

Corkland Road Medical Practice

Quality Report

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Website: <http://www.corklandroadmedicalpractice.co.uk>

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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 on 12 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 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.
- 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.

There were also areas of practice where the provider needs to make improvements. The provider should:

- Ensure the locum personnel files contain all the relevant information such as training and background checks.

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.

Good



- 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 there were unintended or unexpected safety incidents, patients received reasonable support, truthful information, a verbal and 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 abuse.
- Personnel files had appropriate recruitment checks, for example, proof of identification, references, qualifications, registration with the appropriate professional body and the appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service. However, one locum file did not contain all the relevant information in relation to training and background checks. The practice manager told us this information would be sought immediately.

Are services effective?

The practice is rated as good for providing effective services.

Good



- 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 multidisciplinary teams to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs.

Are services caring?

The practice is rated as good for providing caring services.

Good



- 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.

Summary of findings

- We saw staff treated patients with kindness and respect, and maintained patient and information confidentiality.

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.
- 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 this.
- 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 knowing about 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.

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.

Good



- The practice offered proactive, personalised care to meet the needs of the older people in its population.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older people, and offered home visits and urgent appointments for those with enhanced needs.
- The patient participation group bulletin provided older patients with reminders about useful information such as when Flu vaccination season was or the times and dates the practice was closed around holidays and where they could go for assistance if needed.

People with long term conditions

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

Good



- Nursing staff had lead roles in chronic disease management and patients at risk of hospital admission were identified as a priority.
- 80% of patients with diabetes had received an influenza immunisation compared to the national average of 94%.
- A record of foot examination was present for 75% compared to the national average of 88%.
- Patients with diabetes in whom the last blood pressure reading (measured in the preceding 12 months) was 140/80 mmHg or less was 69% compared to the national average of 78%.
- Patients with diabetes whose last measured total cholesterol (measured within the preceding 12 months) was 5 mmol/l or less was 68% compared to the national average of 81%.
- The percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, in whom the last IFCC HbA1c was 64 mmol/mol or less in the preceding 12 months was 64% compared to the national average of 78%.
- The contributing factors to the low data in relation to diabetes, was a high level of patients who did not attend for their appointments and communication issues with the large Asian population. The administration team was contacting patients

Summary of findings

to encourage them to attend the practice for appointments. A healthcare assistant had been recruited who spoke the local languages and was in the process of improving the recall system.

- 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.

Families, children and young people

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

- 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 percentage of women aged 25-64 whose notes record that a cervical screening test had been performed in the preceding 5 years (01/04/2014 to 31/03/2015) was 77%, which was below the national average of 82%. There was a policy to offer telephone reminders for patients who did not attend for their cervical screening test.
- 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.

Good



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.

Good



Summary of findings

- The practice was proactive in offering online services as well as a full range of health promotion and screening that reflected the needs for this age group.
- The practice offered appointments at early evening surgeries during the week from 6pm to 8pm.
- Telephone appointments were available if patients wished to discuss test results, urgent concerns and who may have difficulty attending surgery due to work commitments.

People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable

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

Good



- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people, travellers and those with a learning disability.
- The practice offered longer appointments for patients with a learning disability.
- The practice regularly worked with multi-disciplinary teams in the case management of vulnerable people.
- 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.

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).

Good



- The practice regularly worked with multi-disciplinary teams in the case management of people experiencing poor mental health, including those with dementia.
- The practice carried out advanced 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 percentage of patients with hypertension in whom the last blood pressure reading measured in the preceding 12 months was 150/90mmHg or less was 74%, compared to the national average of 84%.

Summary of findings

- The percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses who had a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the record in the preceding 12 months was 89% compared to the national average of 88%.
- The percentage of patients diagnosed with dementia whose care had been reviewed face to face in the preceding 12 months was 96% compared to the national average of 84%.
- 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.

Summary of findings

What people who use the service say

The national GP patient survey results published in January 2016 showed the practice was performing above the local and national averages in many areas (411 survey forms were distributed and 90 (22%) were returned).

- 85% found it easy to get through to this surgery by phone compared to a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) average of 74% and a national average of 73%.
- 89% were able to get an appointment to see or speak to someone the last time they tried (CCG average 82%, national average 85%).
- 85% described the overall experience of their GP surgery as fairly good or very good (CCG average 81%, national average 85%).

- 80% said they would definitely or probably recommend their GP surgery to someone who has just moved to the local area (CCG average 73%, national average 78%).

