

Drs Clayton, Rogers & Evitts

Quality 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 rating for this service

Good 

Are services safe?

Good 

Are services effective?

Good 

Are services caring?

Good 

Are services responsive to people's needs?

Good 

Are services well-led?

Good 

Summary of findings

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Overall summary

Letter from the Chief Inspector of General Practice

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection at Drs Clayton, Rogers & Evitts, also known as Dodington Surgery, on 3 May 2016. Overall the practice is rated as good.

Our key findings across all the areas we inspected were as follows:

- There was an open and transparent approach to safety and an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events.
- Risks to patients were assessed and well managed. Staff assessed patients' needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance. Staff had been trained to provide them with the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.
- Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in their care and decisions about their treatment.
- Information about services and how to complain was available and easy to understand. Improvements were made to the quality of care as a result of complaints and concerns.

- Patients said they found it easy to make an appointment with a named GP and there was continuity of care, with urgent appointments available the same day.
- The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- There was a clear leadership structure and staff felt supported by management. The practice proactively sought feedback from staff and patients, which it acted on.
- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the duty of candour.

The areas where the provider should make improvement are:

- Adopt a more proactive approach to identifying and meeting the needs of carers.

Professor Steve Field (CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP)

Chief Inspector of General Practice

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Are services safe?

The practice is rated as good for providing safe services.

- There was an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events
- Lessons were shared to make sure action was taken to improve safety in the practice.
- When things went wrong patients received reasonable support, truthful information, and a written apology. They were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again.
- The practice had clearly defined and embedded systems, processes and practices in place to keep patients safe and safeguarded from the risk of abuse.
- Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.

Good



Are services effective?

The practice is rated as good for providing effective services.

- Data from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) showed patient outcomes were at or above average compared to the national average.
- Staff assessed needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance.
- Clinical audits demonstrated quality improvement.
- Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.
- There was evidence of appraisals and personal development plans for all staff.
- Staff worked with other health care professionals to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs.

Good



Are services caring?

The practice is rated as good for providing caring services.

- Data from the national GP patient survey showed patients rated the practice higher than others for several aspects of care.
- Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in decisions about their care and treatment.
- Information for patients about the services available was easy to understand and accessible.
- We saw staff treated patients with kindness and respect, and maintained patient and information confidentiality.

Good



Summary of findings

- Adopt a more proactive approach to identifying and meeting the needs of carers

Are services responsive to people's needs?

The practice is rated as good for providing responsive services.

- Practice staff reviewed the needs of its local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group to secure improvements to services where these were identified.
- Patients said they found it easy to make an appointment with a named GP and there was continuity of care, with urgent appointments available the same day.
- The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- Information about how to complain was available and easy to understand and evidence showed the practice responded quickly to issues raised. Learning from complaints was shared with staff and other stakeholders.

Good



Are services well-led?

The practice is rated as good for being well-led.

- The practice had a clear vision and strategy to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients. Staff were clear about the vision and their responsibilities in relation to it.
- There was a clear leadership structure and staff felt supported by management. The practice had a number of policies and procedures to govern activity and held regular governance meetings.
- There was an overarching governance framework which supported the delivery of the strategy and good quality care. This included arrangements to monitor and improve quality and identify risk.
- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the duty of candour. The partners encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place for notifiable safety incidents and ensured this information was shared with staff to ensure appropriate action was taken
- The practice proactively sought feedback from staff and patients, which it acted on. The patient participation group was active.
- There was a strong focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels.

Good



Summary of findings

The six population groups and what we found

We always inspect the quality of care for these six population groups.

Older people

The practice is rated as good for the care of older people.

- The practice offered proactive, personalised care to meet the needs of the older people in its population including their registered patients in care homes.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older people, and offered home visits and urgent appointments for those with enhanced needs.
- The frailest two per cent of the practice patients had a hospital admission avoidance care plan in place which highlighted their needs and wishes and was reviewed regularly. All admissions of patients with these plans were discussed to see if they were avoidable.

Good



People with long term conditions

The practice is rated as good for the care of people with long-term conditions.

