

Denuvo Dental Denuvo Dental Inspection Report

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Overall summary

We carried out this announced inspection on 20 February 2020 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 Care Quality Commission, (CQC), inspector who was supported by a specialist dental adviser.

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 this practice was providing safe care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Are services effective?

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

Are services caring?

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

Are services responsive?

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

Are services well-led?

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

Background

Denuvo Dental is in Harwood, Lancashire and provides private dental care and treatment for adults and children.

There is ramp access to the practice for people who use wheelchairs and those with pushchairs. There is time limited parking available, including dedicated spaces for people with disabilities, at the supermarket opposite the premises. There is additional on-street parking near the practice.

The dental team includes two dentists, three dental nurses who also have reception duties and a dental hygiene therapist. The practice has two treatment rooms.

Summary of findings

The practice is owned by a partnership and as a condition of registration must have a person registered with the CQC 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 Denuvo Dental is one of the partners.

On the day of inspection, we collected 24 CQC comment cards filled in by patients. These provided a positive view of the dental team and care provided by the practice. Five patients also provided feedback directly to the CQC.

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

The practice is open:

Monday 9:00am - 5:30pm

Tuesday 9:30am - 7:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday 9:00am - 7:00pm

Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm

Saturday (once a month) 9:00am - 1:00pm

Our key findings were:

- The practice appeared to be visibly clean, tidy and well-maintained.
- The provider had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.
- Staff knew how to deal with emergencies. Appropriate medicines and life-saving equipment were available.
- The provider had systems to help them identify and manage risk to patients and staff.
- The provider had safeguarding processes and staff knew their responsibilities for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.
- The provider had staff recruitment procedures which reflected current legislation.
- 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.

- Staff provided preventive care and supported patients to ensure better oral health.
- The appointment system took account of patients' needs.
- The provider had effective leadership and a culture of continuous quality improvement.
- Staff felt involved and supported and worked as a team. Members of staff were encouraged to contribute innovative ideas.
- The provider asked staff and patients for feedback about the services they provided.
- The provider dealt with complaints positively and efficiently.
- The provider had information governance arrangements.

We identified areas of notable practice.

The practice had signed up to the 'Dignity in Care' campaign led by the National Dignity Council. The campaign inspires people to be part of a nationwide movement of champions, working individually and collectively to promote access to dignity as a human right for all.

Dignity resources had been created by staff to ensure vulnerable patients were involved in discussions and decisions about their care:

- A step by step 'Going to the Dentist' information sheet had been created using easy read symbols widely used in special needs education. They described how they would spend time with patients talking through the guide and individual symbols at a pace that ensured the patient's understanding.
- A dignity and respect form had been developed to enable staff to spend time assessing the understanding and preferences of patients with Dementia at every appointment.
- Staff took account of patient needs and preferences. For example, where patients were non-binary or identified with a gender different from their assigned sex. They were respectful of how patients wished to be addressed, such as their preferred pronouns.

There were areas where the provider could make improvements. They should:

Summary of findings

• Take action to ensure that all clinical staff have adequate immunity for vaccine preventable infectious diseases.

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

We asked the following question(s).

Are services safe?	No action 🛛 🗸	
Are services effective?	No action 🖌	•
Are services caring?	No action 🛛 🗸	•
Are services responsive to people's needs?	No action 🛛 🗸	
Are services well-led?	No action 🛛 🗸	•

Are services safe?

Our findings

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

Safety systems and processes, including staff recruitment, equipment and premises and radiography (X-rays)

Staff had clear systems to keep patients safe.

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 provider had safeguarding policies and procedures to provide staff with information about identifying, reporting and dealing with suspected abuse. We saw evidence that staff had received safeguarding training. Staff knew about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and how to report concerns, including notification to the CQC.

The provider had a system to highlight vulnerable patients and patients who required other support such as with mobility or communication, within dental care records.

The provider had an infection prevention and control policy and procedures. They followed guidance in The Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices, (HTM 01-05), published by the Department of Health and Social Care. Staff completed infection prevention and control training and received updates as required.

The provider had arrangements for transporting, cleaning, checking, sterilising and storing instruments in line with HTM 01-05. The records showed equipment used by staff for cleaning and sterilising instruments was validated, maintained and used in line with the manufacturers' guidance. The provider had suitable numbers of dental instruments available for the clinical staff and measures were in place to ensure they were decontaminated and sterilised appropriately.