As part of our inspection we also asked for CQC comment cards to be completed by patients prior to our inspection. We received 28 comment cards which were all positive about the standard of care received. Comments included praise for the understanding and the professionalism of the GPs and nursing staff as well as a helpful and good service from the receptionists and the practice manager.

We spoke with three patients during the inspection. All the patients said they were happy with the care they received and thought staff were approachable, committed and caring.

Corkland Road Medical Practice

Detailed findings

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by:

a CQC Lead Inspector and included a GP specialist adviser.

Background to Corkland Road Medical Practice

Corkland Road Medical Practice is based in the Chorlton area of Manchester. It is part of the NHS Central Manchester Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and has 7490 patients. The practice provides services under a General Medical Services contract, with NHS England.

Information published by Public Health England rates the level of deprivation within the practice population group as level five on a scale of one to 10. Level one represents the highest levels of deprivation and level 10 the lowest. Male and female life expectancy in the practice geographical area is 77 years for males and 82 years for females, both of which are similar to the England average of 79 years and 83 years respectively. The numbers of patients in the different age groups on the GP practice register were generally similar to the average GP practice in England with a higher range between the ages of 25 to 39.

The practice had a lower percentage (49%) of its population with a long-standing health condition than the England average (54%). The practice had a higher percentage (69%) of its population with a working status of

being in paid work or in full-time education than the England average (62%). The practice had a higher percentage (7.4%) of its population with an unemployed status than the England average of (5.4%).

Services are provided from a number of former houses that have been converted into a purpose built building with disabled access and on street parking. The practice has a number of consulting and treatment rooms used by the GPs and nursing staff as well as visiting professionals such as health visitors.

The service is led by one GP partner with three salaried GPs, a nurse and a healthcare assistant with a practice manager. The team is supported by an administration team including a number of reception / administrative staff who also cover other duties such as dealing with samples and drafting prescriptions.

The practice is open between 8:30am to 6:30pm from Monday to Friday. Extended hours are provided as part of the GP federation who cover a number of practices in the area between 6pm and 8pm, Monday to Friday, as well as on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The appointments are available at a small number of local health centres. Patients are able to book the extended hours appointments on the day and may be subject to a triage in the afternoon by a GP with no fixed appointments. Out of hours cover is provided by the NHS 111 service and Go to Doc.

Detailed findings

Why we carried out this inspection

We inspected this service as part of our comprehensive inspection programme.

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 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

Before visiting, we reviewed a range of information we hold about the practice and asked other organisations to share what they knew. We carried out an announced visit on 12 May 2016.

During our visit we:

- Spoke with a range of staff including the GPs, the nurse, a healthcare assistant and practice manager as well as staff from the administration team.
- Observed how staff interacted with patients and spoke carers and family members

- Reviewed an anonymised sample of the personal care or treatment records of patients.
- Reviewed comment cards where patients and members of the public shared their views and experiences of the service.

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)

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 and there was a recording form available on the practice's computer system.
- The practice carried out a thorough analysis of significant events.

We reviewed safety records, incident reports national patient safety alerts and minutes of meetings where these were discussed. Lessons were shared to make sure action was taken to improve safety in the practice.

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 abuse, which included:

- Arrangements were in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse that reflected relevant legislation and local requirements and 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 GP lead for safeguarding adults and children. Staff demonstrated they understood their responsibilities and all had received training relevant to their role. The clinical staff were all trained to Safeguarding level 3.
- A notice in the waiting room and in the treatment rooms advised patients that chaperones were available if required. The staff who acted as chaperones had received an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS check). (DBS checks identify whether a person has a criminal record or is on an official list of people barred from working in roles where they may have contact with children or adults who may be vulnerable).
- The practice maintained appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene. We observed the premises to be clean and tidy. The nurse was the infection control clinical lead. There was an infection control protocol in place and annual infection control audits were undertaken.

- The arrangements for managing medicines, including emergency drugs and vaccinations, in the practice kept patients safe (including obtaining, prescribing, recording, handling, storing and security). The practice carried out regular medicines audits, with the support of the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) pharmacy teams, to ensure prescribing was in line with best practice guidelines for safe prescribing. Patient Group Directions had been adopted by the practice to allow nurses to administer medicines in line with legislation.
- Prescription pads and paper were securely stored and there were systems in place to monitor their use.
- We reviewed four personnel files and found appropriate recruitment checks had been undertaken prior to employment. For example, proof of identification, references, qualifications, registration with the appropriate professional body and the appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service. We looked at the file for one locum GP. The file contained items such as medical indemnity insurance, GMC number as well as DBS checks but there was no information in relation to training and background checks. The practice manager told us this information would be sought immediately.
- Systems were 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.

