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Al-Attar & Associates Dental Surgeons

Inspection Report

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Overall summary

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection on 18 November 2016 to ask the practice the following key questions; Are services safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led?

Our findings were:

Are services safe?

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

Are services effective?

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

Are services caring?

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

Are services responsive?

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

Are services well-led?

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

Background

Al-Attar & Associates Dental Surgeons is located in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and provides private and NHS dental services. The opening hours for the practice were Monday to Friday 8.30- 5.00pm

The premises consist of two treatment rooms, a decontamination rooms and waiting area.

The practice comprises a principal dentist, a dentist, four nurses, and two receptionists.

The principal dentist is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as an individual registered person. Registered persons 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 asked patients to complete CQC comment cards. We received 44 comment cards and spoke with three patients on the day of the inspection. The patients who provided feedback were positive about the care and treatment they received at the practice. They told us they were involved in all aspects of their care and found the staff to be caring, welcoming and they were treated with care, dignity and respect.

Our key findings were:

Summary of findings

- There were effective processes in place to reduce and minimise the risk and spread of infection.
- Patients' needs were assessed and care was planned in line with current guidance such as from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Delivering Better Oral Health. Patients were involved in their care and treatment planning.
- There was appropriate equipment for staff to undertake their duties and equipment was well maintained.
- Staff were trained in and there was appropriate equipment for them to respond to medical emergencies.
- Patients told us that staff were caring and treated them with dignity and respect.
- Patients indicated that they felt they were listened to and that they received good care from a helpful and caring practice team.
- There were processes in place for patients to give their comments and feedback about the service including making complaints and compliments.

- There were good governance arrangements and an effective management structure.

There were areas where the provider could make improvements and should

Review the protocols for obtaining and maintaining accurate, complete and detailed records relating to staff employed for the purpose of carrying on the regulated activities, giving due regard to current legislation and guidance.

- Review the storage of dental care products and medicines requiring refrigeration to ensure they are stored in line with the manufacturer's guidance and the fridge temperature is monitored and recorded.
- Review the security of prescription pads in the practice and ensure there are systems in place to monitor and track their use.

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?

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

There were systems in place to help ensure the safety of staff and patients. These included policies for safeguarding children from abuse, maintaining the required standards of infection prevention and control and maintenance of equipment used at the practice.

The practice assessed risks to patients and managed these well. We found that staff were trained and there was appropriate equipment to respond to medical emergencies.

In the event of an incident or accident occurring, the practice had a system in place to document, investigate and learn from it.

The practice followed procedures for the safe recruitment of staff which included carrying out criminal record checks and obtaining references. However improvements could be made in regards to these checks made. improvements could also be made in regards to the security of prescription pads.

No action



Are services effective?

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

The practice followed guidance, such as that issued by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Patients were given appropriate information to support them to make decisions about the treatment they received. The practice kept detailed dental care records of treatments carried out and monitored any changes in the patient's medical and oral health. Records showed patients were given health promotion advice appropriate to their individual oral health needs such as dietary advice where appropriate.

Staff were supported by the practice in maintaining their continuing professional development (CPD) and were meeting the requirements of their professional registration.

No action



Are services caring?

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

The patient feedback we received was very positive about the service provided by the practice. We observed that staff treated patients with dignity and respect. We found that dental care records were stored securely, and patient confidentiality was well maintained.

No action



Are services responsive to people's needs?

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

No action



Summary of findings

Patients had good access to routine and emergency appointments at the practice. There was sufficient well maintained equipment to meet the dental needs of their patient population. There was a complaints policy. Patients were given the opportunity to give feedback through the practices own feedback forms. The service was accessible to patients with mobility problems and had a loop system for patients who were hard of hearing.

Are services well-led?

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

There was a clear vision for the practice that was shared with the staff. There were good governance arrangements and an effective management structure. Appropriate policies and procedures were in place, and there was effective monitoring of various aspects of care delivery. Appropriate quality audits were under taken. Patients were given the opportunity to provide feedback about the practice through the NHS Friends and Family Test.