The staff had systems in place to ensure that patient-specific dental appliances were disinfected prior to being sent to a dental laboratory and before treatment was completed.

We saw staff had procedures to reduce the possibility of Legionella or other bacteria developing in the water systems, in line with a risk assessment. All recommendations in the assessment had been actioned. Staff had completed legionella awareness training and records of water quality; temperature testing and dental unit water line management were maintained.

We saw effective cleaning schedules to ensure the practice was kept clean. When we inspected we saw the practice was visibly clean and tidy. Patients also commented on the high standards of cleanliness they observed.

The provider had policies and procedures in place to ensure clinical waste was segregated and stored appropriately in line with guidance.

The infection control lead carried out infection prevention and control audits twice a year and additional checks of stored instruments. The latest audit showed the practice was meeting the required standards.

The provider had a Speak-Up policy. Staff felt confident they could raise concerns without fear of recrimination.

The dentists used dental dam in line with guidance from the British Endodontic Society when providing root canal treatment. In instances where dental dam was not used, such as for example refusal by the patient, and where other methods were used to protect the airway, we saw this was documented in the dental care record and a risk assessment completed.

The provider had a recruitment policy and procedure to help them employ suitable staff and had checks in place for agency staff. These reflected the relevant legislation. We looked at the staff recruitment records. These showed the provider followed their recruitment procedure.

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

Staff ensured facilities and equipment were safe, and that equipment was maintained according to manufacturers' instructions, including electrical and gas appliances.

A fire risk assessment was carried out in line with the legal requirements. We saw there were fire extinguishers and fire detection systems throughout the building and fire exits were kept clear. Staff received fire safety training and logged their checks on fire detection equipment.

The practice had arrangements to ensure the safety of the X-ray equipment and we saw the required radiation protection information was available.

Are services safe?

We saw evidence the dentists justified, graded and reported on the radiographs they took. The provider carried out radiography audits every year following current guidance and legislation.

Clinical staff completed continuing professional development in respect of dental radiography.

Risks to patients

The provider had implemented systems to assess, monitor and manage risks to patient safety.

The practice's health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessments were reviewed regularly to help manage potential risk. The provider had current employer's liability insurance.

We looked at the practice's arrangements for safe dental care and treatment. The staff followed the relevant safety regulation when using needles and other sharp dental items. A sharps risk assessment had been undertaken. Staff confirmed that only the clinicians were permitted to assemble, re-sheath and dispose of needles and dental matrices where necessary, to minimise the risk of inoculation injuries to staff. Protocols were in place to ensure staff accessed appropriate care and advice in the event of a sharps injury and staff were aware of the importance of reporting inoculation injuries.

The provider had a system in place to ensure clinical staff had received appropriate vaccinations, including vaccination to protect them against the Hepatitis B virus. Evidence of the effectiveness of the vaccination was not available for two members of staff. The registered manager confirmed this would be obtained. The processes for decontamination, risk assessment and sharps handling policies ensured the risks were minimised for these staff members.

Staff had completed sepsis awareness training. Sepsis prompts for staff and patient information posters were displayed throughout the practice. This helped ensure staff made triage appointments effectively to manage patients who present with dental infection and where necessary refer patients for specialist care.

Staff knew how to respond to a medical emergency and had completed training in emergency resuscitation and basic life support every year.

Emergency equipment and medicines were available as described in recognised guidance. We found staff kept records of their checks of these to make sure they were available, within their expiry date, and in working order.

A dental nurse worked with the dentists and the dental hygiene therapist when they treated patients in line with General Dental Council Standards for the Dental Team.

The provider had risk assessments to minimise the risk that can be caused from substances that are hazardous to health.

Information to deliver safe care and treatment

Staff had the information they needed to deliver safe care and treatment to patients.

We discussed with the dentist how information to deliver safe care and treatment was handled and recorded. We looked at dental care records with clinicians to confirm our findings and observed that individual records were typed and managed in a way that kept patients safe. Dental care records we saw were complete, legible, were kept securely and complied with General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

The provider had systems for referring patients with suspected oral cancer under the national two-week wait arrangements. These arrangements were initiated by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to help make sure patients were seen quickly by a specialist.