Monitoring risks to patients

There was an up to date fire risk assessment with yearly 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 assessments in place for legionella (Legionella is a term for a particular bacterium which can contaminate water systems in buildings). Systems were in place to ensure the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (**COSHH**) regulations were being adhered to.

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 that enough staff were on duty.

Arrangements to deal with emergencies and major incidents

Are services safe?

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 as well as alarm buttons which alerted staff to any emergency.
- All staff received annual basic life support training and there were emergency medicines available in the treatment rooms.

- The practice had a defibrillator and an oxygen cylinder with adult and children's masks. A first aid kit and accident book was also 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 fit for use.
- The practice had a 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 peoples' 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 (2014/15) were 86% of the total number of points available, with 6% clinical exception reporting. (Exception reporting is the removal of patients from QOF calculations where, for example, the patients were unable to attend a review meeting or certain medicines cannot be prescribed because of side effects). Data from 2014/15 showed;

- Performance for the five diabetes related indicators was below the national average for all five indicators.
- 80% of patients with diabetes had received an influenza immunisation compared to the national average of 94%.
- A record of foot examination was present for 75% compared to the national average of 88%.
- Patients with diabetes in whom the last blood pressure reading (measured in the preceding 12 months) was 140/80 mmHg or less was 69% compared to the national average of 78%.
- Patients with diabetes whose last measured total cholesterol (measured within the preceding 12 months) was 5 mmol/l or less was 68% compared to the national average of 81%.

- The percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, in whom the last IFCC HbA1c was 64 mmol/mol or less in the preceding 12 months was 64% compared to the national average of 78%.
- The percentage of patients with hypertension in whom the last blood pressure reading measured in the preceding 12 months was 150/90mmHg or less was 74%, compared to the national average of 84%.
- The percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses who had a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the record in the preceding 12 months was 89% compared to the national average of 88%.
- The percentage of patients diagnosed with dementia whose care had been reviewed face to face in the preceding 12 months was 96% compared to the national average of 84%.

The contributing factors to the low data, especially in relation to diabetes, was a high level of patients who did not attend for their appointments and communication issues with the large Asian population. The administration team was contacting patients to encourage them to attend the practice for appointments. A healthcare assistant had been recruited who spoke the local languages and was in the process of improving the recall system.

Clinical audits

- There had been five clinical audits completed in the last two years. We saw evidence of improvements being implemented and monitored.
- The practice participated in local audits, national benchmarking, accreditation, peer review and research.
- Findings were used by the practice to improve services. For example, an audit into the prevalence of Atrial fibrillation (AF) was conducted and the findings were analysed. Recommendations included adding alerts to the electronic notes for patients who were at risk as well as providing further training for all GPs. A re-audit was conducted which showed the actions were appropriate and did not result in further actions.

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. It covered such topics as safeguarding, infection prevention and control, fire 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. Staff administering vaccinations and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training which had included an assessment of competence. Staff who administered vaccinations 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 during sessions, one-to-one meetings, appraisals, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision and facilitation and support for revalidating GPs.
- Staff received on-going training that included: safeguarding, fire procedures and basic life support.

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.
- Information such as NHS patient information leaflets were also available.
- 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 services 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. We saw evidence that multi-disciplinary team meetings took place on a monthly basis and that care plans were routinely reviewed and updated.

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 records audits.

Supporting patients to live healthier lives

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

- These included patients in the last 12 months of their lives, carers, those at risk of developing a long-term condition and those requiring advice on their diet, smoking and alcohol cessation.
- Patients were then signposted to the relevant service.

The percentage of women aged 25-64 whose notes record that a cervical screening test had been performed in the preceding 5 years (01/04/2014 to 31/03/2015) was 77%, which was below the national average of 82%. There was a policy to offer telephone reminders for patients who did not attend for their cervical screening test.

Childhood immunisation rates for the vaccinations given were comparable to Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)/national averages. For example, childhood immunisation rates for the vaccinations given to under two year olds ranged from 88% to 97% and five year olds from 86% to 99%.

Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks. These included health checks for new patients and

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

NHS health checks for people aged 40–74. 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 28 patient Care Quality Commission (CQC) comment cards we received were positive in relation to the care patients experienced. Patients said they felt the practice offered a safe and considerate service and staff were helpful, caring and treated them with dignity and respect. Comment cards highlighted that staff responded compassionately when they needed help and provided support when required.