No action



Al-Attar & Associates Dental Surgeons

Detailed findings

Background to this inspection

We carried out this inspection 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 practice was meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection on 18 November 2016. The inspection was led by a CQC inspector. They were accompanied by a dental specialist advisor.

During the inspection we asked patients to complete CQC comment cards. We received 344 comment cards and

spoke with four patients on the day of the inspection. We also spoke with five members of staff. We reviewed the policies, toured the premises and examined the cleaning and decontamination of dental equipment.

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?

These questions therefore formed the framework for the areas we looked at during the inspection.

Are services safe?

Our findings

Reporting, learning and improvement from incidents

The practice had suitable processes around reporting and discussion of incidents. We saw there was a system in place for learning from incidents. Staff told us this would mainly be through team meetings if an incident ever occurred. Staff were able to describe the type of incidents that would be recorded and the incident logging process. There had been one adverse incident over the past 12 months and it had been dealt with appropriately.

Staff we spoke with understood the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR). Staff were able to describe the type of incidents that would need to be recorded under these requirements. There had been no RIDDOR incidents over the past 12 months.

Staff understood the importance of the Duty of Candour and the need to inform the patients affected of any relevant incidents [Duty of candour is a requirement under The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 on a registered person who must act in an open and transparent way with relevant persons in relation to care and treatment provided to service users in carrying on a regulated activity].

Reliable safety systems and processes (including safeguarding)

The principal dentist was the safeguarding lead and staff knew who they should go to if they had a safeguarding concern. There was a safeguarding policy that had last been reviewed in June 2016. The practice had details of what should be considered abuse and the practice was aware of the relevant people to contact in the local safeguarding team if they had any safeguarding concerns. Staff had completed safeguarding training that was updated on a regular basis. They were able to explain their understanding of safeguarding issues. There had been no safeguarding incident that needed to be referred to the local safeguarding teams.

The practice had a system in place for receiving and responding to patient safety alerts issued from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The principal dentists told us relevant information would be emailed to staff.

The practice had safety systems in place to help ensure the safety of staff and patients. This included for example having a COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, 2002 Regulations) file, infection control protocols and risk assessments.

Risk assessments had been undertaken for issues affecting the health and safety of staff and patients using the service. This included for example risks associated with radiography, use of equipment, and electrics and fire. For example there was a January 2016 risk assessment associated with the use of the autoclave. The assessment advised that the machine is used in accordance with the manufactures guidelines and we saw they were doing this.

During our visit we found that the dental care and treatment of patients was planned and delivered in a way that ensured patients' safety and welfare. During the course of our inspection we checked dental care records to confirm the findings. Dental care records contained patient's medical history that was obtained when patients first registered with the practice and was updated when they returned. The dental care records we saw were well structured and contained sufficient detail enabling another dentist to know how to safely treat a patient.

The practice used rubber dam for root canal treatments in line with current guidance. [A rubber dam is a thin, rectangular sheet, usually latex rubber, used in dentistry to isolate the operative site from the rest of the mouth and protect the airway. Rubber dams should be used when endodontic treatment is being provided. On the rare occasions when it is not possible to use rubber dam the reasons should be recorded in the patient's dental care records giving details as to how the patient's safety was assured].

Medical emergencies

There were arrangements in place to deal with on-site medical emergencies. Staff had received basic life support training which included cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training. The practice had a medical emergency kit which included emergency medicines and equipment in line with Resuscitation Council (UK) and British National Formulary guidance. The kit contained the recommended medicines. We checked the medicines that were in the kit and we found that all the medicines were within their expiry date. The emergency equipment included oxygen and an automated external defibrillator (AED), in line with

Are services safe?

Resuscitation Council UK guidance. (An AED is a portable electronic device that analyses life threatening irregularities of the heart and delivers an electrical shock to attempt to restore a normal heart rhythm). However we found that improvements could be made in regards to medicines that needed to be refrigerated. For example the Glucagon had not been refrigerated. We pointed this out to the provider and they advised us that medicines that need refrigerating would be refrigerated in the future.