Safe and appropriate use of medicines

The provider had systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines.

There was a stock control system of medicines which were held on site. This ensured that medicines did not pass their expiry date and enough medicines were available if required.

The dentists were aware of current guidance with regards to prescribing medicines. A risk assessment was in place for patients who took diazepam prior to receiving dental treatment. Diazepam is a sedative used to treat anxiety and can be taken before medical or dental treatments as a 'pre-med' to help patients relax. A protocol was in place to assess these patients before, throughout treatment and prior to leaving the practice to ensure their safety.

Are services safe?

Antimicrobial prescribing audits were carried out. The most recent audit indicated the dentists were following current guidelines.

Track record on safety, and lessons learned and improvements

The provider had implemented systems for reviewing and investigating when things went wrong. There were comprehensive risk assessments in relation to safety issues. Staff monitored and reviewed incidents. This helped staff to understand risks which led to effective risk management systems in the practice as well as safety improvements. Where there had been safety incidents we saw these were investigated, documented and discussed with the rest of the dental practice team to prevent such occurrences happening again.

The provider had a system for receiving and acting on safety alerts. Staff learned from external safety events as well as patient and medicine safety alerts. We saw they were shared with the team and acted upon if required.

Are services effective? (for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

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

Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

The practice had systems to keep dental professionals up to date with current evidence-based practice. We saw clinicians assessed patients' needs and delivered care and treatment in line with current legislation, standards and guidance supported by clear clinical pathways and protocols. For example, the dentists had reviewed guidance from the British Endodontic Society on the recommendation of rubber dam use during root canal treatment. They recognised a lack of experience in using rubber dam and attended a course to ensure their confidence to use this in line with guidance.

Helping patients to live healthier lives

The practice provided preventive care and supported patients to ensure better oral health in line with the Delivering Better Oral Health toolkit.

The dentists prescribed high concentration fluoride products if a patient's risk of tooth decay indicated this would help them.

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

Staff were aware of and involved with national oral health campaigns and local schemes which supported patients to live healthier lives, for example, local stop smoking services. They directed patients to these schemes when appropriate.

The dentists and dental hygiene therapist described to us the procedures they used to improve the outcomes for patients with gum disease. This involved providing patients with preventative advice, taking plaque and gum bleeding scores and recording detailed charts of the patient's gum condition.

Records showed patients with severe gum disease were recalled at more frequent intervals for review and to reinforce home care preventative advice.

Consent to care and treatment

Staff obtained consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

The practice team understood the importance of obtaining and recording patients' consent to treatment. The staff were aware of the need to obtain proof of legal guardianship or Power of Attorney for patients who lacked capacity or for children who are looked after. The dentists gave patients information about treatment options and the risks and benefits of these, so they could make informed decisions. We saw this documented in patients' records. 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 had received training and understood their responsibilities under the act when treating adults who might not be able to make informed decisions. The policy also referred to Gillick competence, by which a child under the age of 16 years of age may give consent for themselves in certain circumstances. Staff were aware of the need to consider this when treating young people under 16 years of age.

Staff described how they involved patients' relatives or carers when appropriate and made sure they had enough time to explain treatment options clearly. The practice manager had developed a 'dignity and respect' form to enable staff to spend time assessing and understanding and preferences of patients with Dementia at every appointment. For example, if they chose to be accompanied or unaccompanied by their partner, carer or family member in the treatment room, and who they wished to be included in discussions and decision making about their care.

Monitoring care and treatment

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.

The provider had quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement. Staff kept records of the results of these audits, the resulting action plans and improvements.

Effective staffing

Are services effective? (for example, treatment is effective)

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out their roles.

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

Co-ordinating care and treatment

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to deliver effective care and treatment.

The dentists confirmed they referred patients to a range of specialists in primary and secondary care for treatment the practice did not provide.

Are services caring?

Our findings

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

Kindness, respect and compassion

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion.

Staff were aware of their responsibility to respect people's diversity and human rights.

Patients commented positively that staff made them feel welcome and were polite, professional and caring. We saw staff treated patients respectfully, appropriately and kindly and were friendly towards patients at the reception desk and over the telephone.

Patients said staff were compassionate, understanding and kind when they were in pain, distress or discomfort.

