

# Alexandra Group Medical Practice

## Quality Report

Glodwick Primary Care Centre  
137 Glodwick Road  
Oldham  
OL4 1YN

Tel: 0161 622 9210

Website: [www.alexandrapractice.org.uk](http://www.alexandrapractice.org.uk)

Date of inspection visit: 11/03/2015

Date of publication: 30/04/2015

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

## Contents

### Summary of this inspection

	Page
Overall summary	2
The five questions we ask and what we found	4
The six population groups and what we found	6
What people who use the service say	9
Areas for improvement	9

### Detailed findings from this inspection

Our inspection team	10
Background to Alexandra Group Medical Practice	10
Why we carried out this inspection	10
How we carried out this inspection	10
Detailed findings	12

## Overall summary

### Letter from the Chief Inspector of General Practice

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection at Alexandra Group Medical Practice on 11th March 2015. Overall the practice is rated as good.

Specifically, we found the practice to be good for providing well-led, effective, caring, responsive and safe services. It was also good for providing services for the populations groups we rate.

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

- Staff understood and fulfilled their responsibilities to raise concerns, and to report incidents and near misses. Information about safety was recorded, monitored, appropriately reviewed and addressed.
- Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.
- Patients' needs were assessed and care was planned and delivered following best practice guidance. Staff had received training appropriate to their roles and any further training needs had been identified and planned.

- 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.
- Patients said on occasions they found it difficult to make an appointment including urgent appointments available the same day.
- 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.

However there were areas of practice where the provider needs to make improvements.

Importantly the provider should

Ensure staff undertake adult safeguarding and Mental Capacity Act training.

Ensure emergency access for children under five years of age and those over 75 and vulnerable.

# Summary of findings

Ensure all staff have access to an annual appraisal.

**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. Staff understood and fulfilled their responsibilities to raise concerns, and to report incidents and near misses. Lessons were learned and communicated informally to support improvement. Information about safety was recorded, monitored, appropriately reviewed and addressed. Risks to patients were assessed and well managed. There were enough staff to keep patients safe.

Good



### Are services effective?

The practice is rated as good for providing effective services. Data showed patient outcomes were at or above average for the locality. Staff referred to guidance from National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and used it routinely. Patient's needs were assessed and care was planned and delivered in line with current legislation. Staff had received training appropriate to their roles and any further training needs had been identified and appropriate training planned to meet these needs. Staff worked with multidisciplinary teams.

Good



### Are services caring?

The practice is rated as good for caring. Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in care and treatment decisions. Accessible information was provided to help patients understand the care available to them. We also saw that staff treated patients with kindness and respect ensuring confidentiality was maintained.

Good



### Are services responsive to people's needs?

The practice is rated as good for responsive. The practice reviewed the needs of their local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Teams and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to secure service improvements where these were identified. Patients reported on occasion's difficulties in accessing appointments. The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs. There was an accessible complaints system with evidence demonstrating that the practice responded quickly to issues raised.

Good



# Summary of findings

## Are services well-led?

The practice is rated as good for well-led. The practice had clear aims to deliver good outcomes for patients. Staff were clear about the aims and their responsibilities in relation to the practice. There was a clear leadership and staff felt supported by management. The practice had a number of policies and procedures to govern activity. There were systems in place to monitor and identify risk. The practice sought feedback from staff and patients and this had been acted upon. Staff had received inductions, regular performance reviews and attended staff meetings.

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 population group of older people. Nationally reported data showed the practice had good outcomes for conditions commonly found amongst older people. The practice offered proactive, personalised care to meet the needs of the older people in its population and had a range of enhanced services, for example in dementia, shingles vaccinations and end of life care. The care for patients at the end of life was in line with the Gold Standard Framework. This means they work, as part of a multidisciplinary team and with out of hours providers to ensure consistency of care and a shared understanding of the patient's wishes.

The practice was responsive to the needs of older people, GPs, nurses and health care assistants provided home visits.

We saw care plans were in place for patients at risk of unplanned hospital admissions, and those aged 75 and over who were vulnerable had care plans in place. The practice was commissioned for a number of local and national enhanced services which included a local service in which patients living in nursing and residential homes would be provided with comprehensive reviews of care by a GP and provided with a care plan, with the aim of reducing the number of elderly patients being admitted to hospital. The practice provided initial data which showed positive outcomes for patients with an initial reduction of 27% of patients from care homes being admitted to hospital.

The practice had achieved 69% vaccination rate for the influenza vaccine.

Good



### People with long term conditions

The practice is rated as good for the population group of people with long term conditions. Emergency processes were in place and referrals made for patients in this group that had a sudden deterioration in health. When needed longer appointments and home visits were available. The practice has a register of patients with long term conditions and has a recall system in place to ensure patients are called for a

Good



# Summary of findings

review annually so the condition can be monitored and reviewed. For those people with the most complex needs GPs worked with relevant health and social care professionals to deliver a multidisciplinary package of care.

## **Families, children and young people**

The practice is rated as good for the population group of families, children and young people. Systems were in place for identifying and following-up vulnerable families and who were at risk.

Immunisation rates were high for all standard childhood immunisations.

Appointments were available outside of school hours for children and all of the staff were responsive to parents' concerns and a new system to be introduced from April 2015 would ensure parents could have same day appointments for children who were unwell.