- Nursing staff had lead roles in chronic disease management and patients at risk of hospital admission were identified as a priority.
- Performance for diabetes related indicators was better than the national average. For example, the percentage of patients on the diabetes register, with a record of a foot examination and risk classification was 93%, compared to the CCG average of 88% and national average, 88%.
- Longer appointments and home visits were available when needed.
- All these patients had a named GP and a structured annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being met. For those patients with the most complex needs, the named GP worked with relevant health and care professionals to deliver a multidisciplinary package of care.

Good



Families, children and young people

The practice is rated as good for the care of families, children and young people.

Good



Summary of findings

- There were systems in place to identify and follow up children living in disadvantaged circumstances and who were at risk, for example, children and young people who had a high number of A&E attendances. Immunisation rates were relatively high for all standard childhood immunisations.
- Patients told us that children and young people were treated in an age-appropriate way and were recognised as individuals, and we saw evidence to confirm this.
- The practice's uptake for the cervical screening programme was 87%, which was comparable to the CCG average of 83% and the national average of 82%.
- Appointments were available outside of school hours and the premises were suitable for children and babies.
- We saw positive examples of joint working with midwives, health visitors and school nurses.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students)

The practice is rated as good for the care of working-age people (including those recently retired and students).

- The needs of the working age population, those recently retired and students had been identified and the practice had adjusted the services it offered to ensure these were accessible, flexible and offered continuity of care.
- The practice was proactive in offering online services as well as a full range of health promotion and screening that reflects the needs for this age group.

Good



People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable

The practice is rated as good for the care of people whose circumstances may make them vulnerable.

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including those with a learning disability.
- The practice offered longer appointments for patients with a learning disability.
- The practice regularly worked with other health care professionals in the case management of vulnerable patients.
- The practice informed vulnerable patients about how to access various support groups and voluntary organisations.
- Staff knew how to recognise signs of abuse in vulnerable adults and children. Staff were aware of their responsibilities regarding information sharing, documentation of safeguarding concerns and how to contact relevant agencies in normal working hours and out of hours.

Good



Summary of findings

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

The practice is rated as good for the care of people experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia).

- Performance for the mental health related indicators was better than the local CCG and national average.
- The practice regularly worked with multi-disciplinary teams in the case management of patients experiencing poor mental health, including those with dementia.
- The practice carried out advance care planning for patients with dementia.
- The practice had told patients experiencing poor mental health about how to access various support groups and voluntary organisations.
- The practice had a system in place to follow up patients who had attended accident and emergency where they may have been experiencing poor mental health.
- Staff had a good understanding of how to support patients with mental health needs and dementia.

Good



Summary of findings

What people who use the service say

The national GP patient survey results were published January 2016. The results showed the practice was performing in line with local and national averages. Two hundred and thirty four survey forms were distributed and 118 were returned. This represented just over 2% of the practice's patient list.

- 94% of patients found it easy to get through to this practice by phone compared to the national average of 73%.
- 93% of patients were able to get an appointment to see or speak to someone the last time they tried compared to the national average of 85%.
- 93% of patients described the overall experience of this GP practice as good compared to the national average of 85%.
- 80% of patients said they would recommend this GP practice to someone who has just moved to the local area compared to the national average of 78%.

As part of our inspection we also asked for CQC comment cards to be completed by patients prior to our inspection. We received 66 comment cards which were all positive about the standard of care received. All patients without exception said they were happy with the care they received and found staff to be kind, approachable, professional and compassionate.

We spoke with seven patients during the inspection. All patients said they were satisfied with the care they received and thought staff were approachable, committed and caring. Of the 571 respondents to the friends and family test between January 2015 and March 2016, 488 patients said they were extremely likely to recommend the practice, 64 were likely, one did not know and 18 said they were unlikely to recommend. The practice reviewed all comments made within the friends and family test and actioned these appropriately.

Drs Clayton, Rogers & Evitts

Detailed findings

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by:

Our inspection team was led by a CQC Lead Inspector. The team included a GP specialist adviser, a practice manager specialist adviser and an Expert by Experience.

Background to Drs Clayton, Rogers & Evitts

Drs Clayton, Rogers & Evitts, also known as Dodington Surgery, is located in Dodington, Whitchurch, Shropshire. It is part of the NHS Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The practice has a history of providing GP services to its local population since 1885. The total practice patient population is 4,995. The practice, in line with the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), has a higher proportion of patients aged 65 years and over when compared with the practice average across England. For example, the percentage of patients aged 65 and above at the practice is 25%, the local CCG practice average is 24% and the national practice average, 17%.