A practice information folder, price lists, patient reviews and testimonies were available for patients to read. A hot beverage machine, bottled water and a children's play area were also available in the waiting room.

Privacy and dignity

Staff respected and promoted patients' privacy and dignity. They had signed up to the 'Dignity in Care' campaign led by the National Dignity Council. The campaign inspires people to be part of a nationwide movement of champions, working individually and collectively to promote access to dignity as a human right for all.

The provider had installed closed-circuit television, (CCTV), to improve security for patients and staff. A privacy impact assessment and signage were in place in accordance with the CCTV Code of Practice (Information Commissioner's Office, 2008).

Staff were aware of the importance of privacy and confidentiality. The layout of reception and waiting areas provided limited privacy when reception staff were dealing with patients. If a patient asked for more privacy, the practice would respond appropriately. The reception computer screen was not visible to patients and staff did not leave patients' 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.

Involving people in decisions about care and treatment

Staff helped patients to be involved in decisions about their care. They were aware of the requirements of the Equality Act.

Interpreter services were not available for patients who did not speak or understand English but staff told us these had never been required.

Staff communicated with patients in a way they could understand, and communication aids and easy-read materials were available.

Staff gave patients clear information to help them make informed choices about their treatment. Patients confirmed that staff listened to them, did not rush them and discussed options for treatment with them. The dentists described the conversations they had with patients to satisfy themselves they understood their treatment options.

The practice's website and information leaflet provided patients with information about the range of treatments available at the practice.

The dentists described to us the methods they used to help patients understand treatment options discussed. These included for example, photographs, study models, videos and animations, X-ray images and an intra-oral camera. The intra-oral cameras enabled photographs to be taken of the tooth being examined or treated and shown to the patient or relative to help them better understand the diagnosis and treatment.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

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

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs. It took account of patient needs and preferences. For example, where patients were non-binary or identified with a gender different from their assigned sex. They were respectful of how patients wished to be addressed, such as their preferred pronouns.

Staff were clear about the importance of emotional support needed by patients when delivering care. They conveyed a good understanding of supporting more vulnerable members of society such as patients with dementia, and adults and children with a learning difficulty.

For example, a member of staff had used their knowledge and experience of supporting people who were non-verbal or had Autism or additional needs to create a step by step 'Going to the Dentist' information sheet using easy read symbols widely used in special needs education. They described how they would spend time with patients talking through the guide and individual symbols at a pace that ensured the patient's understanding.

Patients described high levels of satisfaction with the responsive service provided by the practice. Many patients commented that they would recommend the practice to others.

Two weeks before our inspection, CQC sent the practice 50 feedback comment cards, along with posters for the practice to display, encouraging patients to share their views of the service.

24 cards were completed, giving a patient response rate of 48%

100% of views expressed by patients were positive.

Common themes within the positive feedback were how welcoming and friendly staff were, easy access to dental appointments and how staff offered appropriate advice and involved patients in discussions about their care.

We shared this with the provider in our feedback.

Five patients provided feedback directly to the CQC online. Feedback they provided aligned with the views expressed in completed comment cards.

The practice currently had some patients for whom they needed to make adjustments to enable them to receive treatment.

The practice had made reasonable adjustments for patients with disabilities in line with a disability access audit. This included a ramp to the entrance, a reception desk at a height accessible to wheelchair users, a wide door to access the ground floor treatment room and an accessible toilet with hand rails and a call bell.

Timely access to services

Patients could access care and treatment from the practice within an acceptable timescale for their needs.

The practice displayed its opening hours in the premises and included it in their information leaflet and on their website.

The practice had an appointment system to respond to patients' needs. Evening and weekend appointments were available. Patients could choose to receive text message, email or telephone appointment reminders. Patients who requested urgent advice or care were offered an appointment the same day. Patients had enough time during their appointment and did not feel rushed. Appointments ran smoothly on the day of the inspection and patients were not kept waiting. Staff telephoned patients the day after receiving complex treatment or dental extractions to check on their wellbeing and address any questions or concerns they had. Patient comments confirmed they appreciated this personal approach.

The staff took part in an emergency on-call arrangement with some other local practices and patients were directed to the appropriate out of hours service.

The practice's 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.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

Are services responsive to people's needs? (for example, to feedback?)

Staff told us the provider took complaints and concerns seriously and responded to them appropriately to improve the quality of care.

