

Birchington Medical Centre

Inspection report

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This report describes our judgement of the quality of care at this service. It is based on a combination of what we found when we inspected, information from our ongoing monitoring of data about services and information given to us from the provider, patients, the public and other organisations.

Ratings

Overall summary

We carried out a focussed inspection at Birchington Health Centre on 22 January 2019 to confirm whether the practice had carried out their plan to meet the legal requirements in relation to the breaches in regulations identified in our previous inspection on 28 November 2018.

A warning notice had been issued in relation to breaches of regulation 12, safe care and treatment in relation to the practices management of medicines. The practice is required to be compliant with the notice by 07 January 2019. Two regulatory notices have also been issued for breaches of regulation 13, safeguarding and regulation 17 for good governance.

This inspection focussed on the risks identified in the warning notice in respect to the management of medicines. The inspection was not rated as not all areas of the domains were inspected. However, a comprehensive rating inspection has been planned.

We found that:

- The practice had reviewed how they managed medicines alerts and had ensured all patients potentially affected had been appropriate reviewed and their medicines amended as necessary.
- The practice had changed their prescribing practices for high risk medicines requiring a GP to authorise all prescriptions.
- The practice had reviewed their systems for recording medication reviews to ensure they were accurate.
- The practice ensured the safe disposal of patient medicines.

Details of our findings and the evidence supporting our ratings are set out in the evidence tables.

Professor Steve Field CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP
Chief Inspector of General Practice

Population group ratings

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by a CQC lead inspector and included a GP specialist advisor.

Background to Birchington Medical Centre

Birchington Medical Centre provides medical care Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm. Once a week the practice operates extended hours from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The practice is situated in the coastal town of Birchington in Thanet, Kent. It provides services to approximately 9000 patients in the locality.

The practice serves an affluent population with low levels of deprivation. It has a lower representation amongst its patient population of patients under the age of 18 years when compared with the local and national average. It provides more services to patients over 65 years of age than the local and national average.

The practice is owned and managed by two GP partners, one female and one male. They are supported by a salaried female GP and a regular locum male GP. The practice nursing team consists of three advanced nurse practitioners (two female and one male), four practice nurses and six healthcare assistants. The practice also employs a community matron providing outreach care to their elderly and house restricted patients.

The administrative, secretarial and reception team are supported and overseen by the assistant practice manager and practice manager.

The practice does not provide out of hours services to its patients and there are arrangements with another provider (the 111 service/Integrated Care 24 limited) to deliver services to patients when the practice is closed. The practice holds a general medical service (GMS) contract with NHS England for delivering primary medical care services to local communities.

Services are delivered from: Birchington Medical Centre, Minnis Road, Birchington, Kent, CT7 9HQ.

The service is registered to five regulated activities;

- Diagnostics and screening
- Family planning
- Maternity and midwifery
- Surgical procedures
- Treatment of disease, disorder and injury.