

South Tyneside Smiles Limited

Mydentist - Station Road - Hebburn

Inspection Report

15-17 Station Road
Hebburn
Tyne and Wear
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Overall summary

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection on 17 January 2017 to ask the practice the following key questions; Are services safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led?

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

Mydentist – Station Road-Hebburn is situated in Hebburn, Tyne and Wear and was established as part of the Mydentist group of practices in 2008. The practice provides predominantly NHS treatment to patients of all ages. There are five treatment rooms located over two floors, a dedicated decontamination room for sterilising dental instruments, a general office and a staff kitchen. Car parking is available on the side-streets near the practice and dedicated disabled bays are located in front of the premises. Access for wheelchair users or pushchairs is possible via the step-free ground floor entrance.

The practice is open

Monday and Wednesday 0745-1930

Tuesday and Thursday 0745-1730

Friday 0830-1730

The dental team is comprised of the practice manager, three dentists, six dental nurses (one of whom is a trainee), a receptionist and a dental hygiene and therapist.

Summary of findings

The registered manager is the practice manager. A registered manager is a person who is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to manage the service. Like registered providers, they are 'registered persons'. Registered persons have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated Regulations about how the practice is run.

We reviewed 32 CQC comment cards on the day of our visit; patients were very positive about the staff and standard of care provided by the practice. Patients commented they felt involved in all aspects of their care and found the staff to be helpful, respectful, friendly and were treated in a clean and tidy environment.

Our key findings were:

- The practice was well organised, visibly clean and free from clutter.
- An Infection prevention and control policy was in place. We saw the sterilisation procedures followed recommended guidance.
- The practice had systems for recording incidents and accidents.
- Practice meetings were used for shared learning.
- The practice had a safeguarding policy and staff were aware on how to escalate safeguarding issues for children and adults should the need arise.
- Staff received annual medical emergency training. Equipment for dealing with medical emergencies reflected guidance from the resuscitation council.
- Dental professionals provided treatment in accordance with current professional guidelines.
- Patient feedback was regularly sought and reflected upon.
- Patients could access urgent care when required.
- Dental professionals were maintaining their continued professional development (CPD) in accordance with their professional registration.
- Complaints were dealt with in an efficient and positive manner.
- The organisation was actively involved in promoting children's oral health.

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.

Infection prevention and control procedures followed recommended guidance from the Department of Health: Health Technical Memorandum 01-05 (HTM 01-05): Decontamination in primary care dental practices.

Equipment for decontamination procedures, radiography and general dental procedures were tested and checked according to manufacturer's instructions.

Medicines were stored appropriately, both for medical emergencies and for regular use and were in accordance with the British National Formulary (BNF) and Resuscitation Council UK guidelines.

Staff we spoke to were knowledgeable about safeguarding systems for adults and children.

The practice had processes for recording and reporting any accidents and incidents.

Risk assessments (a system of identifying what could cause harm to people and deciding whether to take any reasonable steps to prevent that harm) were in place for the practice.

No action



Are services effective?

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

Dental professionals referred to resources such as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines and the Delivering Better Oral Health toolkit (DBOH) to ensure their treatment followed current recommendations.

Staff obtained consent, dealt with patients of varying age groups and made referrals to other services in an appropriate and recognised manner.

Staff who were registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) met the requirements of their professional registration by carrying out regular training and continuing professional development (CPD).

No action



Are services caring?

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

Patients were very positive about the staff, practice and treatment received. We left CQC comment cards for patients to complete two weeks prior to the inspection. There were 32 responses; 31 of which were very positive, with patients stating they felt listened to and received the best treatment at that practice.

Dental care records were kept securely in locked cabinets behind reception and computers were password protected.

No action



Summary of findings

We observed patients being treated with respect and dignity during our inspection and privacy and confidentiality were maintained for patients using the service. We also observed staff to be welcoming and caring towards patients.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

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

The practice had dedicated slots each day for emergency dental care and every effort was made to see all emergency patients on the day they contacted the practice.

Patients had access to telephone interpreter services when required and the practice provided a range of aids for different disabilities such as hand rails on both sides of the staircase, step-free access at the entrance, a toilet on the ground floor with hand rails and safety alarm cord, a ground floor surgery, glasses of varying prescription and large print leaflets to aid those with reduced vision and an induction loop.

