

# Ahmad and Saleem Partners Ltd

# Deeplish Dental Practice

## Inspection Report

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### Overall summary

We carried out this announced inspection on 1 June 2017 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. They did not provide 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**

Deeplish Dental Practice is in Rochdale and provides NHS and private treatment to patients of all ages.

The practice is located on the first floor of a health centre. Lifts are provided for people who use wheelchairs and pushchairs. There is a large car park with spaces for patients with disabled badges. The premises are close to a train station and bus terminal.

# Summary of findings

The dental team includes five dentists, four dental nurses, one of whom is a trainee, and a practice manager. The practice has two treatment rooms.

The practice is owned by a company and as a condition of registration must have a person registered with the Care Quality Commission as the registered manager. Registered managers have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated regulations about how the practice is run. The registered manager at Deeplish Dental Practice was the senior partner.

On the day of inspection we collected 35 CQC comment cards filled in by patients. This information gave us a positive view of the practice.

During the inspection we spoke with four dentists, three dental nurses and the practice manager. We looked at practice policies and procedures and other records about how the service is managed.

The practice is open:

Monday 8am-6pm

Tuesday 8am-6pm

Wednesday 8am-6pm

Thursday 8am-5pm

Friday 8am-4pm

## Our key findings were:

- The practice was clean and well maintained.
- The practice had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.
- Staff knew how to deal with emergencies. Appropriate medicines and life-saving equipment were available.
- 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 thorough staff recruitment procedures. Minor improvements were needed to the arrangements for locum staff.
- The clinical staff provided patients' care and treatment in line with current guidelines.
- Staff treated patients with dignity and respect and took care to protect their privacy and personal information.
- The appointment system 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 practice's arrangements for receiving and responding to patient safety alerts, recalls and rapid response reports issued from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and through the Central Alerting System (CAS), as well as from other relevant bodies such as Public Health England (PHE).
- Review the practice's sharps procedures giving due regard to the Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013.
- Review the protocol for ensuring recruitment checks, including references, and evidence of immunity are suitably obtained and recorded for agency nursing staff.

# 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 and the practice completed essential recruitment checks. The checks carried out on agency nursing staff could be improved.

Premises and equipment were clean and properly maintained. The practice followed national guidance for cleaning, sterilising and storing dental instruments.

The practice had suitable arrangements for dealing with medical and other emergencies.

The practice had carried out a basic sharps risk assessment but it did not include the steps taken to minimise the risk from other sharp instruments and devices.

We could not see evidence that recent relevant alerts had been received and acted upon, the practice manager told us they would check their registration to receive alerts.

No action



### Are services effective?

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

The practice was a pilot site for initiatives promoting prevention and improved dental health.

The dentists assessed patients' needs and provided care and treatment in line with recognised guidance. Patients described the treatment they received as effective, caring and gentle. 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 35 people. Patients were positive about all aspects of the service the practice provided. They told us staff were caring, helpful and kind. They said that they were given helpful, honest explanations about dental treatment, and said their dentist listened to them. Patients commented that they made them feel at ease, especially when they were anxious about visiting the dentist.

No action



# Summary of findings

We saw that staff protected patients' privacy and were aware of the importance of confidentiality. Patients said staff treated them with dignity and respect.

Staff at the practice made courtesy calls to remind patients of forthcoming appointments and several patients commented that they appreciated the personal service provided.

## **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 efficient 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 and families with children. The practice had access to face to face interpreter services and had arrangements to help patients with sight or hearing loss.

The practice took patients views seriously. They valued compliments from patients and responded to concerns and complaints 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 team kept complete patient dental care records which were, clearly written or typed and stored securely.

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 to 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 had received some national patient safety and medicines alerts from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA). Recent relevant alerts, including one relating to Glucagon had not been received and acted upon. The inspector alerted the principal dentist on the day of the inspection. The Glucagon was checked to ensure it was not affected by the alert. The principal dentist gave assurance that they would ensure that future alerts are received, acted upon and retained for reference.

### 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. The practice had a whistleblowing policy. Staff told us they felt confident they could raise concerns without fear of reprimand.

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.

The practice had a business continuity plan describing how the practice would deal with events which could disrupt the normal running of the practice.

### 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 and procedure to help them employ suitable staff. This reflected the relevant legislation. We looked at five staff recruitment files. These showed the practice followed their recruitment procedure. The practice occasionally used locum dental nurse agencies when they were short staffed. The agencies did not provide the practice with confirmation of the dental nurses' ID, immunity status, references or indemnity and the practice did not carry out their own checks. We discussed this with the registered manager and practice manager who gave assurance that they would ensure they obtained this information before using agency staff again.

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

The practice had also provided placements for trainee dental nurses who were recruited by the dental hospital. The practice manager liaised with the education providers to ensure the appropriate checks were carried out for trainees and worked with assessors to support them during training.

### 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 had current employer's liability insurance and checked each year that the clinicians' professional indemnity insurance was up to date. Staff participated in fire marshal training and emergency evacuation drills.

The practice had carried out a basic sharps risk assessment of the needles and syringes but this did not include the risk from other sharp dental items. We discussed this with the registered manager who told us they would review this to include all sharps. We were told that dentists were responsible for handling and disposing of all needles.



## Are services safe?

A dental nurse worked with each of the dentists when they treated patients.

### **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 (HTM01-05) 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 HTM01-05. 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 an infection prevention and control audit twice a year. The latest audit showed the practice was meeting the required standards.

The maintenance of the premises was the responsibility of the building owner. There was a system to report faults and the practice manager liaised regularly with the owners and the other occupiers to maintain the safety of the premises. The practice had procedures to reduce the possibility of Legionella or other bacteria developing in the water systems, in line with a risk assessment.