Good



## **Working age people (including those recently retired and students)**

The practice is rated as good for the population group of the working-age people (including those recently retired and students). The practice offered online services as well as a full range of health promotion and screening which reflects the needs for this age group. Patients were provided with a range of healthy lifestyle support including smoking cessation. The practice offered NHS health checks to patients including elderly health checks to patients who are 60 plus and not reached the age of 75. The practice had extended opening hour enabling people to make appointments outside normal working hours. Appointments could be booked online in advance and a text message reminder system was in place to remind patients of pre booked appointments.

Good



## **People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable**

The practice is rated as good for the population group of people whose circumstances may make them vulnerable. The practice had carried out annual health checks for people with learning disabilities and offered longer appointments for people where required. For patients where English was their second language, an interpreter was available onsite or could be arranged.

The practice worked with multi-disciplinary teams in the case management of vulnerable people.

Staff knew how to recognise signs of abuse in vulnerable adults and children.

Good



# Summary of findings

## People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

Good



The practice is rated as good for the population group of people experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia). The practice maintained a register of patients who experienced mental health problems. The register supported clinical staff to offer patients an annual appointment for a health check and a medication review. The practice worked with multi-disciplinary teams in the case management of people experiencing poor mental health including those with dementia.

The practice had sign-posted patients experiencing poor mental health to various support groups and voluntary organisations, including referrals to counselling services.

For patients who experienced difficulties attending appointments at busy periods they would be offered appointments at the beginning or end of the day to reduce anxiety.



# Summary of findings

## What people who use the service say

During our inspection we spoke with 12 patients. We reviewed nine CQC comment cards which patients had completed leading up to the inspection.

The comments were positive about the care and treatment people received. Patients told us they were treated with dignity and respect and involved in making decisions about their treatment options.

Feedback included individual praise of staff for their care and kindness and going the extra mile. We reviewed the

results of the GP national survey carried out in 2013/14 and noted 82% described their overall experience of this surgery as good and 93% had confidence and trust in the last GP they saw or spoke to.

In December 2014 the practice began to ask patients to participate in the friends and family test (The NHS friends and family test (FFT) is an opportunity for patients to provide feedback on the services) We saw out of 38 responses, 30 would be extremely likely to recommend the practice and eight would likely recommend the practice.

## Areas for improvement

### Action the service **SHOULD** take to improve

We spoke with the GP who was the safeguarding lead; they had completed training to level three. Staff had completed child safeguarding training to the appropriate level however not all staff had completed adult safeguarding training.

At the time of our inspection there was no system in place to ensure children under five or vulnerable patients including those over 75 had access to same day appointments. We were told from April 2015 a new system was being introduced to enable children under 5 who required urgent appointments would be seen on the same day.

There were no policies or procedure in place for staff to refer with regard to the Mental capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and staff had not completed any training.

The practice had an appraisal system in place for all staff; however appraisals were not up to date. The practice manager was aware of and was in the process of establishing appraisals for all staff to be completed within the next month.

# Alexandra Group Medical Practice

## Detailed findings

### Our inspection team

#### Our inspection team was led by:

Our inspection team was led by a CQC Lead Inspector. The team included a GP specialist advisor and a practice manager specialist advisor.

## Background to Alexandra Group Medical Practice

Alexandra Group Medical Practice provides primary medical services in Oldham from Monday to Friday. The practice is open between 8:00am and 6pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and 7am to 7:30pm on Tuesdays.

Alexandra Group Medical Practice is situated within the geographical area of NHS Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

The practice has a GMS contract. The General Medical Services (GMS) contract is the contract between general practices and NHS England for delivering primary care services to local communities.

Alexandra Group Medical Practice is responsible for providing care to 7700 patients of whom, 49% were male and 51% were female. Patients are from the second most deprived decile with 35% black and minority ethnic (BME) patients. The practice has a higher than national average of patients under 25 years of age, including children 0 to 4 years old. The practice has seen an increased number of new patients for whom English is their second language.

The practice consists of four GP partners, two male and two female, two practice nurses, practice manager supported by senior receptionist, receptionists and secretaries.

When the practice is closed patients were directed to the out of hours service.

## 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. This 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 about the practice. We asked the practice to give us information in advance of the site visit and asked other organisations to share their information about the service.

We carried out an announced visit on the 11th March 2015. We reviewed information provided on the day by the practice and observed how patients were being cared for.

# Detailed findings

We spoke with 12 patients and 11 members of staff. We spoke with a range of staff, including all GPs, practice manager, practice nurses and reception staff.

We reviewed nine Care Quality Commission comment cards where patients and members of the public had 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 are provided for specific groups of people and what good care looks 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 living in vulnerable circumstances
- People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

# Are services safe?

## Our findings

### Safe Track Record

We found that the practice had systems in place to monitor patient safety utilising all the data and information available to them.

A system to report, investigate and act on incidents of patient safety was in place, this included identifying potential risk. Staff we spoke with knew to report concerns and incidents. We reviewed significant events which had been recorded and saw that action had been taken. Significant events were discussed within monthly practice meetings. Learning was identified and improvements agreed with follow up to evaluate the impact of any improvements.

We saw staff had access to multiple sources of information to enable them to maintain patient safety and keep up to date with best practice.

The practice had systems in place to respond to safety alerts, in which the practice manager would disseminate to GPs for action and these would be discussed and actions agreed during weekly meetings.

