

## Exeter Orthodontic Practice

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## Inspection report

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### Overall summary

We carried out this announced focused inspection on 5 September 2022 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 practice 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 usually ask five key questions, however due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to reduce time spent on site, only the following three questions were asked:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it well-led?

These questions form the framework for the areas we look at during the inspection.

Our findings were:

- The orthodontic clinic was visibly clean and well-maintained.
- The practice had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.
- Staff knew how to deal with medical emergencies. Appropriate medicines and life-saving equipment were available.
- The practice had systems to help them manage risk to patients and staff.
- Safeguarding processes were in place and staff knew their responsibilities for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.
- The practice had staff recruitment procedures which reflected current legislation.
- The clinical staff provided patients' care and treatment in line with current guidelines.

# Summary of findings

- Patients were treated with dignity and respect and staff took care to protect their privacy.
- Staff provided preventive care and supported patients to ensure better oral health.
- The appointment system took account of patients' needs.
- There was effective leadership and a culture of continuous improvement.
- Staff felt involved and supported and worked as a team.
- Staff and patients were asked for feedback about the services provided.
- Complaints were dealt with positively and efficiently.
- The orthodontic clinic had information governance arrangements.

## Background

This report is about Exeter Orthodontic Practice.

Exeter Orthodontic Practice is in Exeter and provides NHS and private orthodontic dental treatment to mainly children. Some adults pay privately for this service.

Car parking spaces, including dedicated parking for disabled people, are available near the practice. The practice has made adjustments to support patients with additional needs by adding a stair lift to access one of the treatment rooms. The practice is not fully accessible and therefore not suitable for wheelchair users who need treatment. The building is listed and therefore further changes are not permitted to the building.

The dental team includes four orthodontists, eight dental nurses, one orthodontist therapist, one decontamination assistant, four receptionists and a practice manager. The practice has five treatment rooms.

During the inspection we spoke with two dentists, two dental nurses, the orthodontic therapist, two receptionists, the decontamination assistant, the practice manager and two area managers from the Portman group. We looked at practice policies and procedures and other records about how the service is managed.

The practice is open: 8.00am – 6.00pm Monday to Thursday

8.00am – 4.00pm Friday.

# Summary of findings

## The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We asked the following question(s).

Are services safe?	No action	✓
Are services effective?	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, premises, and radiography (X-rays)**

The practice had safeguarding processes and staff knew their responsibilities for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.

The practice had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.

The practice had procedures to reduce the risk of Legionella or other bacteria developing in water systems, in line with a risk assessment.

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

We saw the practice was visibly clean and there was an effective cleaning schedule to ensure the practice was kept clean.

The practice had a recruitment policy and procedure to help them employ suitable staff and had checks in place for agency and locum staff. These reflected the relevant legislation.

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

The practice ensured equipment was safe to use and maintained and serviced according to manufacturers' instructions. The practice ensured the facilities were maintained in accordance with regulations.

A fire risk assessment was carried out in line with the legal requirements and the management of fire safety was effective.

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

### **Risks to patients**

The practice had implemented systems to assess, monitor and manage risks to patient and staff safety. This included sharps safety and sepsis awareness.

Emergency equipment and medicines were available and checked in accordance with national guidance.

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

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

### **Information to deliver safe care and treatment**

Dental care records we saw were complete, legible and complied with General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

The practice had systems for referring patients with suspected oral cancer under the national two-week wait arrangements.

### **Safe and appropriate use of medicines**

The practice did not prescribe medicines, nor kept stock medicines on-site.

### **Track record on safety, and lessons learned and improvements**

# Are services safe?

The practice had implemented systems for reviewing and investigating incidents and accidents.

The practice had a system for receiving and acting on safety alerts.

# 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.

The orthodontists carried out a patient assessment in line with recognised guidance from the British Orthodontic Society.

The orthodontist therapist ensured that all patients had been referred appropriately by an orthodontist prior to completing examinations and assessments.

### **Helping patients to live healthier lives**

The practice provided preventive care and supported patients to ensure better oral health.

### **Consent to care and treatment**

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

Staff understood their responsibilities under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Staff described how they involved patients' relatives or carers when appropriate and made sure they had enough time to explain treatment options clearly.

### **Monitoring care and treatment**

The practice kept detailed dental care records in line with recognised guidance.

Staff conveyed an understanding of supporting more vulnerable members of society such as children with a learning difficulty.

We saw evidence the orthodontists justified, graded and reported on the radiographs they took. The practice carried out radiography audits six-monthly following current guidance and legislation.

### **Effective staffing**

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

Newly appointed staff had a structured induction and clinical staff completed 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 orthodontists confirmed they referred patients to a range of specialists in primary and secondary care for treatment the practice did not provide.

# Are services well-led?

## Our findings

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

### **Leadership capacity and capability**

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.

Staff worked together in such a way that the inspection did not highlight any issues or omissions.

The information and evidence presented during the inspection process was clear and well documented.

We saw the practice had effective processes to support and develop staff with additional roles and responsibilities.

### **Culture**

Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued. They were proud to work in the practice.

Staff discussed their training needs during annual appraisals and in one-to-one meetings.

The practice had arrangements to ensure staff training was up-to-date and reviewed at the required intervals.

### **Governance and management**

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

The practice 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.

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.

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

### **Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners**

Staff gathered feedback from patients/parents and carers and demonstrated commitment to acting on feedback.

Staff were encouraged to offer suggestions for improvements to the service and said these were listened to and acted on.

### **Continuous improvement and innovation**

The practice had quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement.

These included audits of dental care records, disability access, radiographs and infection prevention and control. Staff kept records of the results of these audits and the resulting action plans and improvements.