

Mr. Jerry Kwok

Jerry Kwok Dental Surgery

Inspection report

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Overall summary

We carried out this announced inspection on 7 February 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 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 usually ask five key questions; however, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to reduce time spent on site, only the following three questions were asked:

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

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

Our findings were:

Background

Jerry Kwok Dental Practice is in Chislehurst, the London Borough of Bromley and provides private dental care and treatment for adults and children. Car parking spaces are available near the practice.

The dental team includes two dentists and one dental nurse. The practice has one treatment room.

Summary of findings

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

The practice is open:

Monday 9.30am to 4pm.

Tuesday and Wednesday 2.30pm to 5pm.

Friday 9am to 4pm.

- The practice appeared to be visibly clean and well-maintained.
- The provider had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.
- Staff knew how to deal with emergencies. Most medicines and life-saving equipment were available. However, there was some room for improvement.
- 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. However, improvements were required in regard to the employment checks undertaken.
- 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 appointment system took account of patients' needs.
- The provider had effective leadership and a culture of continuous improvement. There was scope to improve elements of the audit processes.
- 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:

- Take action to ensure a disability access audit is undertaken and that audits of infection prevention and control are undertaken at regular intervals to improve the quality of the service.
- Implement a system to ensure patient referrals to other dental or health care professionals are centrally monitored to ensure they are received in a timely manner and not lost.
- Take action to ensure the availability of equipment in the practice to manage medical emergencies taking into account the guidelines issued by the British National Formulary and the General Dental Council.
- Take action to ensure the service takes into account the needs of patients with disabilities and to comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We asked the following question(s).

Are services safe?	No action ✓
Are services effective?	No action ✓
Are services well-led?	No action ✓

Are services safe?

Our findings

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

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

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

The provider had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance. The provider had introduced additional procedures in relation to COVID-19 in accordance with published guidance.

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

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

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

The provider had a recruitment policy and procedure to help them employ suitable staff and undertook employment checks. However, there were some gaps in the records we reviewed. For example, the practice did not have satisfactory evidence of conduct in previous employment (references) or evidence of a criminal record checks for one staff member. The provider told us that they had taken verbal references. They said the business owner had worked with the member of staff at another location where they knew that criminal record check had been undertaken. During the inspection they applied for the criminal record check for the staff member and told us they would document verbal references in the future.

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

The practice had considered the requirements for the management of fire safety and had firefighting equipment in place. Staff had received fire safety training and there were fire safety procedures.

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. Including: sharps safety. One member of staff did not have sepsis awareness, when we raised this with the provider, they told us they would discuss sepsis with staff.

Most emergency equipment and medicines were available and checked as described in recognised guidance. However, the practice did not have paediatric pads for the defibrillator or sizes 0,1 and 2 face masks for the self-inflating bag. We spoke with the provider about this and they told us they would order the missing items.

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

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

The provider had systems for referring patients with suspected oral cancer under the national two-week wait arrangements. However, there was no system in place to log referrals that were made.

Are services safe?

Safe and appropriate use of medicines

The provider had systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines. An antimicrobial prescribing audits had been carried out. The provider did not know the date this had taken place. They told us they would undertake them annually in the future.

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 consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

Staff understood their responsibilities under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Monitoring care and treatment

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

We saw evidence to confirm that the dentist justified, graded and reported on the radiographs they took. The provider carried out radiography audits every year following current guidance and legislation.

Effective staffing

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

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 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

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

There was strong leadership and emphasis on continually striving to improve.

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

Culture

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

Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued.

Staff discussed their training directly with the dentist.

Governance and management

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

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

Staff involved patients, the public, staff and external partners to support the service.

The provider gathered feedback from staff through informal discussions.

Continuous improvement and innovation

The provider had systems and processes for learning continuous improvement and innovation.

The provider had quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement. These included audits of dental care records, radiographs and infection prevention and control. Staff kept records of the results of these audits and the resulting action plans and improvements. However, improvements were required in regards to the recording of results and actions plans for radiographics.

We noted that infection control audits were not undertaken on a six monthly basis in line with best practice guidance. The provider told us they had considered the needs of people with a disability but had not documented this by carrying out a disability access audit. The provider told us they would carry out a disability access audit and conduct infection control audits every six monthly in line with guidance in the future.