The practice investigated complaints and responded to patient feedback in order to maintain safe patient care.

The practice had systems in place to maintain safe patient care of those patients over 75 years of age, with long term health conditions, learning disabilities and those with poor mental health. The practice maintained a register of patients with additional needs and or were vulnerable and closely monitored the needs of these patients, including regular contact with other health and social care professionals where required.

We saw patients who required annual reviews as part of their care; a system was in place to ensure reviews took place in a timely manner.

### Learning and improvement from safety incidents

The practice had a system in place for reporting, recording significant events, We saw from the practice significant events records, minutes of meetings and speaking with staff investigations had been carried. All staff told us the practice was open and willing to learn when things went wrong.

Staff told us they received updates relating to safety alerts they needed to be aware of via emails. The nurse told us they received regular updates as part of their ongoing training, and self-directed learning and attending practice nurse forums.

### Reliable safety systems and processes including safeguarding

All staff we spoke with were able to tell us how they would respond if they believed a patient or member of the public were at risk. Staff explained to us where they had concerns they would seek guidance from the safeguarding lead or seek support from a colleague as soon as possible.

We saw the practice had in place a detailed child protection and vulnerable adult's policy and procedure. Where concerns already existed about a family, child or vulnerable adult, alerts were placed on patient records to ensure information was shared between staff to ensure continuity of care.

We spoke with the GP who was the safeguarding lead; they had completed training to level three. Staff had completed child safeguarding training to the appropriate level however not all staff had completed adult safeguarding training.

The practice linked with the Local authority, health visitors and district nurses to monitor vulnerable patients and attended where possible multi agency case conferences. Speaking with staff at the practice they were knowledgeable about the contribution the practice could make to safeguarding patients. We were provided with examples of where staff had been proactive in safeguarding patients and worked alongside health visitors and social workers. We noted staff were vigilant of patients who may be at risk of domestic violence, and where it was known a patient was a victim of domestic violence alerts were placed within patients records.

A chaperone policy was in place, Speaking with staff who acted as chaperones, they were clear of the role and responsibilities.

### Medicines Management

The practice held medicines on site for use in an emergency or for administration during consultations such as administration of vaccinations.

Medicines administered by the nurses at the practice were given under a patient group direction (PGD), a directive

## Are services safe?

agreed by doctors and pharmacists which allows nurses to supply and/or administer prescription-only medicines. This had also been agreed with the local Clinical Commissioning Group.

We saw emergency medicines were checked to ensure they were in date and safe to use. We checked a sample of medicines and found these were in date, stored safely and where required, were refrigerated. Medicine fridge temperatures were checked and recorded to ensure the medicines were being kept at the correct temperature.

We saw an up to date policy and procedure was in place for repeat prescribing and medicine review. The practice worked alongside the clinical commissioning group, medicines management team who visited the practice to look at prescribing within the practice and audit medicines such as antibiotics and Benzodiazepines to support the practice in ensuring they are following up to date prescribing guidance.

Speaking with reception staff they explained to us the system in place to ensure where changes to prescriptions had been requested by other health professionals such as NHS consultants and/or following hospital discharge, the changes were reviewed by the GP daily and the changes implemented in a timely manner. We were shown the safety checks carried out prior to repeat prescriptions being issued and where there were any queries or concerns these were flagged with the GP before any repeat prescriptions were authorised.

The practice maintained a register to track prescriptions received and distributed. This was kept separate from the prescription pads which were securely locked away. Prescription pads held by GPs were locked away. A nominated member of staff was responsible for prescription ordering and management of prescriptions.

We saw prescriptions for collection were stored behind the reception desk, out of reach of a patient. Reception staff we spoke with were aware of the necessary checks required when giving out prescriptions to patients who attended the practice to collect them, i.e. date of birth, address of patient.

### Cleanliness & Infection Control

The practice was found to be clean and tidy. A nurse took the lead for infection control completing annual update training and carried out annual infection control audits including hand washing.

Cleaners were employed by a building management team who attended every day. There was a cleaning schedule in place to make sure each area was thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis and the practice held a copy. We looked in several consulting rooms. All the rooms had hand wash facilities and work surfaces which were free of damage, enabling them to be cleaned thoroughly, however consulting rooms used by nursing staff were carpeted, Good practice suggests carpets should not be used in treatment and minor surgery rooms. The flooring in clinical areas should be seamless and smooth, slip-resistant, easily cleaned and appropriately wear-resistant. We raised this with the practice manager who told us they had asked the buildings management team to replace the carpet with a suitable alternative flooring, but to date this had not happened.

We saw the dignity curtains in each room were disposable and were clearly labelled as to when they required replacing.

All the patients we spoke with were happy with the level of cleanliness within the practice.

We saw up to date policies and procedures were in place. The policy included protocols for the safe storage and handling of specimens and for the safe storage of vaccines. These provided staff with clear guidance for sharps, needle stick and splashing incidents which were in line with current best practice.

All staff we spoke with were clear about their roles and responsibilities for maintaining a clean and safe environment, however only the infection control lead had completed training. We saw rooms were well stocked with gloves, aprons, alcohol gel, and hand washing facilities.

The practice only used single use instruments, we saw these were stored correctly and stock rotation was in place.

### Equipment

The practice manager had a plan in place to ensure all equipment was effectively maintained in line with manufacture guidance and calibrated where required. We saw maintenance contracts were in place for all equipment.