The staff team comprises two full time GP partners, supported by three locum GPs who provide services on a sessional basis. The practice is in the process of updating their registration with the Care Quality Commission as one GP Partner had resigned at the end of April 2016. The clinical practice team comprises of one nurse practitioner, two practice nurses, a health care assistant and two counsellors. The practice is managed and supported by a practice manager, seven administration staff and a Community Care Co-ordinator. In total there are 17 full or part time staff employed. The practice is also a training practice for foundation year two (FY2) medical students.

The practice is open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm (excluding bank holidays). The practice provides just under 600 appointments each week with the GPs, nurses and health care assistant. The practice offers pre-bookable appointments and telephone access appointment for all patients who require an urgent (same day) appointment. Urgent appointments are also available for patients that need them. The practice does not provide an out-of-hours service to its own patients but has alternative arrangements for patients to be seen when the practice is closed through Shropdoc, the out-of-hours service provider. The practice telephones switches to the out-of-hours service at 6pm each weekday evening and during weekends and bank holidays.

The practice provides long-term condition management including asthma and diabetes. It also offers child immunisations, minor surgery and travel vaccinations. The practice offers NHS health checks and smoking cessation advice and support. The practice has a General Medical Services (GMS) contract with NHS England. This is a contract for the practice to deliver General Medical Services to the local community or communities. They also provide a number of Directed Enhanced Services, for example they offer minor surgery and the childhood vaccinations and immunisation scheme.

Why we carried out this inspection

We carried out a comprehensive inspection of this service under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. The inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal

Detailed findings

requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008, to look at the overall quality of the service, and to provide a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

How we carried out this inspection

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?

We also looked at how well services were provided for specific groups of people and what good care looked like for them. The population groups are:

- Older people

- People with long-term conditions
- Families, children and young people
- Working age people (including those recently retired and students)
- People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable
- People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia).

Before visiting, we reviewed a range of information that we held about the practice and asked other organisations to share what they knew. We carried out an announced inspection on 3 May 2016. During our visit we spoke with a range of staff which included the practice manager, nursing staff, administrative/ receptionist staff and GPs. We spoke with two members of the patient participation group and seven patients. We reviewed 66 comment cards where patients shared their views and experiences of the service.

Please note that when referring to information throughout this report, for example any reference to the Quality and Outcomes Framework data, this relates to the most recent information available to the CQC at that time.

Are services safe?

Our findings

Safe track record and learning

There was an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events.

- Staff told us they would inform the practice manager of any incidents. The format for reporting was clear to all staff and although there was no standard recording form available incidents were recorded as first-hand accounts by staff and recorded on the practice's computer system. The incident recording supported the recording of notifiable incidents under the duty of candour. (The duty of candour is a set of specific legal requirements that providers of services must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment). The practice manager assured us that a standardised incident form would be considered and introduced for ease of use.
- We saw evidence that when things went wrong with care and treatment, patients were informed of the incident, received reasonable support, truthful information, a written apology and were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again.
- The practice carried out a thorough analysis of the significant events.

We reviewed safety records, incident reports, patient safety alerts and minutes of meetings where these were discussed. We saw evidence that lessons were shared and action was taken to improve safety in the practice. We found that there had been fourteen significant events reported in the previous 12 month period. These were investigated, actioned and any lessons learnt were cascaded to all staff at practice meetings. For example, the practice found that it had taken a week for a patient's specific blood test result to be sent to the practice, which was recorded as outside of normal range. The practice called the patient for re-testing and raised this issue with the hospital cardiology team and they changed their procedures as a direct result.

