

Dentally Yours Limited

Crescent Dental Clinic

Inspection report

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Overall summary

We carried out this announced comprehensive inspection on 24 October 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 ask five key questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

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

Our findings were:

- The practice appeared to be visibly clean and well-maintained.
- The provider had infection control procedures in place. Improvements were needed to decontamination equipment validation and legionella water temperature testing.
- Staff knew how to deal with emergencies. Appropriate emergency equipment and medicines were available.
- The practice 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.

Summary of findings

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

Background

Crescent Dental Clinic is in Harrogate and provides private dental care for adults and children.

The dental clinic is on the first floor and cannot provide disabled access. Car parking and local transport are available near the practice.

The dental team includes 1 dentist and 1 dental nurse. The practice has 1 treatment room.

During the inspection we spoke with all staff. We looked at practice policies and procedures and other records about how the service is managed.

The practice is open:

Mondays from 9am to 6pm

Tuesdays from 9am to 5pm

Wednesdays from 9am to 6pm

Fridays from 9am to 5pm

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

- Improve the practice's infection control procedures and protocols taking into account the guidelines issued by the Department of Health in the Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices, and having regard to The Health and Social Care Act 2008: 'Code of Practice about the prevention and control of infections and related guidance' In particular the frequency testing of the autoclave and ultrasonic equipment.
- Take action to implement any recommendations in the practice's Legionella risk assessment, in particular increase the frequency of water temperature checks to monthly, in line with current guidance.

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Are services safe?	No action ✓
Are services effective?	No action ✓
Are services caring?	No action ✓
Are services responsive to people's needs?	No action ✓
Are services well-led?	No action ✓

Are services safe?

Our findings

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

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

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. We noted that some of the checks of decontamination equipment were not in line with the current guidance. Weekly protein testing for the ultrasonic was not in place and soil testing was omitted. The autoclave control tests were not being completed daily as required. The provider told us this would be addressed immediately.

The provider had procedures to reduce the possibility of Legionella or other bacteria developing in water systems. Water temperature checks had recently been completed, we noted there were significant gaps in the last 12 months where testing had not occurred. We discussed with the provider that this did not meet current guidance and was not in line with the risk assessment. The provider told us this would be addressed immediately.

The practice had policies 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 provider had a recruitment policy and procedure to help them employ suitable staff.

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.

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

Risks to patients

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

Emergency equipment and medicines were available, with the exception of the child self-inflating bag. The provider addressed this and confirmed this was in place after our visit.

Staff knew how to respond to a medical emergency and had completed yearly training with mixture of on-line and on site emergency resuscitation and basic life support training.

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, were kept securely 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.

Are services safe?

Safe and appropriate use of medicines

The practice had systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines. Antimicrobial audits were carried out in line with current guidance.

Track record on safety, and lessons learned and improvements

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.

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.

We saw evidence the dentists justified, graded and reported on the radiographs they took. The practice carried out radiography audits every six months.

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

Are services caring?

Our findings

Are services caring?

Our findings

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

Kindness, respect and compassion

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion.

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

Information was displayed for patients and a suggestions box was in place to encourage feedback. The provider conducted patient satisfaction surveys annually and shared links to web-based review surveys such as google.

Privacy and dignity

Staff respected and promoted patients' privacy and dignity.

Staff were aware of the importance of privacy and confidentiality. The layout of reception meant that computer screens were not visible to patients and staff did not leave patients' personal information where other patients might see it.

Staff password protected patients' electronic care records and backed these up to secure storage.

Involving people in decisions about care and treatment

Staff helped patients to be involved in decisions about their care.

Staff gave patients clear information to help them make informed choices about their treatment. We saw evidence that staff discussed options for treatment with the patients. The principal dentist described the conversations they had with patients to satisfy themselves they understood their treatment options.

The practice's website and patient waiting area provided patients with information about the range of treatments available at the practice and the fees charged.

The dentist described to us the methods they used to help patients understand treatment options discussed. These included for example photographs, study models and X-ray images.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

Our findings

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

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs. It took account of patient needs and preferences.

Staff were clear about the importance of emotional support needed by patients when delivering care.

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

The practice had made reasonable adjustments for patients with disabilities. Staff had carried out a disability access audit and had formulated an action plan to continually improve access for patients.

Timely access to services

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

The practice displayed its opening hours both at the practice and on their website

The practice had an appointment system to respond to patients' needs. Patients who requested an urgent appointment were offered an appointment the same day.

The practice's website and answerphone provided telephone numbers for patients needing emergency dental treatment during the working day and when the practice was not open.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

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

The provider had a policy providing guidance to staff about how to handle a complaint. The complaints process was displayed in the patient's information leaflet and on the web site.

The provider aimed to settle complaints in-house and invited patients to speak with them in person to discuss these. Information was available about organisations patients could contact if not satisfied with the way their concerns had been dealt with.

We discussed comments and compliments the practice received in the last 12 months. These showed the practice responded in a timely way to patients and where appropriate discussed outcomes with staff to share learning and improve the service.

Are services well-led?

Our findings

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

Leadership capacity and capability

The practice demonstrated a transparent and open culture in relation to people's safety.

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

Culture

Staff discussed their training needs during one to one meetings. They also discussed learning needs, general wellbeing and aims for future professional development. 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 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.

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 regularly and demonstrated commitment to acting on feedback.

The practice 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

The practice had robust systems and processes for learning and improvement. These included comprehensive and detailed audits of several areas including, antimicrobial usage, oral cancer, dental care records and radiography. Staff kept detailed records of the results of these audits and these were shared with the staff team for additional learning and improvements.