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# T S Cheema Dental Surgery

## Inspection report

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## Overall summary

We carried out this announced inspection on 29 September 2021 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 five key questions, however due to the ongoing 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:**

#### **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 well-led?**

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

# Summary of findings

## Background

T S Cheema Dental Surgery is in Greenford in the London borough of Ealing and provides NHS and private dental care and treatment for adults and children. The provider also has an NHS General Dental Services (GDS) contract for orthodontics.

The practice has one treatment room and a separate decontamination room. There is level access to the practice for people who use wheelchairs and those with pushchairs. Car parking spaces, including dedicated parking for people with disabilities are available at the practice. The practice is located close to public transport services, and metered car parking spaces are available near the practice.

The dental team includes one dentist, one orthodontist, one trainee dental nurse and one receptionist.

The practice is owned by an individual who is the principal dentist there. They have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated regulations about how the practice is run.

During the inspection we spoke with the dentist, trainee dental nurse, and the receptionist. We looked at practice policies and procedures and other records about how the service is managed.

The practice is open:

Monday to Thursday 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Friday 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Saturday 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

## Our key findings were:

- The practice appeared to be visibly clean and well-maintained.
- The provider had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.
- There were systems in place to reduce the risks associated with the transmission of Covid-19.
- Staff knew how to deal with emergencies. Appropriate medicines and life-saving equipment were available.
- The provider had systems to help them 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 provider had effective leadership and a culture of continuous improvement.
- Staff felt involved and supported and worked as a team.
- The provider asked staff and patients for feedback about the services they provided.
- The provider had information governance arrangements.

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

# Summary of findings

- Implement audits for prescribing of antibiotic medicines taking into account the guidance provided by the Faculty of General Dental Practice.
- Take action to ensure the clinicians take into account the guidance provided by the Faculty of General Dental Practice when completing dental care records.
- Improve the security of NHS prescription pads in the practice and ensure there are systems in place to track and monitor NHS prescriptions and their use.
- Improve the practice protocols regarding auditing patient dental care records to check that necessary information is recorded.

# Summary of findings

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

We asked the following question(s).

<b>Are services safe?</b>	<b>No action</b> ✓
<b>Are services effective?</b>	<b>No action</b> ✓
<b>Are services well-led?</b>	<b>No action</b> ✓

# 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 introduced procedures in relation to COVID-19 and these were being followed. Additional standard operating procedures had been implemented to protect patients and staff from Coronavirus. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was in use and staff had been fit tested for Filtering Face Piece (FFP) masks.

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 and records of water 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.

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

The provider carried out infection prevention and control audits twice a year. The latest audit showed the practice was meeting the required standards.

The provider had a whistleblowing policy and staff felt confident they could raise concerns without fear of recrimination.

The dentist used dental dam in line with guidance from the British Endodontic Society when providing root canal treatment.

# Are services safe?

The provider 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. We looked at four staff recruitment records. These showed the provider followed their recruitment procedure.

We observed that 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.

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

We saw evidence the dentist 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 and was updated annually.

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, and that the effectiveness of the vaccination was checked.

Sepsis prompts for staff and patient information was available at 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 clinicians 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**

# Are services safe?

We discussed with the dentist how information to deliver safe care and treatment was handled and recorded. Our discussion with the dentist confirmed that they were aware of the current guidelines for assessing and treating patients. We looked at ten dental care records. Improvements were required to ensure that all dental care records were complete and legible. For example, consent and options discussed with patients were not always documented, and written notes were not always clear about the treatment plan.

Records were kept securely and in compliance 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.

We saw staff stored NHS prescriptions securely, however there were no records to track those that were received and issued as described in current guidance. The provider assured us that they would implement a system to log and track prescriptions.

The dentist was aware of current guidance with regards to prescribing medicines though antimicrobial prescribing audits had not been undertaken.

## **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.

In the previous 12 months there had been no safety incidents.

The practice did not have suitable systems for receiving and acting on safety alerts, recalls and rapid response reports issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the Central Alerting System and other relevant bodies, such as Public Health England. The provider assured us that he would act on this immediately. The provider informed us subsequently that they had subscribed to receive the updates and will cascade relevant information to the staff and act upon it.

# 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.

The orthodontist carried out a patient assessment in line with recognised guidance from the British Orthodontic Society. An Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need was recorded which would be used to determine whether a patient was eligible for NHS orthodontic treatment. The patient's oral hygiene was also assessed to determine if the patient was suitable for orthodontic treatment.

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

The dentist where applicable, discussed smoking, alcohol consumption and diet with patients during appointments; however, these were not always recorded on the patients record cards.

The dentist 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**

The practice team understood the importance of obtaining and recording patients' consent to treatment. However, improvements were needed to ensure that staff documented patients' consent to care and treatment, and consent forms were completed in line with legislation and guidance.

The dentist told us they gave patients information about treatment options and the risks and benefits of these, so they could make informed decisions. However, improvements were needed to ensure these were documented in patients' record cards.

The practice's consent policy included information about the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The team 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.

### **Monitoring care and treatment**



# Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

The dental care records, which we saw required improvement in recording information about the patients' current dental needs and past treatment in line with recognised guidance.

A dental care record audit had not been carried out. The dentist assured us that they would implement this to encourage learning and continuous improvement.

## **Effective staffing**

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 dentist 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**

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

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

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

### **Culture**

The practice had a culture of high-quality sustainable care.

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

Staff discussed their training needs at an appraisal and one to one meeting. They also discussed learning needs, general wellbeing and aims for future professional development. We saw evidence of completed appraisals in the staff folders.

The provider was aware of and had systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Duty of Candour.

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 principal dentist had overall responsibility for the management and clinical leadership of the practice and was responsible for the day to day running of the service. Staff 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.

### **Appropriate and accurate information**

Staff acted on appropriate and accurate information.

The provider 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**

The provider used encouraged online reviews and verbal comments to obtain staff and patients' views about the service.

Patients were encouraged to complete the NHS Friends and Family Test which had stopped as of the pandemic but have now restarted. This is a national programme to allow patients to provide feedback on NHS services they have used.

The provider gathered feedback from staff through meetings 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**

# Are services well-led?

The provider had quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement. These included audits of radiographs and infection prevention and control. Staff kept records of the results of these audits and the resulting action plans and improvements. The provider had assessed and adapted the service to meet the needs of the patients with disabilities.

Staff completed 'highly recommended' training as per General Dental Council professional standards. The provider supported and encouraged staff to complete continuing professional development.