Overview of safety systems and processes

The practice had clearly defined and embedded systems, processes and practices in place to keep patients safe and safeguarded from the risk of abuse, which included:

- Arrangements were in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from the risk of abuse. These arrangements reflected relevant legislation and local requirements. Policies were accessible to all staff. The policies clearly outlined who to contact for further guidance if staff had concerns about a patient's welfare. There was a lead member of staff for safeguarding. The GPs attended safeguarding meetings when possible and always provided reports where necessary for other agencies. Staff demonstrated they understood their responsibilities and all had received training on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults relevant to their role. All staff had received role appropriate training to nationally recognised standards.
- A notice in the waiting room advised patients that chaperones were available if required. All staff who acted as chaperones were trained for the role and had received a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. (DBS)
- The practice maintained appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene. We observed the premises to be clean and tidy. The practice nurse was the infection control clinical lead who liaised with the local infection prevention teams to keep up to date with best practice. There was an infection control protocol in place and staff had received up to date training. Annual infection control audits were undertaken and we saw evidence that action was taken to address any improvements identified as a result.
- The arrangements for managing medicines, including emergency medicines and vaccines, in the practice kept patients safe (including obtaining, prescribing, recording, handling, storing, security and disposal). Processes were in place for handling repeat prescriptions which included the review of high risk medicines. The practice carried out regular medicines audits, with the support of the local Clinical Commissioning Group pharmacy teams, to ensure prescribing was in line with best practice guidelines for safe prescribing. Blank prescription forms and pads were securely stored and there were systems in place to monitor their use. Patient Group Directions had been adopted by the practice to allow nurses to administer medicines in line with legislation.
- We reviewed four personnel files and found appropriate recruitment checks had been undertaken prior to employment for staff recruited after the practices

Are services safe?

registration with the Care Quality Commission. For example, proof of identification, references, qualifications, registration with the appropriate professional body and the appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service. The practice manager assured us that they would maintain a full recruitment record at the practice for the locum GPs and these had been requested from the locum agency used.

Monitoring risks to patients

Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.

- There were procedures in place for monitoring and managing risks to patient and staff safety. There was a health and safety policy available with a poster in the reception office which identified local health and safety representatives. The practice had up to date fire risk assessments and carried out regular fire drills. All electrical equipment was checked to ensure the equipment was safe to use and clinical equipment was checked to ensure it was working properly. The practice had a variety of other risk assessments in place to monitor safety of the premises such as control of substances hazardous to health and infection control and legionella (Legionella is a term for a particular bacterium which can contaminate water systems in buildings).

- Arrangements were in place for planning and monitoring the number of staff and mix of staff needed to meet patients' needs. There was a rota system in place for all the different staffing groups to ensure enough staff were on duty.

Arrangements to deal with emergencies and major incidents

The practice had adequate arrangements in place to respond to emergencies and major incidents.

- There was an instant messaging system on the computers in all the consultation and treatment rooms which alerted staff to any emergency.
- All staff received annual basic life support training and there were emergency medicines available.
- The practice had a defibrillator available on the premises and oxygen with adult and children's masks. A first aid kit and accident book were available.
- Emergency medicines were easily accessible to staff in a secure area of the practice and all staff knew of their location. All the medicines we checked were in date and stored securely.

The practice had a comprehensive business continuity plan in place for major incidents such as power failure or building damage. The plan included emergency contact numbers for staff.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

Effective needs assessment

The practice assessed needs and delivered care in line with relevant and current evidence based guidance and standards, including National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) best practice guidelines.

- The practice had systems in place to keep all clinical staff up to date. Staff had access to guidelines from NICE and used this information to deliver care and treatment that met patients' needs.
- The practice monitored that these guidelines were followed through risk assessments, audits and random sample checks of patient records.

Management, monitoring and improving outcomes for people

The practice used the information collected for the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) and performance against national screening programmes to monitor outcomes for patients. (QOF is a system intended to improve the quality of general practice and reward good practice). The most recent published results showed that the practice had achieved 100% of the total number of points available. In fourteen out of the 16 clinical domains the practices exception reporting was lower than the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) or national averages. (Exception reporting is the removal of patients from QOF calculations where, for example, the patients are unable to attend a review meeting or certain medicines cannot be prescribed because of side effects).

This practice was not an outlier for any QOF (or other national) clinical targets. Data from 2014/15 showed:

- Performance for diabetes related indicators was better than the national average. For example, the percentage of patients on the diabetes register, with a record of a foot examination and risk classification was 93%, compared to the CCG average of 88% and national average, 88%.
- Performance for mental health related indicators was better than the local CCG and national average. For example, the percentage of patients diagnosed with

dementia whose care has been reviewed in a face-to-face review in the preceding 12 months was 100% compared to the CCG average of 85% and national average, 84%.