All staff we spoke with told us they had access to the necessary equipment and were skilled in its use.

Checks were carried out on portable electrical equipment in line with legal requirements.

## Are services safe?

The computers in the reception and consulting rooms had a panic alert system for staff to call for assistance.

### Staffing & Recruitment

There were formal processes in place for the recruitment of staff to check their suitability and character for employment. The practice had a recruitment policy in place which was up-to-date. We looked at the recruitment and personnel records of four staff. We saw in the main for newly recruited staff checks had been undertaken. This included a check of the person's skills and experience through their application form, personal references, identification, criminal record and general health.

Where relevant, the practice also made checks that members of staff were registered with their professional body and on the GP performer's list. This helped to evidence that staff met the requirements of their professional bodies and had the right to practice.

We saw that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks had been carried out appropriately for all GPs; however the practice were unable to provide evidence of checks being carried out for the nursing staff. The practice manager told us they were unable to find evidence of checks being carried out and as a result had applied for DBS checks; we saw evidence of DBS applications had been submitted by the practice to ensure patients were protected from the risk of unsuitable staff.

### Monitoring Safety & Responding to Risk

The practice had systems, processes and policies in place to manage and monitor risks to patients, staff and visitors to the practice. The practice had a health and safety policy. Health and safety information was displayed for staff to see and there was an identified health and safety representative.

The practice is located within a CCG managed building alongside a number of other GP practices and community services. The CCG had responsibility for all maintenance contracts and risk management associated with the building including legionella testing and COSHH. The practice manager met regularly with the building management to discuss issues and concerns.

The practice manager had clear staffing levels identified and procedures in place to manage expected absences, such as annual leave, and unexpected absences through staff sickness; this was recorded within the business continuity plan. Staff told us they worked together to manage staff shortages and plan annual leave so as not to leave the practice short of staff.

### Arrangements to deal with emergencies and major incidents

The practice had arrangements in place to manage emergencies. Records showed that all staff had received training in basic life support. Emergency medicines for cardiac arrest were available within the building they were stored securely in the reception area. We checked the emergency drug box and saw that medicines were in date. We found the building had a defibrillator available to all practices and access to oxygen for use in emergency. The practice also held their own supply of medicines to be used in the event of emergency including medicines to be used for anaphylaxis and hypoglycaemia and we found these were stored securely and were all in date. When we asked members of staff, they all knew the location of this equipment and records confirmed that it was checked regularly.

Staff were able to clearly describe to us how they would respond in an emergency situation for example over the telephone or face to face if a patient said they were experiencing chest pains, however there was no formal guidance in place.

A business continuity plan was in place to deal with a range of emergencies that may impact on the daily operation of the practice. Each risk was rated and mitigating actions recorded to reduce and manage the risk. Risks identified included power failure, adverse weather, unplanned sickness and access to the building. The document also contained relevant contact details for staff to refer to. For example, contact details of the building management, CCG and associated health and social care professionals.

We saw fire risk assessment that included actions required to maintain fire safety had been carried out by the building management. Records showed that staff were up to date with fire training and regular fire drills were carried out.



# Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

## Our findings

### Effective needs assessment

The GPs and nursing staff we spoke with could clearly outline the rationale for their approaches to treatment. They were familiar with current best practice guidance, and accessed guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and from local commissioners. The staff we spoke with and the evidence we reviewed confirmed that these actions were designed to ensure that each patient received support to achieve the best health outcome for them. We found from our discussions with the GPs and nurse that they completed thorough assessments of patients' needs in line with NICE guidelines, and these were reviewed when appropriate.

GPs and nursing staff met routinely to discuss new guidance and as a result had produced protocols and agreed approaches to common chronic diseases. We saw several protocols were in place which included management of Gout, management of type 2 diabetes and a hypertension protocol.

Speaking with the practice nurses they explained to us how they reviewed patients with chronic diseases such as asthma on an annual basis, we saw from The national Quality Outcome Framework (QOF) 99% for patients with Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and 100% Chronic kidney disease above the local CCG and national average, however outcomes for patients with asthma and hypertension were below local average.

We saw the practice maintained a register of patients with a learning disability to help ensure they received the required health checks. All patients with learning disabilities had annual reviews carried using a nationally recognised template to ensure a comprehensive review was carried out encompassing emotional and physical wellbeing.

The practice carried out annual physical health reviews for patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, bi-polar and psychosis as a way of monitoring their physical health and providing health improvement guidance. The QOF provided evidence the practice were responding to the needs of people with poor mental health, , by ensuring for example they had a comprehensive care plan documented in the record and patients had access to health checks as required such as, a record of alcohol consumption and body mass index (BMI) in the preceding 12 months.

The practice was commissioned for a number of local and national enhanced services which included a local service in which patients living in nursing and residential homes would be provided with comprehensive reviews of care by a GP and provided with a care plan, with the aim of reducing the number of elderly patients being admitted to hospital. The practice provided initial data which showed positive outcomes for patients with an initial reduction of 27% of patients from care homes being admitted to hospital.

We saw from QOF that 100% of child development checks were offered at intervals that were consistent with national guidelines and policy.

We saw from information available to staff and by speaking with staff, that care and treatment was delivered in line with recognised best practice standards and guidelines. Staff told us they received updates relating to best practice or safety alerts they needed to be aware of via emails and the nursing told us they received regular updates as part of their ongoing training and attending monthly practice nurse forums.