We spoke with three patients who all told us they were satisfied with the care provided by the practice and said their dignity and privacy was respected.

Results from the national GP patient survey (January 2016) showed patients felt they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect. The practice was above average for its satisfaction scores on consultations with GPs and nurses. For example:

- 93% said the GP was good at listening to them compared to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) average of 87% and national average of 89%.
- 89% said the GP gave them enough time (CCG average 84%, national average 87%).
- 96% said they had confidence and trust in the last GP they saw (CCG average 93%, national average 95%).
- 86% said the last GP they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern (CCG average 82%, national average 85%).
- 93% said the last nurse they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern (CCG average 86%, national average 91%).

- 86% said they found the receptionists at the practice helpful (CCG average 86%, national average 87%).

The CQC comment cards had positive comments in relation to how patients were treated. Patients felt the doctors listened to them and empowered them to make positive decisions about their healthcare. Patients on the day confirmed they were satisfied with the service.

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 on 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 above the local and national averages. For example:

- 89% said the last GP they saw was good at explaining tests and treatments compared to the CCG average of 84% and national average of 86%.
- 84% said the last GP they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care (CCG average 78%, national average 82%).
- 82% said the last nurse they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care (CCG average 80%, national average 85%).

Staff told us that translation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language. We saw notices in the reception areas informing patients this service was available.

Patient and carer support to cope emotionally with care and treatment

Notices in the patient waiting room told patients how to access a number of support groups and organisations.

The practice's computer system alerted GPs if a patient was also a carer so they could direct them towards the various avenues of support available to them.

Staff told us that if families had suffered bereavement, their usual GP contacted them and sent a card if it was deemed

Are services caring?

appropriate. This 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. For example, the practice worked alongside the local hospital to better direct people towards the correct route for treatment to reduce admissions to A&E.

- There were longer appointments available for patients with a learning disability.
- Home visits were available for older patients and patients who would benefit from these.
- Same day appointments were available for children and those with serious medical conditions.
- Translation services were available.
- Access for disabled persons was provided by a ramp at the front entrance.

Access to the service

The practice was open between 8:30am to 6:30pm from Monday to Friday. Extended hours were provided as part of the GP federation who covered a number of practices in the area between 6pm and 8pm, Monday to Friday, as well as on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The appointments were available at a small number of local health centres. Out of hours cover was provided by the NHS 111 service and Go to Doc.

Results from the national GP patient survey (January 2016) showed that patient's satisfaction with how they could access care and treatment was above the local and national averages.

- 77% of patients were satisfied with the practice's opening hours compared to the CCG average of 73% and national average of 75%.
- 85% patients said they could get through easily to the surgery by phone (CCG average 74%, national average 73%).
- 71% patients said they always or almost always see or speak to the GP they prefer (CCG average 56%, national average 59%).

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

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. There was a lead GP to handle any clinical complaints.

- We saw that information was available to help patients understand the complaints system such as posters and leaflets in the reception area.

The practice had received 24 complaints between April 2015 and February 2016. We looked at four of these and found they had been dealt with in a timely and open manner. Lessons were learnt from concerns and complaints and action was taken to as a result to improve the quality of 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 mission statement that stated “We are committed to providing High Quality Care to all users of our services and advocate best practice in the delivery of all services. We aim to be considerate and responsive to the needs of our patients, and offer an open channel of communication to maintain standards and consistency in the level of service provided”.

The practice aimed to do this in a number of ways including:

- Listening to and understanding the needs of their patients.
- Providing an environment, which is clean, safe and welcoming without discrimination.
- Providing urgent appointments for those with immediate and urgent medical needs.

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 which was used to monitor quality and to make improvements.
- There were arrangements for identifying, recording and managing risks, issues and implementing mitigating actions.

Leadership and culture

The GPs and the practice manager had the experience, capacity and capability to run the practice and ensure high

quality care. They prioritised safe, high quality and compassionate care. The GPs were visible in the practice and staff told us the management team were approachable and always took the time to listen to all members of staff.

The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the Duty of Candour. The GP encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place for knowing about notifiable safety incidents.

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 in doing so and felt supported if they did.
- 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.

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 surveys and complaints received and submitted proposals for improvements to the practice management team.
- The practice had gathered feedback from staff through staff meetings and clinical sessions. 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.