use services from abuse
- Requirements relating to workers

This was an unannounced inspection.

How we carried out this inspection

We looked at the personal care or treatment records of people who use the service, carried out a visit on 1 October 2013, talked with people who use the service and talked with staff.

What people told us and what we found

We spoke to two people who used the service. They told us they were very satisfied with the service they received. One person said "the staff were nice, they knew what they were doing and explained everything".

We saw that the provider had taken action to become compliant with our standards. Information and guidance from the Health Protection Agency and British Medical Ultrasound Society was made available to people who used the service. Staff had received training about safeguarding people from abuse and knew what action to take in the event of suspected abuse.

The provider carried out checks with the disclosure and barring service to ensure that only staff who were suitable were employed.

You can see our judgements on the front page of this report.

More information about the provider

Please see our website www.cqc.org.uk for more information, including our most recent judgements against the essential standards. You can contact us using the telephone number on the back of the report if you have additional questions.

There is a glossary at the back of this report which has definitions for words and phrases we use in the report.

Our judgements for each standard inspected

Respecting and involving people who use services ✓ Met this standard

People should be treated with respect, involved in discussions about their care and treatment and able to influence how the service is run

Our judgement

The provider was meeting this standard.

People's views and experiences were taken into account in the way the service was provided and delivered in relation to their care.

Reasons for our judgement

Our inspection of 20 December 2012 found that the provider was not informing people who used the service about uncertainties regarding ultrasound imaging of the foetus. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) considers that parents-to-be should be aware of uncertainties regarding ultrasound imaging of the foetus and take these into account when deciding whether to have ultrasound scans that do not have a defined diagnostic benefit and provide only keepsake images or "real time" scans.

During this visit we spoke with the provider. The provider told us that there was a diagnostic benefit to all the pregnancy scans on offer. This was because all scans were carried out by specialist healthcare professionals and care pathways were in place to follow up any abnormalities detected. We looked at the pregnancy scans on offer and saw that a 4D scan was available as a souvenir image. We saw that the provider had created a link to the HPA advice regarding this type of scan. Therefore, people were informed of uncertainties and properly involved in making decisions about their care.

We spoke with two people who had used the service. Both said they were very satisfied with the service they received. One person said "the staff were nice, they explained everything to me".

People should get safe and appropriate care that meets their needs and supports their rights

Our judgement

The provider was meeting this standard.

Care and treatment was planned and delivered in a way that was intended to ensure people's safety and welfare.

Reasons for our judgement

Our inspection of 20 December 2012 found that people were not provided with guidance produced and published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the British Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS). Therefore the provider had not taken proper steps to ensure that each person who used the service was protected against the risks of receiving care or treatment that is unsafe.

During this inspection we saw that the provider had created a link to the HPA and BMUS guidance on their website. This meant that the providers procedures for the planning and delivery of care did reflect published research and evidence. People who used the service were made aware of this.

We spoke with two people who used the service. Both said that the service had met their needs and requirements.

People should be protected from abuse and staff should respect their human rights

Our judgement

The provider was meeting this standard.

People who use the service were protected from the risk of abuse, because the provider had taken reasonable steps to identify the possibility of abuse and prevent abuse from happening.

Reasons for our judgement

Our inspection of 20 December 2012 found that the provider did not have policy in place regarding safeguarding people from abuse nor did they inform staff of action to take in the event of suspected abuse.

During this inspection we were shown the providers safeguarding and whistle blowing policy. We were also shown evidence that these policies were discussed at staff meetings such as staff appraisals. All staff were provided with incident report forms.

We spoke with a member of staff about safeguarding people from abuse. They knew what action to take in the event of suspected abuse. They knew when to report concerns and who to report them to.

Requirements relating to workers

✓ Met this standard

People should be cared for by staff who are properly qualified and able to do their job

Our judgement

The provider was meeting this standard.

People were cared for, or supported by, suitably qualified, skilled and experienced staff.

Reasons for our judgement

Our inspection of 20 December 2012 found that not all staff had been checked with the disclosure and barring service (DBS). These pre-employment checks are important to ensure that only people who are suitable and do not present risk to people who use the service are employed.

During this visit the provider told us about the arrangements they had in place to carry out DBS checks on staff. All new staff had a DBS check before commencing employment. The provider was in the process of carrying out these checks on all existing staff.

We spoke with two people who used the service. Both told us that staff had behaved appropriately, professionally and were competent.

We spoke with a member of staff. They confirmed that a DBS check had been carried out. They said "I love working for Babybond, I feel supported"

About CQC inspections

We are the regulator of health and social care in England.

All providers of regulated health and social care services have a legal responsibility to make sure they are meeting essential standards of quality and safety. These are the standards everyone should be able to expect when they receive care.

The essential standards are described in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 and the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009. We regulate against these standards, which we sometimes describe as "government standards".

We carry out unannounced inspections of all care homes, acute hospitals and domiciliary care services in England at least once a year to judge whether or not the essential standards are being met. We carry out inspections of other services less often. All of our inspections are unannounced unless there is a good reason to let the provider know we are coming.

There are 16 essential standards that relate most directly to the quality and safety of care and these are grouped into five key areas. When we inspect we could check all or part of any of the 16 standards at any time depending on the individual circumstances of the service. Because of this we often check different standards at different times.