Majority of clinical staff were able to describe to us how they assessed patient's capacity to consent in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The practice worked within the Gold Standard Framework for end of life care, where they held a register of patients requiring palliative care. Multi-disciplinary care review meetings were held with other health and social care providers.

Staff and patients had access to interpreter translation services on site, five days per week. The service was provided by Pennine Care NHS Trust. When patients attended the practice they were asked if they needed a translator to assist during their appointment. Where on site interpreters could not translate for patients, for example, Romanian patients translators could be pre-arranged to attend with patients or over the telephone during consultations. This was in line with good practice to ensure people were able to understand treatment options available.

### Management, monitoring and improving outcomes for people

Speaking with clinical staff, we were told assessments of care and treatment were in place and support provided to enable people to self-manage their condition, such as

# Are services effective?

## (for example, treatment is effective)

diabetes or Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Assessments were carried out for patients with COPD and where required seasonal adjustments were made which included prescribing rescue medication to help when a patient was experiencing exacerbation.

Nursing staff took the lead in supporting patients to manage their long term health conditions such as, asthma, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Each nurse specialised in different areas such as COPD and diabetes and had accessed additional training and qualifications to support their specialist areas.

A range of patient information was available for staff to give out to patients which helped them understand their conditions and treatments.

Staff said they could openly raise and share concerns about patients with colleagues to enable them to improve patient's outcomes.

The practice showed us how they monitored patient data which included full clinical audits taking place which demonstrated changes to patient outcomes. Clinical Audit is a process or cycle of events that help ensure patients receive the right care and the right treatment.

The practice used the information they collected for the Quality and Outcomes framework (QOF) and their performance against national screening programmes to monitor outcomes for patients. QOF was used to monitor the quality of services provided. The QOF report from 2013-2014 showed the practice was supporting patients well with long term health conditions such as, asthma, diabetes and heart failure. They were also ensuring childhood immunisations were being taken up by parents. NHS England figures showed in 2013, 99.3% of children at 24 months had received the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination.

The practice had systems in place to monitor and improve the outcomes for patients by providing annual reviews to check the health of patients with learning disabilities, patients with chronic diseases and patients on long term medication.

Patients told us they were happy the doctors and nurses at the practice managed their conditions well and if changes were needed they were fully discussed with them before being made.

### Effective staffing

Practice staffing included medical, nursing, managerial and administrative staff. We reviewed staff training records and saw evidence staff had attended mandatory courses such as annual basic life support. We noted a good skill mix among the doctors and nurses with a number having additional training and qualifications for example diabetes care. All GPs were up to date with their yearly continuing professional development requirements and all either have been revalidated or had a date for revalidation. (Every GP is appraised annually, and undertakes a fuller assessment called revalidation every five years. Only when revalidation has been confirmed by the General Medical Council can the GP continue to practice and remain on the performers list with NHS England).

Speaking with staff and reviewing training records we saw all staff were appropriately qualified and competent to carry out their roles safely and effectively.

The practice had an appraisal system in place for all staff; however appraisals were not up to date for non-clinical staff. This was an area the practice manager was aware of and provided evidence of a time frame for appraisals taking place within the next month.

All staff we spoke with told us they were happy with the support they received from the practice. Staff told us they were able to access training and received updates. We saw the nurses had access to training as part of their professional development, attending training and practice nurse events in which updates on key issues was provided.

### Working with colleagues and other services

We found staff at the practice worked closely as a team. The practice worked with other agencies and professionals to support continuity of care for patients and ensure care plans were in place for the most vulnerable patients. The GP and the practice manager arranged multi-disciplinary meetings where required. Communication on a daily basis with community midwives, health visitors and district nurses took place by telephone, fax and face to face with those based within the same building. Staff told us having direct access to allied health professionals on site was an advantage and helped to share information in a timely manner.

The practice worked with other service providers to meet patient's needs and manage those of patients with complex needs. It received blood test results, X ray results,



# Are services effective?

## (for example, treatment is effective)

and letters from the local hospital including discharge summaries, out-of-hours GP services and the 111 service both electronically and by post. The practice had a policy outlining the responsibilities of all relevant staff in passing on, reading and acting on any issues arising from communications with other care providers on the day they were received. The GP who saw these documents and results was responsible for the action required. All staff we spoke with understood their roles and felt the system in place worked well.

For patients at the end of life the practice worked closely with the district nurse to ensure co-ordinated care was in place. Patients who required emotional support would be referred to Improving Access to Psychological Therapies service (IAPT).

For patients requiring support to maintain healthy lifestyles were referred to 'chase to change' in which support could be provided to help patients who wanted to stop smoking or lose weight for example.

### Information Sharing

The practice used several electronic systems to communicate with other providers. For example, there was a shared system with the local GP out-of-hours provider to enable patient data to be shared in a secure and timely manner. Electronic systems were also in place for making referrals, for example Choose and Book system. (Choose and Book is a national electronic referral service which gives patients a choice of place, date and time for their first outpatient appointment in a hospital).

The practice had systems to provide staff with the information they needed. Staff used an electronic patient record EMIS to coordinate, document and manage patients' care. All staff were fully trained on the system, and commented positively about the system's safety and ease of use. This software enabled scanned paper communications, such as those from hospital, to be saved in the system for future reference.