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.

The practice stored and kept records of NHS prescriptions as described in current guidance.

### **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 every year 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. Clinicians at the practice were members of Greater Manchester Local Dental Network and were contributing to the development of a locality wide medical history form.

We saw that the practice audited patients' dental care records to check that the dentists recorded the necessary information.

### 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. They displayed oral health education information throughout the practice and supported national oral health campaigns.

The dentists told us they prescribed high concentration fluoride toothpaste if a patient's risk of tooth decay indicated this would help them. They used fluoride varnish for all children where appropriate.

The practice was one of 11 pilot sites for 'Healthy Gums Do Matter' which is a primary care clinician-led project to improve the quality of periodontal treatment in NHS primary dental care. The project led to the production of a practitioner's toolkit which outlines a staged, care pathway approach for the management of periodontal disease.

The dentists told us they discussed smoking, alcohol consumption and diet with patients during appointments. The practice had a selection of dental products for sale and provided health promotion leaflets to help patients with their oral health.

### Staffing

Staff new to the practice had a period of induction based on a structured induction programme. We confirmed clinical staff completed the continuous professional development required for their registration with the General Dental Council.

Staff told us they discussed training needs at annual appraisals. We saw evidence of completed appraisals and personal development plans. Staff told us that they were supported to complete additional training. For example, dental nurses had received additional education and training in impression taking, taking X-rays, oral health education and the application of fluoride varnish.

### 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. This 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 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 and dental nurses 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 we spoke with were aware of their responsibility to respect people's diversity and human rights.

Patients commented positively that staff were caring, helpful and kind. We saw that staff treated patients respectfully, appropriately and were friendly towards patients at the reception desk and over the telephone.

Several nervous patients said staff were compassionate and understanding and had spent time putting them at ease and explaining treatments.

The layout of reception and waiting areas did not provide privacy when reception staff were dealing with patients but staff were aware of the importance of privacy and confidentiality. Staff described how they avoided discussing confidential information in front of other patients and 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.

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

There were magazines and patient information leaflets in the waiting room which was shared with the community dental and audiology services.

Staff at the practice made courtesy calls to remind patients of forthcoming appointments and several patients commented that they appreciated the personal service provided.

#### **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. A dentist described the conversations they had with patients to satisfy themselves they understood their treatment options.

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

The practice's information leaflets provided patients with information about the range of treatments available at the practice. These included general dentistry and treatments for gum disease and more complex treatment such as crowns and bridges.

The dentists showed patients photographs, videos and X-ray images when they discussed treatment options. Staff also used an intraoral camera or videos to explain treatment options to patients needing more complex treatment.





# Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

## Our findings

### Responding to and meeting patients' needs

Patients described high levels of satisfaction with the responsive service provided by the practice.

The practice had an efficient appointment system to respond to patients' needs. The practice manager actively monitored the availability of appointments and staff told us that patients who requested an urgent appointment were seen the same day. Patients told us they had enough time during their appointment and did not feel rushed. We observed patients were not kept waiting on the day of the inspection.

### Promoting equality

The premises were accessible to patients with disabilities. Disabled parking, lifts, a hearing loop and an accessible toilet with hand rails and a call bell were all available.

Staff said they could provide information in different formats and languages to meet individual patients' needs. Members of staff could communicate in other languages including Bengali, Urdu and Punjabi. They had access to interpreter/translation services which included British Sign Language.

### Access to the service

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

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 and kept appointments free for same day appointments. They took part in an emergency on-call arrangement with some other local practices. 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 practice had a complaints policy providing guidance to staff on how to handle a complaint. The practice information leaflet explained how to make a complaint. The practice manager was responsible for dealing with these. Staff told us they would tell the practice manager about any formal or informal comments or concerns straight away so patients received a quick response.

The practice manager told us they aimed to settle complaints in-house and invited patients to speak with them in person to discuss these. Information was available about organisations patients could contact if not satisfied with the way the practice dealt with their concerns.

We looked at comments, compliments and complaints the practice 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 registered manager had overall responsibility for the management and clinical leadership of the practice. The practice manager was responsible for the day to day running of the service. Staff knew the management arrangements and their roles and responsibilities.

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 apologetic to patients if anything went wrong.

Staff told us there was an open, no blame culture at the practice. They said the practice manager encouraged them to raise any issues and felt confident they could do this. They knew who to raise any issues with and told us the practice manager was approachable, would listen to their concerns and act appropriately. The practice manager discussed concerns at staff meetings and it was clear the practice worked as a team and dealt with issues professionally.

The practice held monthly management and staff meetings where staff could raise any concerns and discuss clinical and non-clinical updates. Immediate discussions were arranged to share urgent information.

### Learning and improvement

The practice had quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement. These included audits of dental care records, X-rays, consent, endodontics and infection prevention and control. They had clear records of the results of these audits and the resulting action plans and improvements.

The partners showed a commitment to learning and improvement and valued the contributions made to the team by individual members of staff. The whole staff team had annual appraisals. They discussed learning needs, general wellbeing and aims for future professional development. We saw evidence of completed appraisals in the staff folders.

Staff told us they completed mandatory training, including medical emergencies and basic life support, each year. The General Dental Council requires clinical staff to complete continuous professional development. Staff told us the practice provided support and encouragement for them to do so.

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

The practice used verbal comments to obtain staff and patients' views about the service. We saw examples of suggestions from patients the practice had acted on. For example, signage was displayed for patients to highlight if they had been waiting for longer than 15 minutes.

Patients were encouraged to complete the NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT). This is a national programme to allow patients to provide feedback on NHS services they have used.