The frailest two per cent of the practice patients had in place an admission avoidance care plan which highlighted their needs and wishes and was reviewed regularly. All admissions of patients on this plan were discussed to see if they were avoidable.

There was evidence of quality improvement including clinical audit.

- There had been eight clinical audits completed in the last 12 months, two of those reviewed were completed audits where the improvements made were implemented and monitored.
- Audit findings were used by the practice to improve services. For example, action had been taken following an audit of patients diagnosed with a particular heart condition who were not prescribed a blood thinning medicine. The repeat audit showed improvements had been made.
- Another audit looked at the surveillance of patients who had been diagnosed as having Barretts Oesophagus (where cells that line the lower gullet (oesophagus) are abnormal). As a result of the audit the hospital consultant specialist was contacted for further information on a number of patients. A repeat of the audit showed an improvement in communication and the information provided to patients.
- The practice participated in local audits, national benchmarking, accreditation, peer review and research.

Information about patients' outcomes was used to make improvements. For example the practice had reviewed a particular contraceptive implant medicine and removal to ensure the patients records were completed in accordance with good practice, as suggested by the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Their findings were that patient records were completed in line with good practice, but some lacked in the finer detail of others, which the practice subsequently addressed.

Effective staffing

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

- The practice had an induction programme for all newly appointed staff. This covered such topics as safeguarding, infection prevention and control, fire safety, health and safety and confidentiality.
- The practice could demonstrate how they ensured role-specific training and updating for relevant staff. For example, for those reviewing patients with long-term conditions, minor illness, cervical screening and childhood vaccinations.
- Staff administering vaccines and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training which had included an assessment of competence. Staff who administered vaccines could demonstrate how they stayed up to date with changes to the immunisation programmes, for example by access to on line resources and discussion at practice meetings.
- The learning needs of staff were identified through a system of appraisals, meetings and reviews of practice development needs. Staff had access to appropriate training to meet their learning needs and to cover the scope of their work. This included ongoing support, one-to-one meetings, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision and facilitation and support for revalidating GPs. All staff had received an appraisal within the last 12 months. If a learning need was identified by any member of the team between appraisals, this was addressed at the time.
- Staff received training that included: safeguarding, fire safety awareness, basic life support and information governance. Staff had access to and made use of e-learning training modules and in-house training as well as that provided at protected learning time events with staff within their CCG locality.

Coordinating patient care and information sharing

The information needed to plan and deliver care and treatment was available to relevant staff in a timely and accessible way through the practice's patient record system and their intranet system.

- This included care and risk assessments, care plans, medical records and investigation and test results.
- The practice shared relevant information with other services in a timely way, for example when referring patients to other services.

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs and to assess and plan ongoing care and treatment. This included when patients moved between services, including when they were referred, or after they were discharged from hospital. Meetings took place with other health care professionals on a monthly basis when care plans were routinely reviewed and updated for patients with complex needs.

Consent to care and treatment

Staff sought patients' consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

- Staff understood the relevant consent and decision-making requirements of legislation and guidance, including the Mental Capacity Act 2005. When providing care and treatment for children and young people, staff carried out assessments of capacity to consent in line with relevant guidance.
- Where a patient's mental capacity to consent to care or treatment was unclear the GP or practice nurse assessed the patient's capacity and, recorded the outcome of the assessment.
- The process for seeking consent was monitored through patient records audits.

Supporting patients to live healthier lives

The practice identified patients who may be in need of extra support. For example:

- Patients receiving end of life care, carers, those at risk of developing a long-term condition and those requiring advice on their diet, smoking and alcohol cessation. Patients, when appropriate to do so, were signposted to the relevant service in order to meet their needs.
- The practice referred patients to exercise, walking groups and provided healthy lifestyle advice.
- The practice's uptake for the cervical screening programme was 86%, which was comparable to the CCG average of 83% and the national average of 82%. There was a policy to offer telephone reminders for patients who did not attend for their cervical screening test. The practice demonstrated how they encouraged uptake of the screening programme by using information in different languages and for those with a learning disability and they ensured a female sample taker was available. The practice also encouraged its patients to

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

attend national screening programmes for bowel and breast cancer screening, the percentage uptake of which was slightly higher than the CCG and National average. For example, data published March 2015 found the percentage of patients aged between 60-69 years, screened for bowel cancer in last 30 months was 65%, compared with the CCG average of 62%, and national average, 58%.