The GPs described how the practice provided the 'out of hours' service with information, to support, for example, 'end of life care.' Information received from other agencies, for example accident and emergency or hospital outpatient departments were read and actioned by the GPs on the same day. Information was scanned onto electronic patient records in a timely manner.

The practice worked within the Gold Standard Framework for end of life care (EoLC), where they provided a summary care record and EoLC information to be shared with local care services and out of hour providers.

For the most vulnerable 2% (a nationally agreed percentage) of patients over 75 years of age, and patients with long term health conditions, information was shared routinely with other health and social care providers to monitor patient welfare and provide the best outcomes for patients and their family.

### Consent to care and treatment

A policy and procedure was in place for staff in relation to consent. The policy incorporated implied consent, how to obtain consent, consent from under 16's and consent for immunisations.

We found that majority of staff were aware of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Children's Acts 1989 and 2004 and their duties in fulfilling it. Majority of clinical staff we spoke with understood the key parts of the legislation and were able to describe how they implemented it in their practice, this included best interest decisions and do not attempt resuscitation (DNACPR). There were no policies or procedure in place for staff to refer with regard to the Mental capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and staff had not completed any training, however all staff told us where they had concerns about a patient's capacity; they would refer patients to the GP.

All staff we spoke with made reference to Gillick competency when assessing whether young people under sixteen were mature enough to make decisions without parental consent for their care. Gillick competency allows professionals to demonstrate they have checked the person's understanding of the proposed treatment and consequences of agreeing or disagreeing with the treatment. The practice had a Gillick competencies checklist for staff to refer to if they were unsure about the process to follow. Where capacity to consent was unclear staff told us they would seek guidance prior to providing any care or treatment.

### Health Promotion & Prevention

New patients looking to register with the practice were able to find details of how to register on the practice website or by asking at reception. New patients were provided with an appointment for a health check.

# Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

The practice had a range of written information for patients in the waiting area, including information they could take away on a range of health related issues, local services and health promotion.

We were provided with details of how staff promoted healthy lifestyles during consultations. The clinical system had built in prompts for clinicians to alert them when consulting with patients who smoked or had weight management needs. We were told health promotion formed a key part of patients' annual reviews and health checks.

NHS Health Checks were offered to all patients aged 40 to 75 years; health checks were available via Oldham Council Public Health twice a week at the practice. Since April 2014, 217 patients had a completed Health Check. The practice followed the guidance from the local CCG to ensure patients followed in a timely manner if they had risk factors for disease identified at the health check and how they scheduled further investigations.

The nurses provided lifestyle advice to patients and were proactive in referring patients who required additional support in areas such as, dietary advice for raised cholesterol, alcohol screening and advice, weight management, smoking cessation or counselling to 'Choose to change' a community public health service.

Patients newly diagnosed with diabetes were referred to specialist education programme to support patients self manage their condition and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The practice offered a full range of immunisations for children, travel vaccines and flu vaccinations in line with current national guidance. The practice had provided 69% of patients over 65 with the flu vaccination during 2014 winter campaign.

A children's immunisation and vaccination programme was in place. Data from NHS England showed the practice was achieving high levels of child immunisation including the MMR a combined vaccine that protects against measles, mumps and rubella, Hepatitis C and Pertussis (whooping cough). We saw from the Quality and Outcomes framework (QOF) 100% of child development checks were offered at intervals that are consistent with national guidelines and policy. There was a clear policy for following up non-attenders by the practice nurse, who liaised with health visitors.

Prior to our inspection we noted from data the practice's performance for cervical smear uptake was 70.2% which was lower than the local and national averages. Speaking with GPs they told us they had an action plan in place to increase the uptake of cervical smears and were following up patients who did not attend or had not made appointments following reminder letters.

The practice was proactive in following up patients when they were discharged from hospital. When the practice received a discharge letter from the hospital, the reception staff would pass onto GPs and where any follow up was required staff would arrange an appointment or home visit.

# Are services caring?

## Our findings

### **Respect, Dignity, Compassion & Empathy**

During our inspection we observed staff to be kind, caring and compassionate towards patients. We saw reception staff taking time with patients and trying where possible to meet people's needs.

We spoke with 12 patients and reviewed nine CQC comment cards received the week leading up to our inspection. All were positive about the level of respect they received and dignity offered during consultations.

The practice had information available to patients in reception and on the website that informed patients of confidentiality and how their information and care data was used, who may have access to that information, such as other health and social care professionals. Patients were provided with an opt out if they did not want their data shared.

We saw that staff were careful to follow the practice's confidentiality policy when discussing patients' treatments so that confidential information was kept private. The practice switchboard was located away from reception and areas accessible to the general public to maintain patient confidentiality.

We observed staff speaking to patients, with respect. We spent time with reception staff and observed courteous and respectful face to face communication and telephone conversations. Staff told us when patients arriving at reception wanted to speak in private; they would speak with them in one of the consultation rooms at the side of reception. Patients we spoke with gave positive feedback about the helpfulness and support they received from the reception staff. Looking at the results from the GP national survey, 89% of respondents found the receptionists at this surgery helpful.

Staff were able to clearly explain to us how they would reassure patients who were undergoing examinations, and described the use of chaperones, modesty sheets to maintain patient's dignity.