No action 

Are services well-led?

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

The registered manager was on-site every day and there were strong support systems in place to ensure the smooth running of the practice.

There were dedicated leads in infection prevention and control and safeguarding as well as various policies for staff to refer to.

The registered manager kept all staff files, training logs and certificates and ensured there were regular quality checks of clinical and administration work.

Staff were encouraged to provide feedback on a regular basis through staff meetings and informal discussions.

Patient feedback is also encouraged verbally and online. The results of any online feedback are transferred to their intranet system for staff learning and improvement.

No action 

Mydentist - Station Road - Hebburn

Detailed findings

Background to this inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. This inspection was planned to check whether the registered provider was meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

The inspection took place on 17 January 2017. It was led by a CQC inspector and supported by a dental specialist advisor.

We informed NHS England and Healthwatch that we were inspecting the practice; we received no information of concern from them prior to the inspection.

During the inspection, we spoke with the registered manager, one dentist, five dental nurses and one receptionist.

We reviewed policies, protocols, certificates and other documents to consolidate our findings.

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 therefore formed the framework for the areas we looked at during the inspection.

Are services safe?

Our findings

Reporting, learning and improvement from incidents

The practice had systems in place for recording accidents and incidents. Staff were clear on what needed to be reported, when and to whom as per the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, 2013 (RIDDOR). We saw three accidents and incidents recorded within the last 12 months. These were filled out with sufficient detail of what happened, why, what actions were taken as well as improvements that could be made to prevent future recurrence. All records were sent to the health and safety team within Mydentist for monitoring and investigation.

The registered manager showed us they had received and acted upon recent alerts from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Central Alerting System (CAS).

Reliable safety systems and processes (including safeguarding)

We spoke with staff about the use of safer sharps in dentistry as per the Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013. The practice had carried out a thorough sharps risk assessment for each sharp item on-site. Safe needles and sharps containers were implemented for use in each surgery. The risk assessment was updated on an annual basis to ensure any new equipment was added.

Flowcharts were displayed in the decontamination room and in each surgery describing how a sharps injury should be managed. Staff advised us of their local policy on occupational health assistance.

The dentist told us they routinely used a rubber dam when providing root canal treatment to patients in line with guidance from the British Endodontic Society. A rubber dam is a thin, rectangular sheet, usually latex rubber, used in dentistry to isolate the operative site from the rest of the mouth and protect the airway. Rubber dams should be used when endodontic treatment is being provided. On the rare occasions when it is not possible to use rubber dam the reasons should be recorded in the patient's dental care records giving details as to how the patient's safety was assured.

We reviewed the practice's policy for adult and child safeguarding which contained contact details of the local authority child protection and adult safeguarding. Staff told us their practice protocol and were confident to respond to issues should they arise. The registered manager was the safeguarding lead and training records showed staff had undergone level one or two training as appropriate.

The practice had a whistleblowing policy which all staff were aware of. Staff told us they felt confident they could raise concerns about colleagues without fear of recrimination with the registered manager.

The practice also had employers' liability insurance (a requirement under the Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969) and we saw their practice certificate was up to date (April 2017).

Medical emergencies

The practice had procedures in place for staff to follow in the event of a medical emergency and all staff had received training in basic life support including the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (An AED is a portable electronic device that analyses the heart and is able to deliver an electrical shock to attempt to restore a normal heart rhythm).

The practice kept medicines and equipment for use in a medical emergency. These were in line with the 'Resuscitation Council UK' and British National Formulary guidelines. All staff knew where these items were kept.

We saw the practice kept logs which indicated the emergency equipment, emergency medical oxygen cylinder, emergency drugs and AED were checked daily. This helped ensure the equipment was fit for use and the medication was within the manufacturer's expiry dates. We checked the emergency medicines and found they were of the recommended type and were all in date.

Staff recruitment

We reviewed the staff recruitment files for four members of staff to check that appropriate recruitment procedures were in place. We found files held all required documents including proof of identity, qualifications, immunisation status, indemnity, references from previous employment and where necessary a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. A DBS check helps employers to make safer

Are services safe?

recruitment decisions and can prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. This was all in accordance to the practice's own recruitment policy which is currently being updated.