- There were failsafe systems in place to ensure results were received for all samples sent for the cervical screening programme and the practice followed up women who were referred as a result of abnormal results.

Childhood immunisation rates for the vaccinations given were comparable to CCG/national averages. For example, childhood immunisation rates for the vaccinations given to under two year olds ranged from 98% to 100% and five year olds from 94% to 100%.

Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks. These included health checks for new patients and NHS health checks for patients aged 40–74. For example, 134 of the invited 292 eligible patients had attended for NHS health checks, of those we saw that two patients had been identified as pre-diabetic. Appropriate follow-ups for the outcomes of health assessments and checks were made, where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.

Are services caring?

Our findings

Kindness, dignity, respect and compassion

We observed members of staff were courteous and very helpful to patients and treated them with dignity and respect.

- Curtains were provided in consulting rooms to maintain patients' privacy and dignity during examinations, investigations and treatments.
- We noted that consultation and treatment room doors were closed during consultations; conversations taking place in these rooms could not be overheard.
- Reception staff knew when patients wanted to discuss sensitive issues or appeared distressed they could offer them a private room to discuss their needs.

All of the 66 patient Care Quality Commission comment cards we received were positive about the service experienced. Patients said they felt the practice offered an excellent service and staff were helpful, caring and treated them with dignity and respect.

We spoke with two members of the patient participation group (PPG). They also told us they were satisfied with the care provided by the practice and said their dignity and privacy was respected. Comment cards highlighted that staff responded compassionately when they needed help and provided support when required.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed patients felt they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect. The practice was above the national averages for its satisfaction scores on consultations with GPs and nurses. For example:

- 91% of patients said the GP was good at listening to them compared to the clinical commissioning group (CCG) average of 92% and the national average of 89%.
- 92% of patients said the GP gave them enough time compared to the CCG average of 92% and the national average of 87%.
- 97% of patients said they had confidence and trust in the last GP they saw compared to the CCG average of 97% and the national average of 95%.

- 88% of patients said the last GP they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern compared to the national average of 85%.
- 100% of patients said the last nurse they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern compared to the national average of 91%.
- 95% of patients said they found the receptionists at the practice helpful compared to the CCG average of 91% and the national average of 87%.

Staff gave us examples of when the GPs went the extra mile for their patients. For example in providing additional pastoral support for families and patients on end of life care pathways. This included visiting patients at weekends and evenings when not on duty; providing patients with their personal telephone numbers; ensuring the patients and their families were well informed, involved, and had awareness of the care treatment and support available to them.

Care planning and involvement in decisions about care and treatment

Patients told us they felt involved in decision making about the care and treatment they received. They also told us they felt listened to and supported by staff and had sufficient time during consultations to make an informed decision about the choice of treatment available to them. Patient feedback from the comment cards we received was also positive and aligned with these views.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed patients responded positively to questions about their involvement in planning and making decisions about their care and treatment. Results were in line with local and national averages. For example:

- 93% of patients said the last GP they saw was good at explaining tests and treatments compared to the CCG average of 90% and the national average of 86%.
- 88% of patients said the last GP they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care compared to the national average of 82%.
- 94% of patients said the last nurse they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care compared to the national average of 85%.

The practice provided facilities to help patients be involved in decisions about their care:

Are services caring?

- Staff told us that translation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language.
- Information leaflets were available in easy read format.

Patient and carer support to cope emotionally with care and treatment

Patient information leaflets and notices were available in the patient waiting area which told patients how to access a number of support groups and organisations. Information about support groups was also available on the practice website. The practice worked closely with the local Community Care Coordinator and compassionate communities (Co Co) staff member. The Co Co was a valued member of the practice team, who worked with the GPs and district nurses to achieve personal care for patients who wished to retain independence and remain in their own homes.

The practice's computer system alerted GPs if a patient was also a carer. The practice had identified 96 patients as carers which was 0.5% of the practice list, this was lower than expected. To enable an accurate carers register the practice asked its patients on registering with the practice to complete additional information which included whether they were a carer, or had a carer. Written information was available to direct carers to the various avenues of support available to them. All registered carers had been offered an annual health check and seasonal flu vaccination.

