

Billericay Medical Practice

Inspection report

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

Ratings

Overall rating for this location

Good



Are services safe?

Good



Overall summary

We carried out an announced focused inspection at Billericay Medical Practice on 26 September 2017. The overall rating for the practice was good, although we rated safe as requires improvement. At that inspection, we were inspecting to check that the practice had carried out their plan to meet the legal requirements in relation to breaches identified at our earlier inspection of 11 July 2016. The full report on the September 2017 inspection can be found by selecting the 'all reports' link for Billericay Medical Practice on our website at www.cqc.org.uk.

This inspection was an announced focused inspection carried out on 16 April 2018 to confirm that the practice had

carried out their plan to meet the legal requirements in relation to the breaches in regulations that we identified in our previous inspection on 26 September 2017. This report covers our findings in relation to those requirements.

Overall, the practice continues to be rated as good overall and safe is now rated as good.

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

- Clinicians were prescribing medicines in accordance with manufacturer and other guidelines.

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

Population group ratings

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by a CQC Lead Inspector and included a GP specialist adviser.

Background to Billericay Medical Practice

Billericay Medical Practice is located in Billericay, Essex. It shares premises with other healthcare providers. The practice provides GP services to approximately 12,700 patients living in Billericay.

The practice is one of 44 practices commissioned by the Basildon and Brentwood Commissioning Group and it holds a General Medical Services (GMS) contract with NHS. This contract outlines the core responsibilities of the practice in meeting the needs of its patients through the services it provides.

The practice population has a comparable number of children aged five to 18 years compared to the England average, as well as patients aged over 65 years. Economic deprivation levels affecting children and older people are considerably lower than average as are unemployment levels. The life expectancy of male and female patients is higher than the local average by three years. The number of patients on the practice's list that have long standing health conditions is comparable to average, as is the number of patients who are carers.

The practice is governed by a partnership that consists of six GPs, four male and two female.

The partnership is supported by a female salaried GP, four practice nurses, two nurse practitioners and two healthcare assistants. Billericay Medical Practice is a training practice and as such, there are also two GP registrars working at the practice. A GP registrar is a qualified doctor who is undergoing training to become a GP.

Administrative support consists of a full-time practice manager, a senior administrator and a number of reception and administrative staff.

The practice is open from 8am until 6.30pm on weekdays and is open from 8.15am until 11.30am on a Saturday morning. The practice is also a member of the local hub, which means that it works with other GPs in the locality to provide appointments outside of the usual opening hours. Routine appointments can be booked at the hub between 6.30pm and 8.00pm on a Monday to Friday and between 8am and 8.00pm Saturday and Sunday. Appointments at the hub are available with a GP, nurse or health care assistant.

Are services safe?

At our previous inspection of 26 September 2017, we rated the practice as requires improvement for providing safe services as we found that there had been three occasions where patients who were prescribed a certain high-risk medicine, methotrexate had also been prescribed the antibiotic trimethoprim. Methotrexate is a high risk medicine that is used to treat some cancers and severe psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis. Prescribing these medicines together is a significant risk, contrary to the manufacturer prescribing information and the British National Formulary

These risks had been sufficiently mitigated when we undertook a follow up inspection on 16 April 2018. The practice is now rated as good for providing safe services.

Overview of systems and processes

Immediately after the previous inspection, the practice sent us evidence detailing what action they had taken to manage the risks identified, which included an audit of patients who had been prescribed these medicines to

ascertain all incidences where this practice had occurred. Relevant patients' notes were subsequently reviewed to ensure that they had received a normal blood test result following the relevant incidents.

The practice raised the findings as a significant event, which was highlighted to all clinicians. We saw that there was a considered but timely analysis of what went wrong and the actions taken. This included sharing the serious event with local pharmacies, the CCG and contacting the IT system provider.

The practice had set up a regular search with a view to ensuring that this situation did not happen again. Further, we were shown the alert that been created: a warning was displayed when a clinician attempted to prescribe this antibiotic to any patient who had been prescribed Methotrexate in the last 92 days. We reviewed the records of patients taking methotrexate and found that there had been no incidents whereby trimethoprim had been prescribed to them in the last year.