Monitoring health & safety and responding to risks

We reviewed various risk assessments (a risk assessment is a system of identifying what could cause harm to people and deciding whether to take any reasonable steps to prevent that harm) within the practice.

We looked at the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) file which contained detailed risk assessments for substances used in a dental practice, the practice risk assessment, health and safety risk assessment and fire risk assessment. We saw annual reviews were in place in line with their risk assessment policy.

The practice had two fire exits; clear signs were visible to show where evacuation points are.

We saw annual maintenance certificates of firefighting equipment including the current certificate from January 2016. The practice also had weekly visual checks of the extinguishers, lights and signs. Six-monthly fire drills were carried out to ensure staff were rehearsed in evacuation procedures.

We saw the business continuity plan had details of all staff, contractors and emergency numbers should an unforeseen emergency occur.

Infection control

We observed the practice's processes for cleaning, sterilising and storing dental instruments and reviewed their policies and procedures. All were in accordance with the The 'Health Technical Memorandum 01-05 (HTM 01-05): Decontamination in primary care dental practices.' published by the Department of Health which details the recommended procedures for sterilising and packaging instruments.

We spoke with five dental nurses about decontamination and infection prevention and control; the process of instrument collection, processing, inspecting using a magnifying light, sterilising and storage was clearly described and shown. We also saw the daily, weekly and monthly tests were being carried out by the dental nurses to ensure the washer disinfectant and sterilisers were in working order.

We inspected the decontamination and treatment rooms. The rooms were very clean, drawers and cupboards were clutter free with adequate dental materials. There were hand washing facilities, liquid soap and paper towel dispensers in each of the treatment rooms, decontamination room and toilets.

The dental unit water lines were maintained to prevent the growth and spread of Legionella bacteria (Legionella is a bacterium found in the environment which can contaminate water systems in buildings). Staff described the method used and this was in line with current HTM 01-05 guidelines.

A Legionella risk assessment had been carried out in June 2015. We saw measures such as monthly temperature recording were implemented and documented. Records showed the hot water was not consistently reaching the required temperature; staff had not recognised this and the registered manager immediately checked the temperature gauge. We saw an engineer had been arranged immediately to review the problem.

The practice stored clinical waste in a secure manner and an appropriate contractor was used to remove it from site. Waste consignment notices were available for the inspection and this confirmed that all types of waste including sharps and amalgam was collected on a regular basis.

The practice employed a cleaner to carry out daily environmental cleaning. We observed the cleaner used different coloured cleaning equipment to follow the HTM-0105 guidance.

Equipment and medicines

Equipment checks were regularly carried out in line with the manufacturer's recommendations.

We saw evidence of servicing certificates for sterilisation equipment in July 2016, X-ray machines and Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) June 2016. (PAT is the term used to describe the examination of electrical appliances and equipment to ensure they are safe to use).

Local anaesthetics were stored appropriately and a log of batch numbers and expiry dates was in place.

Radiography (X-rays)

Are services safe?

The practice demonstrated compliance with the Ionising Radiation Regulations (IRR) 1999, and the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (IR(ME)R) 2000.

The practice kept a thorough radiation protection file which included the names of the Radiation Protection Advisor and the Radiation Protection Supervisor, Health and Safety Executive notification, the local rules and maintenance certificates. We saw evidence that all of the X-ray machines had undergone testing and servicing appropriately.

We saw all the staff were up to date with their continuing professional development training in respect of dental radiography. The registered manager showed us the practice was undertaking regular analysis of their X-ray through an annual audit cycle. We saw audit results from 2016 were in line with the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) guidance.

The registered manager worked closely with all staff members to ensure the audit process evolved in each cycle to ensure ease of use and full disclosure of results.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

Monitoring and improving outcomes for patients

We found the dental professionals were following guidance and best practice procedures for delivering dental care.

A comprehensive medical history form was filled in by patients and this was checked verbally at every visit. A thorough examination was carried out to assess the dental hard and soft tissues including an oral cancer screen. Dental professionals also used the basic periodontal examination (BPE) to check patients' gums. This is a simple screening tool that indicates how healthy the patient's gums and bone surrounding the teeth are.

Patients were advised of the findings and any possible treatment required.