When we inspect, we always visit and we do things like observe how people are cared for, and we talk to people who use the service, to their carers and to staff. We also review information we have gathered about the provider, check the service's records and check whether the right systems and processes are in place.

We focus on whether or not the provider is meeting the standards and we are guided by whether people are experiencing the outcomes they should be able to expect when the standards are being met. By outcomes we mean the impact care has on the health, safety and welfare of people who use the service, and the experience they have whilst receiving it.

Our inspectors judge if any action is required by the provider of the service to improve the standard of care being provided. Where providers are non-compliant with the regulations, we take enforcement action against them. If we require a service to take action, or if we take enforcement action, we re-inspect it before its next routine inspection was due. This could mean we re-inspect a service several times in one year. We also might decide to re-inspect a service if new concerns emerge about it before the next routine inspection.

In between inspections we continually monitor information we have about providers. The information comes from the public, the provider, other organisations, and from care workers.

You can tell us about your experience of this provider on our website.

How we define our judgements

The following pages show our findings and regulatory judgement for each essential standard or part of the standard that we inspected. Our judgements are based on the ongoing review and analysis of the information gathered by CQC about this provider and the evidence collected during this inspection.

We reach one of the following judgements for each essential standard inspected.

✓ Met this standard This means that the standard was being met in that the provider was compliant with the regulation. If we find that standards were met, we take no regulatory action but we may make comments that may be useful to the provider and to the public about minor improvements that could be made.

✗ Action needed This means that the standard was not being met in that the provider was non-compliant with the regulation. We may have set a compliance action requiring the provider to produce a report setting out how and by when changes will be made to make sure they comply with the standard. We monitor the implementation of action plans in these reports and, if necessary, take further action. We may have identified a breach of a regulation which is more serious, and we will make sure action is taken. We will report on this when it is complete.

✗ Enforcement action taken If the breach of the regulation was more serious, or there have been several or continual breaches, we have a range of actions we take using the criminal and/or civil procedures in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and relevant regulations. These enforcement powers include issuing a warning notice; restricting or suspending the services a provider can offer, or the number of people it can care for; issuing fines and formal cautions; in extreme cases, cancelling a provider or managers registration or prosecuting a manager or provider. These enforcement powers are set out in law and mean that we can take swift, targeted action where services are failing people.

How we define our judgements (continued)

Where we find non-compliance with a regulation (or part of a regulation), we state which part of the regulation has been breached. Only where there is non compliance with one or more of Regulations 9-24 of the Regulated Activity Regulations, will our report include a judgement about the level of impact on people who use the service (and others, if appropriate to the regulation). This could be a minor, moderate or major impact.

Minor impact - people who use the service experienced poor care that had an impact on their health, safety or welfare or there was a risk of this happening. The impact was not significant and the matter could be managed or resolved quickly.

Moderate impact - people who use the service experienced poor care that had a significant effect on their health, safety or welfare or there was a risk of this happening. The matter may need to be resolved quickly.

Major impact - people who use the service experienced poor care that had a serious current or long term impact on their health, safety and welfare, or there was a risk of this happening. The matter needs to be resolved quickly

We decide the most appropriate action to take to ensure that the necessary changes are made. We always follow up to check whether action has been taken to meet the standards.

Glossary of terms we use in this report

Essential standard

The essential standards of quality and safety are described in our *Guidance about compliance: Essential standards of quality and safety*. They consist of a significant number of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 and the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009. These regulations describe the essential standards of quality and safety that people who use health and adult social care services have a right to expect. A full list of the standards can be found within the *Guidance about compliance*. The 16 essential standards are:

Respecting and involving people who use services - Outcome 1 (Regulation 17)

Consent to care and treatment - Outcome 2 (Regulation 18)

Care and welfare of people who use services - Outcome 4 (Regulation 9)

Meeting Nutritional Needs - Outcome 5 (Regulation 14)

Cooperating with other providers - Outcome 6 (Regulation 24)

Safeguarding people who use services from abuse - Outcome 7 (Regulation 11)

Cleanliness and infection control - Outcome 8 (Regulation 12)

Management of medicines - Outcome 9 (Regulation 13)

Safety and suitability of premises - Outcome 10 (Regulation 15)

Safety, availability and suitability of equipment - Outcome 11 (Regulation 16)

Requirements relating to workers - Outcome 12 (Regulation 21)

Staffing - Outcome 13 (Regulation 22)

Supporting Staff - Outcome 14 (Regulation 23)

Assessing and monitoring the quality of service provision - Outcome 16 (Regulation 10)

Complaints - Outcome 17 (Regulation 19)

Records - Outcome 21 (Regulation 20)

Regulated activity

These are prescribed activities related to care and treatment that require registration with CQC. These are set out in legislation, and reflect the services provided.

Glossary of terms we use in this report (continued)

(Registered) Provider

There are several legal terms relating to the providers of services. These include registered person, service provider and registered manager. The term 'provider' means anyone with a legal responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of the law are carried out. On our website we often refer to providers as a 'service'.

Regulations

We regulate against the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 and the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009.

Responsive inspection

This is carried out at any time in relation to identified concerns.

Routine inspection

This is planned and could occur at any time. We sometimes describe this as a scheduled inspection.

Themed inspection

This is targeted to look at specific standards, sectors or types of care.

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