Staff told us that if families had suffered bereavement, their usual GP contacted them. This call was either followed by a patient consultation at a flexible time and location to meet the family's needs and/or by giving them advice on how to find a support service.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice reviewed the needs of its local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to secure improvements to services where these were identified.

- The practice offered just under 600 appointments each week with the GPs, nurses and health care assistant. They also offered telephone consultations with the GPs.
- There were longer appointments available for patients with a learning disability.
- Home visits were available for older patients and patients who had clinical needs which resulted in difficulty attending the practice.
- Same day appointments were available for children and those patients with medical problems that require same day consultation.
- The practice provided a counselling service and patients had access to appointments at the practice with the Community Mental Health nurse and Primary Care Liaison service.
- The practice provided a minor surgery clinic.
- A podiatrist service was hosted by the practice.
- Patients were able to receive travel vaccinations available on the NHS as well as those only available privately.
- There were disabled facilities, a hearing loop and translation services available.
- The practice had developed its premises to meet the needs of its growing registered population.
- The practice provided information to patients such as providing information on the community car scheme service which was run on a volunteer basis mainly for appointments at the practice and Hospitals but also opticians.

Access to the service

The practice was open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm (excluding bank holidays). The practice provided just under 600 appointments each week with the GPs, nurses and health care assistant. The practice offered pre-bookable appointments and telephone access appointments for all patients who required an urgent (same day) appointment. Urgent appointments were also available for patients that needed them. The practice did not provide an out-of-hours service to its own patients but had alternative

arrangements for patients to be seen when the practice was closed through Shropdoc, the out-of-hours service provider. The practice telephones switched to the out-of-hours service at 6pm each weekday evening and during weekends and bank holidays.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed that patient's satisfaction with how they could access care and treatment was comparable to local and national averages.

- 75% of patients were satisfied with the practice's opening hours, which was the same as the national average.
- 94% of patients said they could get through easily to the practice by phone compared to the national average of 73%.

People told us on the day of the inspection that they were able to get appointments when they needed them.

The practice had a system in place to assess:

- whether a home visit was clinically necessary; and
- the urgency of the need for medical attention.

In cases where the urgency of need was so great that it would be inappropriate for the patient to wait for a GP home visit, alternative emergency care arrangements were made by contacting the appropriate emergency service to meet their needs. Clinical and non-clinical staff were aware of their responsibilities when managing requests for home visits.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

The practice had an effective system in place for handling complaints and concerns.

- Its complaints policy and procedures were in line with recognised guidance and contractual obligations for GPs in England.
- There was a designated responsible person who handled all complaints in the practice.
- We saw that information was available to help patients understand the complaints system information was displayed as a poster in the waiting room, on the practice website and available on request as a summary leaflet available via reception. The practice manager

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

assured us that, in future, complaints summary leaflets would be made available in the waiting room in order that patients were not required to request them from reception.

We reviewed two of the six written complaints received in the last 12 months and found these were satisfactorily handled, dealt with in a timely way, openness and transparency with dealing with the complaint. We saw that one related to administration; two clinical practice and three were communication/attitude related. Lessons were

learnt from individual concerns and complaints, from analysis of trends and action was taken to as a result to improve the quality of care. For example, one case was discussed with secondary care. The practice invited secondary care colleagues to visit and review information about the correct referral pathways to ensure that communication about the most appropriate available pathways were clear to both the practice and secondary care.

Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

Our findings

Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients.

- The practice had a mission statement which staff knew and staff understood the underpinning values.
- The practice had a robust strategy and had supporting business plans which reflected the vision and values and were regularly monitored.

Governance arrangements

The practice had an overarching governance framework which supported the delivery of the strategy and good quality care. This outlined the structures and procedures in place and ensured that:

- There was a clear staffing structure and that staff were aware of their own roles and responsibilities.
- Practice specific policies were implemented and were available to all staff.
- A comprehensive understanding of the performance of the practice was maintained
- A programme of continuous clinical and internal audit was used to monitor quality and to make improvements.
- There were robust arrangements for identifying, recording and managing risks, issues and implementing mitigating actions.