The provider had a policy providing guidance to staff about how to handle a complaint. The practice information leaflet explained how to make a complaint.

The registered manager was responsible for dealing with these. Staff told us they would tell them about any formal or informal comments or concerns straight away so patients received a quick response. The registered manager 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 had 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

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

The practice demonstrated a transparent and open culture in relation to people's safety. There was strong leadership and emphasis on continually striving to improve. Systems and processes were embedded, and staff worked together in such a way that the inspection only highlighted minor omissions. The information and evidence presented during the inspection process was clear and well documented. They could show how they sustain high-quality services and demonstrate improvements over time.

Leadership capacity and capability

We found the partners had the capacity, values and skills to deliver high-quality, sustainable care.

The partners were knowledgeable about issues and priorities relating to the quality and future of the service. They understood the challenges and were addressing them.

Leaders were visible and approachable. Staff told us they worked closely with them to make sure they prioritised compassionate and inclusive leadership.

We saw the provider had effective processes to develop leadership capacity and skills, including planning for assistance with leadership of the practice over the next few years. For example, a member of staff was undertaking a leadership and management qualification with the practice's support.

Culture

The practice had a culture of high-quality sustainable care for patients and staff.

Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued. They attended social and professional events together and were proud to work in the practice.

Staff discussed their training needs informally and at annual appraisals and one to one meetings. They also discussed learning needs, general wellbeing and aims for future professional development. We saw evidence of completed appraisals in the staff folders. The staff focused on the needs of patients. For example, bespoke resources had been created to support patients with Dementia or special educational needs to understand their care.

We saw the provider had systems in place to identify and deal with staff poor performance.

Openness, honesty and transparency were demonstrated when responding to incidents and complaints. The provider was aware of and had systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Duty of Candour. We saw an example of this where information had been sent to the wrong patient. Immediate action had been taken to inform and apologise to the patients involved and introduce systems to prevent re-occurrence.

Staff could raise concerns and were encouraged to do so, and they had confidence that these would be addressed.

Governance and management

Staff had clear responsibilities, roles and systems of accountability to support good governance and management.

The partners had overall responsibility for the management and clinical leadership of the practice. The team worked closely together to ensure the day to day running of the service. Staff had lead roles and knew the management arrangements and their roles and responsibilities.

The provider had a system of clinical governance in place which included policies, protocols and procedures that were accessible to all members of staff and were reviewed on a regular basis. The provider sought the services of external organisations and compliance companies as required to support them to meet the required standards.

We saw there were clear and effective processes for managing risks, issues and performance.

Appropriate and accurate information

Staff acted on appropriate and accurate information.

Quality and operational information, for example, staff and patient surveys and audits were used to ensure and improve performance. Performance information was combined with the views of patients.

The provider had information governance arrangements and staff were aware of the importance of these in protecting patients' personal information.

Are services well-led?

Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

Staff involved patients, the public, staff and external partners to support the service.

The provider proactively sought feedback on the services provided. They used patient surveys, online reviews, a suggestion book and encouraged verbal comments to obtain staff and patients' views about the service. We saw many suggestions from patients the practice had considered and acted on. These included the provision of a coat stand, the arrangement of furniture in the waiting room, monitoring of the temperature in the practice and asking patients' preferences on the music played.

The provider gathered feedback from staff through regular structured meetings, surveys, and informal discussions. Staff were encouraged to offer suggestions for improvements to the service and said these were listened to and acted on.

Continuous improvement and innovation

We saw a strong commitment to quality improvement. Audits and reflection on events supported this. The ethos that had been created was evident throughout the service with all staff members contributing. Staff were encouraged to step up with innovative ideas and their contributions were clearly valued. The provider had systems and processes for learning, continuous improvement and innovation.

The staff were involved in quality improvement initiatives including peer review as part of their approach in providing high quality care.

The provider had quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement. These included audits of dental care records, radiographs, antimicrobial prescribing and infection prevention and control. Staff kept 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.

Staff completed 'highly recommended' training as per General Dental Council professional standards. The provider supported and encouraged staff to complete continuing professional development (CPD). The provider had obtained some evidence of up to date CPD in safeguarding and basic life support for the part time dental hygiene therapist but these were not to the correct level. They confirmed this would be addressed.