The dentist told us they were familiar with current National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines for recall intervals, wisdom teeth removal and antibiotic cover. Recalls were based upon the patients' risk of dental diseases.

Dentists used their clinical judgement and guidance from the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (FGDP) to decide when X-rays were required. A justification, grade of quality and report of the X-ray taken was documented in the patient dental care record.

Health promotion & prevention

We found the practice was proactive about promoting the importance of good oral health and prevention. Staff told us they applied the Department of Health's 'Delivering better oral health: an evidence-based toolkit for prevention' when providing preventive care and advice to patients.

Preventative measures included providing patients with oral hygiene advice such as tooth brushing technique, fluoride varnish applications and dietary advice. Smoking and alcohol consumption was also checked where applicable.

The practice reception displayed a range of dental products for sale and information leaflets were also available to aid in oral health promotion.

The practice was actively involved in promoting oral health. Staff attend schools, nurseries and supermarkets to

provide people with oral health advice and information. Kid's clubs are run during school holidays where the practice environment is specifically tailored for children. Activities include role-play with child-sized dentists' uniforms, plaque search to improve brushing technique, the 'good and bad foods' game and oral health education.

Staffing

There were dedicated leads for infection prevention and control, safeguarding adults and children, whistleblowing and complaints.

Prior to our visit we checked the registrations of all dental professionals with the General Dental Council (GDC); this was confirmed. The GDC is the statutory body responsible for regulating dental professionals.

Staff told us they were supported and encouraged to maintain their continuous professional development (CPD) and we saw evidence of this in staff files.

Working with other services

The dentist we spoke with confirmed they would refer patients to a range of specialists in primary and secondary care if the treatment required was not provided by the practice. Referral letters were either typed up or pro formas were used. Details included patient identification, medical history, reason for referral and x-rays if relevant.

The practice ensured any urgent referrals were dealt with promptly such as referring for suspicious lesions under the two-week rule. The two-week rule was initiated by NICE in 2005 to enable patients with suspected cancer lesions to be seen within two weeks. Referral audits were also carried out to ensure referral processes were of suitable standards.

Consent to care and treatment

We spoke with staff about how they implemented the principles of informed consent. Informed consent is a patient giving permission to a dental professional for treatment with full understanding of the possible options, risks and benefits. Staff explained how individual treatment options, risks, benefits and costs were discussed with each patient and then documented in a written treatment plan. The patient would sign this and take the original document. A copy would be retained in the patients' record.

Staff were clear on the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005(MCA) and the concept of Gillick competence. The MCA

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

is designed to protect and empower individuals who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. Staff described to us how they involved patients' relatives or carers when required and ensured there was sufficient time to explain fully the treatment options. Gillick competence is a term used to

decide whether a child (16 years or younger) is able to consent to their own medical or dental treatment, without the need for parental permission or knowledge. The child would have to show sufficient mental maturity to be deemed competent.

Are services caring?

Our findings

Respect, dignity, compassion & empathy

We provided the practice with CQC comment cards for patients to fill out two weeks prior to the inspection. There were 32 responses; patients were very complimentary about the staff, practice and treatment received. Patients commented they were treated with respect and dignity and that staff were sensitive to their specific needs.

We observed all staff maintained privacy and confidentiality for patients on the day of the inspection. Practice computer screens were not overlooked in reception and treatment rooms which ensured patients' confidential information could not be viewed by others. If further privacy was requested, patients were taken to the practice manager's office to talk with a staff member.

We saw doors of treatment rooms were closed at all times when patients were being seen. Conversations could not be heard from outside the treatment rooms which protected patient privacy.

Dental care records were stored electronically and in paper form. Paper record cards were kept securely in locked cabinets behind reception and computers were password protected. Computers were backed up and passwords changed regularly.

We saw certificates for all staff in information governance training from 2016. Staff were confident in data protection and confidentiality principles.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

The practice provided clear treatment plans to their patients that detailed possible treatment options and costs. Posters showing NHS and private treatment costs were displayed in the waiting area. We spoke with staff about how they implemented the principles of informed consent; all described the process in line with national guidance. We looked at dental care records with clinicians which confirmed this.