Staff recruitment

The practice had a policy for the safe recruitment of staff. In order to reduce the risks of employing unsuitable staff the provider is required to complete a number of checks. They must obtain a full employment history, check the authenticity of qualifications, obtain references, including one from the most recent employer, and complete an up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. We saw that the provider had satisfactorily carried out most of the necessary required checks for staff who worked in the practice. However, we found that two files did not contain references. When we asked the principal dentist about this they told us that they had taken verbal references, but not recorded them. They told us they would record references appropriately in the future.

Monitoring health & safety and responding to risks

The practice had arrangements in place to deal with foreseeable emergencies. A Health and Safety Policy was in place. The practice had a risk management process which was updated and reviewed to ensure the safety of patients and staff members. We saw risk assessments for fire, radiation and infection control. The assessments included the controls and actions to manage risks.

Infection control

The practice had an infection control policy that outlined the procedure for issues relating to minimising the risk and spread of infections. This included procedures for clinical waste management and use of personal protective equipment. The practice had followed the guidance on decontamination and infection control issued by the Department of Health namely, Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices. The principal dentist was the infection control lead. There was a flow from dirty to clean areas to minimise the risks of cross contamination.

Staff gave a demonstration of the decontamination process which was in line with HTM 01-05 published guidance. This included carrying used instruments in a lidded box from the surgery, cleaning and using an illuminated magnifying glass to visually check for any remaining contamination (and re-washed if required); placing in the autoclave, pouching and then date stamping.

Staff told us about the daily, weekly and monthly checks that were carried out on equipment used in the practice including the autoclave, to ensure they were working effectively. We saw records that confirmed these checks were carried out.

We saw evidence that staff had been vaccinated against Hepatitis B to protect patients and themselves from the risks of contracting the infection. (People who are likely to come into contact with blood products, or are at increased risk of needle-stick injuries should receive these vaccinations to minimise risks of blood borne infections.)

There was a contract in place for the safe disposal of clinical waste and sharps instruments. Clinical waste was collected every three weeks by a specialist company.

The practice was visibly clean and tidy. There were stocks of PPE (personal protective equipment) such as gloves and aprons for both staff and patients. We saw that staff wore appropriate PPE.

A Legionella risk assessment had been completed by an external organisation in 2010 and the results were negative for bacterium [Legionella is a bacterium found in the environment which can contaminate water systems in buildings]. The practice had carried out their own legionella risk assessment since this time. The last assessment had been undertaken in January 2016.

There was a cleaning plan, schedule and checklist, which were regularly checked by the practice staff. Environmental cleaning was carried out by a specialist cleaning company.

Equipment and medicines

We found the equipment used in the practice was maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This included X-ray equipment and the equipment used to clean and sterilise the instruments which was serviced in. Portable appliance testing (PAT) had been carried out in August 2015. PAT is the name of a process where electrical appliances are routinely checked for safety.

Are services safe?

The practice had clear guidance regarding the prescribing, recording and stock control of the medicines used in the practice. There were no medicines stored at the practice outside of those found in the medical emergencies kit. However improvements could be made in regards to the security of prescription pads. We found that pads were sometimes pre- stamped. We spoke to staff about this and they told us that although pads were never left alone, they would stop doing this in the future.

Radiography (X-rays)

The principal dentist was the Radiation Protection Supervisor (RPS). An external organisation covered the role of Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA). The practice kept a radiation protection file in relation to the use and maintenance of X-ray equipment. There were suitable arrangements in place to ensure the safety of the equipment. The local rules relating to the equipment were held in the file .Evidence was seen of radiation training for staff undertaking X-rays. A comprehensive radiation audit had been undertaken in 2016.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

Monitoring and improving outcomes for patients

Patients' needs were assessed and care and treatment was delivered in line with current guidance. This included following the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance, for example in regards to the use of antibiotics.

During the course of our inspection we spoke with the dentist and checked dental care records to confirm the findings. We saw evidence of comprehensive, detailed assessments that were individualised. This included having an up to date medical history visit, details of the reason for visit, medical alerts, details of examinations undertaken and treatment plans.

Information about the cost of treatment and some information of treatment options available were in the waiting area of the practice.