We found all rooms had dignity screens or lockable doors in place to maintain patients' dignity and privacy whilst they were undergoing examination or treatment.

### **Care planning and involvement in decisions about care and treatment**

The patients told us they were happy to see the GP or the nurse as they felt all were competent and knowledgeable.

Patients we spoke with told us the GPs and the nurses were patient, listened and took time to explain their condition and treatment options. The results from the GP national survey showed 94% of respondents had confidence and trust in the last nurse they saw or spoke to, 91% said the last nurse they saw or spoke to was good at explaining tests and treatments and 93% had confidence and trust in the last GP they saw or spoke to.

We saw from The Quality and Outcomes framework (QOF) data for 2013/14, 82% of patients with poor mental health had a comprehensive care plan documented in the records agreed between individuals, their family and/or carers as appropriate slightly below the local and national average. Care plans were in place for those over 75 years of age including those patients who lived within residential or nursing care and for those patients identified as vulnerable of unplanned hospital admissions. For those vulnerable patients at risk of unplanned hospital admissions care plans were in place and these were reviewed by GPs on a regular basis. Staff told us relatives, carers or advocates were involved in helping patients who required support with making decisions.

We noted that where required patients were provided with extended appointments for example reviews with patients with learning disabilities or multiple conditions to ensure they had the time to help patients be involved in decisions.

### **Patient/carers support to cope emotionally with care and treatment**

All staff we spoke to were articulate in expressing the importance of good patient care, and having an understanding of the emotional needs as well as physical needs of patients and relatives.

From the GP national survey 86% of respondents stated the last GP they saw or spoke to was good at listening to them and 81% stated the last GP they saw or spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern.

The practice had identified within their patient population a number of patients who were carers and had carers established a carer's register. We saw information for carers was readily available in the waiting area and on the practice website.

## Are services caring?

Patients who were receiving care at the end of life were identified and joint arrangements were put in place as part of a multi-disciplinary approach with the palliative care team. Bereaved patients were referred to a counselling service where required.

Speaking with one nurse they told us where they identified concerns regarding a patient's mental health, including

depression and anxiety they would refer to the GP. Referrals were also made to a newly established Improving Access to Psychological Therapies service (IAPT) an NHS programme offering interventions approved by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for treating people with depression and anxiety disorders.

# Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

## Our findings

### Responding to and meeting people's needs

We found the practice was responsive to patient's needs and had systems in place to maintain the level of service provided. The needs of the practice population were understood and systems were in place to address identified needs in the way services were delivered.

The practice worked with patients and families and in a joined up way with other providers in providing palliative care and ensuring patient's wishes were recorded and shared with consent with out of hours providers at the end of life.

The practice made reasonable adjustments to meet people's needs. Staff and patients we spoke with provided a range of examples of how this worked, such as accommodating home visits and booking extended appointments and arranging translators.

We saw where patients required referrals to another service these took place in a timely manner.

A repeat prescription service was available to patients, via the telephone, website, and a box at reception or requesting repeat prescriptions with staff at the reception desk. We saw patients accessing repeat prescriptions at reception without any difficulties.

The practice had a proactive Patient Participation Group (PPG) with 16 active members. The PPG met formally on average every four months with regular contact via email in between meetings. We met with one members of the PPG who were positive about the practice and told us they felt welcomed and involved in its development. The PPG reviewed the findings from surveys and to discuss ways in which patient experience could be improved. Following the survey in 2014 we saw an action plan to address issues raised which included improving communication between the practice and patients.

### Tackling inequity and promoting equality

The practice had taken steps to ensure equal access to patients, the website was accessible, and could be translated into different language if required.

The practice was located on the ground floor of the health centre. The practice was accessible for patients with

disabilities and had disabled parking spaces available. A disabled toilet was available as were baby changing facilities. A hearing loop had been installed within the practice to support patients who were hard of hearing.

A face to face translation service was available for patient's onsite and translators could be pre booked.

The practice provided extended appointments where necessary and appointments were available on early Tuesday mornings 7am until late 7:30pm enabling people to make appointments out of normal working hours.

### Access to the service

The practice was open between 8:30am and 6pm Monday to Friday with extend hours available on Tuesday's 7am until late 7:30pm. Patients were able to make appointments in advance, in person at reception or by telephone. On the day emergency appointments were available by telephoning the practice at 8:30am, arriving at the practice or booking online. Where all appointments were filled we found inconsistent responses to patients. When speaking with reception staff some would refer patients to the urgent care centre and others would take patients details and pass onto GPs and where required same day appointments or telephone consultations would be arranged. Patients we spoke with told us of an inconsistent approach, with one patient informing us they had to attend the urgent care centre with their child after being unable to gain an urgent appointment. Speaking with the GP and practice manager they told us they would put in place a protocol to prevent inconsistent approach in the future.

At the time of our inspection there was no system in place to ensure children under five or vulnerable patients including those over 75 had access to same day appointments. We were told from April 2015 a new system was being introduced to enable children under 5 who required urgent appointments would be seen on the same day.

We saw from the GP national survey 61% of respondents found it easy to get through to this surgery by phone, 82% of respondents say the last appointment they got was convenient, 62% of respondents describe their experience of making an appointment as good. All below the local average.

Comprehensive information was available to patients about appointments on the practice website. This included

# Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

how to arrange urgent appointments and home visits and how to book appointments through the website. Home visits were available for patients each day by telephoning the practice before 10:30am.