Leadership and culture

On the day of inspection the partners in the practice demonstrated they had the experience, capacity and capability to run the practice and ensure high quality care. They told us they prioritised safe, high quality and compassionate care. Staff told us the partners were approachable and always took the time to listen to all members of staff.

The provider was aware of and had systems in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour. (The duty of candour is a set of specific legal requirements that providers of services must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment). This included support training for all staff on communicating with

patients about notifiable safety incidents. The partners encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place to ensure that when things went wrong with care and treatment:

- The practice gave affected people reasonable support, truthful information and a verbal and written apology
- The practice kept written records of verbal interactions as well as written correspondence.

There was a clear leadership structure in place and staff felt supported by management.

- Staff told us the practice held regular team meetings.
- Staff told us there was an open culture within the practice and they had the opportunity to raise any issues at team meetings and felt confident and supported in doing so. A weekly meeting was held with the management team and any staff member could attend this meeting should they wish to raise awareness of a particular issue or make suggestions for improvements. We noted team attended protected learning time events held every 3/4 months.
- Staff said they felt respected, valued and supported, particularly by the partners in the practice. All staff were involved in discussions about how to run and develop the practice, and the partners encouraged all members of staff to identify opportunities to improve the service delivered by the practice.
- The practice was committed to the ongoing development of all staff. They had found that ongoing development ensured motivation amongst the staff and fostered an engaged team. For example, the practice nurses had obtained their degree with practice support, the practice manager obtained a distinction in a Leadership and Management degree followed degree in Business Management, some staff had gained accredited certificates in medical terminology, the administrator was working towards a Level 4 Business Administration qualification and a practice nurse was in the process completing a course at university.

The practice had a culture of engaging with and participating in active fundraising for their local community throughout the year. For example:

Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

- One GP was on the Ovarian Cancer Action Research committee and along with another GP completed collections in the town. There were also plans in place to cycle 'Coast to Coast' in June 2016 for Ovarian Cancer Research
- They completed the 'Ride for Night' cycle challenge on a number of occasions to raise money for women's cancers.
- The practice manager was on the committee for Cancer Research UK Relay for Life.
- The practice have a team called the "Dodington Dollies & Dudes," and last year this event raised over £32,000.
- A practice nurse completed a half marathon for Riding for the Disabled.
- In September 2014 and 2015 the group held an 'awareness day' in the local Civic Centre to promote NHS services and health related charity organisations, entitled 'Keeping Well in Whitchurch'. A further 'Keeping Well in Whitchurch' awareness day was planned for September 2016. It had raised patient awareness about a host of supportive organisations, as well as treatments and information availability for a variety of health issues and for all age ranges. The Care Co-Ordinator explained that the 'foot fall' on these events exceeded 200 that it was run on a market day to maximise attendance and refreshments were available. The PPG promoted this event through newspapers, posters, and also had radio coverage.
- The practice had gathered feedback from staff through staff away days and generally through staff meetings, appraisals and discussions. Staff told us they would not hesitate to give feedback and discuss any concerns or issues with colleagues and management. Staff told us they felt involved and engaged to improve how the practice was run.

Seeking and acting on feedback from patients, the public and staff

The practice encouraged and valued feedback from patients, the public and staff. It proactively sought patients' feedback and engaged patients in the delivery of the service.

The practice had gathered feedback from patients through the patient participation group (PPG) and through surveys and complaints received. The PPG met regularly, carried out patient surveys and submitted proposals for improvements to the practice management team. The Whitchurch and District Patient Group was also formed in July 2011 and comprised of patient representatives from the three GP practices in Whitchurch. The impact the practices local PPG and membership of the Whitchurch and District Patient Group included:

- The PPG raised awareness of local health concerns. For example in 2013, a report was published following the removal of ambulances from the town and a public meeting was held on the request of the local community including the PPG.

Continuous improvement

There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels within the practice. The practice team was forward thinking and part of local pilot schemes to improve outcomes for patients in the area.

One of the GP partners is a GP representative on the Local Medical Council and the practice was a member of the CCGs North Locality Board. The practice had worked closely with the medicines management team to develop a dry eye formulary and wound care formulary, as well as piloting various projects for the CCG such as the Shropshire Pan Demand and Capacity Portal, which explores strategic plans to meet the growing demand for services.