The practice's website provided patients with information about the range of treatments which were available at the practice. This also provided a platform to share feedback from patients and examples of change as a result.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

Responding to and meeting patients' needs

We saw the waiting areas displayed a variety of information including opening hours, emergency 'out of hours' contact details and treatment costs. Information leaflets on oral health were also available and a television displaying continuous oral health messages was present in the upstairs waiting area.

The practice had dedicated slots each day for emergency dental care and every effort was made to see all emergency patients on the day they contacted the practice. Reception staff had clear guidance to enable them to assess how urgently the patient required an appointment.

We looked at the appointment schedules and found that patients were given adequate time slots for different types of treatment.

Tackling inequity and promoting equality

The practice had a comprehensive equality, diversity and human rights policy in place to support staff in understanding and meeting the needs of patients. The policy was updated.

The practice had made reasonable adjustments to prevent inequity for any group and had carried out a thorough disability access audit. A disability access audit is an assessment of the practice to ensure it meets the needs of disabled individuals, those with restricted mobility or with pushchairs. A step-free entrance could allow wheelchair users or pushchairs to enter and a ground floor surgery was always used for patients who required it. A downstairs toilet

with alarm cord and hand rails was present. The reception area had an induction loop and reading glasses were available to aid those with reduced vision. Staff also had access to a translation service when required. The staircase had hand rails on both sides to provide support.

Access to the service

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

Patients commented they had good access to routine and urgent dental care. There were clear instructions on the practice's answer machine for patients requiring urgent dental care when the practice was closed.

Concerns & complaints.

The practice had a complaints policy which provided guidance to staff on how to handle a complaint. The policy was detailed in accordance with the Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 and as recommended by the GDC.

Information for patients was available in the waiting areas. This included how to make a complaint, how complaints would be dealt with and the time frames for responses.

Staff told us they raised any patient comments or concerns with the practice manager immediately to ensure responses were made in a timely manner.

The practice received three complaints in the last twelve months. We saw records that showed the complaints had been effectively managed and also shared with the whole practice to enable staff learning.

Are services well-led?

Our findings

Governance arrangements

The registered manager held the practice policies, procedures, certificates and other documents. We viewed documents relating to safeguarding, whistleblowing, complaints handling, health and safety, staffing and maintenance. We noted policies and procedures were kept under review on an annual basis and updates shared with staff to support the safe running of the service.

The registered manager ensured there were regular quality checks of clinical and administration. The practice had an approach for identifying where quality or safety was being affected and addressing any issues. Health and safety and risk management policies were in place and we saw a risk management process to ensure the safety of patients and staff members.

We looked at the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) file which contained detailed risk assessments for substances used in a dental practice, their practice risk assessment, health and safety risk assessment and fire risk assessment. Each was in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance. The practice had dedicated leads and various policies to assist in the smooth running of the practice.

Leadership, openness and transparency

The overall leadership was provided by the registered manager. A lead dentist and lead dental nurse were supporting them in this role.

Staff told us they were aware of the need to be open, honest and apologetic to patients if anything was to go wrong; this is in accordance with the Duty of Candour regulation.

The Duty of Candour is a legal duty to inform and apologise to patients if there have been mistakes in their care that have led to significant harm.

Learning and improvement

A regular audit cycle was apparent within the practice. An audit is an objective assessment of an activity designed to improve an individual or organisation's operations.

Clinical and non-clinical audits were carried out by various members of staff. Topics included patient feedback, radiography, infection prevention and control and record keeping audits. We saw audits were carried out very thoroughly with results available.

Improvement in staff performance was monitored by personal development plans and appraisals. These were carried out either on an annual or bi-annual basis.

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

The practice had systems in place to seek and act upon feedback from staff members and people using the service.

Staff and patients were encouraged to provide feedback on a regular basis either verbally, online, text and using the suggestion boxes in the waiting rooms. Patients were sent satisfaction questionnaires by Mydentist's head office; weekly analysis was carried out by the registered manager and results were fed back to all staff during staff meetings. Patients were also encouraged to complete the NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT). This is a national programme to allow patients to provide feedback on the services provided. The most recent FFT in December 2016 showed 96% of patients who took the survey were likely to recommend others to the practice.

Staff told us they felt listened to and that they were confident to raise concerns or make suggestions to the practice manager. A 'great place to work' survey was sent to all staff to ensure their views were sought and reflected upon.