There were also arrangements to ensure patients received urgent medical assistance when the practice was closed, this information was detailed on the practice website and included information on the urgent care centre which could treat minor injury or illness. If patients called the practice when it was closed, an answerphone message gave the telephone number they should ring depending on the circumstances.

Longer appointments were available for patients who needed them for example those with long-term conditions or patients with learning disabilities. This also included appointments with a named GP or nurse.

## Listening and learning from concerns & complaints

The practice had a system in place for handling complaints and concerns. Their complaints policy was in line with recognised guidance and contractual obligations for GPs in England and there is a designated responsible person who handles all complaints in the practice.

We saw there was a complaints procedure in place. We reviewed complaints made to the practice over the past twelve months and found they were investigated with actions documented. Lessons learnt were shared with staff at team meetings.

We saw a complaints leaflet which was available to patients at reception and within the practice leaflet, a feedback form could be submitted by the practice website.

Patients we spoke with told us they knew how to make a complaint if they felt the need to do so.



# 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 clear vision to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients. We found details of the vision and practice values were part of the practice's mission statement and statement of purpose. The practice mission statement included, 'Our aim is to deliver consistent, high quality health care in partnership with our patients by having an effective and supportive team who are committed to working together.' Observing and speaking with staff and patients we found the practice demonstrated a commitment to compassion, dignity, respect and equality. We saw this demonstrated in the way staff interacted with patients and spoke of the professional relationship developed with patients over a number of years.

We spoke with 11 members of staff and they all expressed their understanding of the core values, and we saw evidence of the latest guidance and best practice being used to deliver care and treatment.

### Governance Arrangements

The practice had a number of policies and procedures in place to govern activity and these were available to staff via the desktop on any computer within the practice. We looked at several of the policies and saw these were up to date and reflected current guidance and legislation.

There was a clear leadership structure with named members of staff in lead roles. For example, there was a lead nurse for infection control and a senior partner was the lead for safeguarding. We spoke with 11 members of staff and they were all clear about their own roles and responsibilities. They all told us they felt valued, well supported and knew who to go to in the practice with any concerns.

We saw the practice made use of data provided from a range of sources including the Clinical Commissioning group (CCG), General Practice Outcome Standards (GPOS) and the national patient survey to monitor quality and outcomes for patients such as services for avoiding unplanned admissions.

The practice used the range of data available to them, using the data to improve outcomes for patients and work with the local CCG. The practice also used the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) to measure their performance.

The QOF data for this practice showed it was performing in line with national standards and just below the local and national averages in for both clinical and public health outcomes.

The practice had an ongoing programme of clinical audits which it used to monitor quality and systems to identify where action should be taken, examples included minor surgery and checks to determine adherence to current guidelines for the management of Gout.

The practice held monthly governance meetings. We looked at minutes from the last three meetings and found that performance, significant events, new guidance, quality and risks had been discussed.

From the summary of significant events we were provided with and speaking with staff we saw learning had taken place.

The practice had arrangements for identifying, recording and managing risks. The practice manager provided us with details of the maintenance and equipment checks which had been carried out in the past twelve months. These helped ensure equipment was safe to use and maintained in line with manufacture guidelines. Risk assessments had been carried out where risks were identified and action plans had been produced and implemented. Leadership, openness and transparency

We saw from minutes that team meetings were held regularly, at least monthly. Full practice meeting held annually. Staff told us that there was an open culture within the practice and they had the opportunity and were happy to raise issues with GPs or the practice manager, staff told us there was never a time when there was no one to speak to seek support, advice or guidance.

The practice manager was responsible for human resource policies and procedures. We reviewed a number of policies and procedures, for example, a recruitment policy and induction programme were in place to support staff. We were shown the staff handbook that was available to all staff, this included sections on health and safety, equality, leave entitlements, sickness, whistleblowing and bullying and harassment. Staff we spoke with knew where to find these policies if required.

# Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

## **Practice seeks and acts on feedback from users, public and staff**

The practice had gathered feedback from patients through the internal patient surveys via the patient participation group, national patient survey, The NHS friends and family test, compliments and complaints.

We saw that there was a complaints procedure in place, with details available for patients in the waiting area, practice leaflet and on the website. We reviewed complaints made to the practice over the past twelve months and found they were investigated with actions documented with lessons learnt shared with staff during team meetings.

We reviewed the results of the GP national survey carried out in 2013/14 and noted 82% described their overall experience of the practice as good. In December 2014 the practice began to ask patients to participate in the friends and family test (The NHS friends and family test (FFT) is an opportunity for patients to provide feedback on the services) We saw in January 2014 out of a total of 38 responses, 30 selected extremely likely and eight selected likely that they recommend the GP practice to friends & family if they needed similar care or treatment. All comments were extremely positive about the care and treatment patients had received.

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 in the practice to improve outcomes for both staff and patients.

The practice had a whistle blowing policy which was available to all staff in the staff handbook and electronically on any computer within the practice.

## **Management lead through learning & improvement**

Staff told us that the practice supported them to maintain their clinical professional development through training and mentoring. We looked at five staff files and found appraisals had not taken place for non-clinical staff in the previous year, however we were provided with details of upcoming staff appraisals. Staff told us that the practice was very supportive of training and development opportunities.

The practice had reviewed significant events and other incidents and shared formally with staff during team meetings.