Health promotion & prevention

Patients' medical histories were updated regularly which included questions about diet. Appropriate advice was provided by staff to patients based on their medical histories. We saw they provided preventive care advice on tooth brushing and oral health and gave preventative advice. We saw that there were leaflets giving dietary and oral health advice in the reception area.

Staffing

Staff told us they had received appropriate professional development and training and the records we saw reflected this. The practice maintained a programme of professional development to ensure that staff were up to date with the latest practices. Examples of staff training included topics such as safeguarding, medical emergencies and infection

control. We reviewed the system in place for recording training that had been attended by staff working within the practice. We also reviewed information about continuing professional development (CPD). We saw staff appraisals were carried out on a regular basis.

Working with other services

The practice worked, where appropriate with other professionals in delivering care of their patients. This included for example referrals for minor oral surgery. Dental care records we looked at contained details of the referrals made and information that was shared between the practice and the referring organisations. The records showed the practice worked well with other services.

Consent to care and treatment

Patients who used the service were given appropriate information and support regarding their dental care and treatment. We received feedback from 47 patients. Patients said they were given clear treatment options which were discussed in an easy to understand language by practice staff. Patients understood and consented to treatment. This was confirmed when we checked dental care records and noted evidence that dentists discussed treatment options including risks and benefits, as well as costs with patients.

Staff were aware of how they would support a patient who lacked the capacity to consent to dental treatment. They explained how they would involve the patient and carers to ensure that the best interests of the patient were met and showed a general understanding of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005. (MCA 2005 provides a legal framework for health and care professionals to act and make decisions on behalf of adults who lack the capacity to make particular decisions for themselves). We saw staff had undertaken recent MCA training.

Are services caring?

Our findings

Respect, dignity, compassion & empathy

The feedback we received from patients was positive. Staff were described as caring and helpful. Patients said staff treated them with dignity and respect during consultations. We observed staff interaction with patients and saw that staff interacted well with patients, speaking to them in a respectful and considerate manner.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

The practice displayed information in the waiting area that gave details of fees. Information was also available on the practice website. We spoke with the principal dentist, a dentist, two nurse and a receptionist on the day of our visit. There was a culture of promoting patient involvement in treatment planning which meant that all staff ensured patients were given clear explanations about treatment. Staff told us that treatments, costs, risks and benefits were discussed with each patient to ensure that patients understood what treatment was available so they were able to make an informed choice.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

Responding to and meeting patients' needs

The practice had a system in place to schedule enough time to assess and meet patients' needs. Staff told us there was enough time to treat patients, and that patients could generally book an appointment in good time to see a dentist. Feedback from patients confirmed that patients felt they could get appointments when they needed them. There were arrangements in place for out of hours appointments. These arrangements were advertised on the practice telephone answering machine, on the front door of the practice and in a practice leaflet.

Tackling inequity and promoting equality

The practice had recognised the needs of different groups in the planning of its services. Staff at the practice spoke a number of different languages. They told us that patients who could not speak English were usually accompanied by family members who could speak English. If necessary they would contact an interpretation service but they had not had to use such a service.

The practice had a loop system for patients who were hard of hearing and was accessible to patients with restricted mobility, including those using wheelchairs.

Access to the service

The opening hours for the practice were Monday to Friday 8.30- 5.00pm. We saw there were arrangements for emergency appointments. There were out of hours arrangements in place to deal with emergencies that took place when the practice was closed; these were advertised on the practice telephone answer machine, on the front door of the practice and in a practice leaflet., .

Concerns & complaints

The practice had effective arrangements in place for handling complaints and concerns. There was a complaints policy, and information for patients about how to complain was available in the reception area. The policy had last been reviewed in 2016. The policy included contact details of external organisations that patients could contact if they were not happy with the practice's response to a complaint. This included the Dental Complaints Council and the Ombudsman. There had been no complaints logged in the last year.

Are services well-led?

Our findings

Governance arrangements

The provider had governance arrangements in place for the effective management of the service. This included having a range of policies and procedures in place including health and safety, employment policies and infection control. There was a clear management structure in place with identified staff leading on specific roles such as on infection control and safeguarding. Staff told us they felt supported and were clear about their areas of responsibility.

Staff told us regular meetings were held to discuss issues in the practice and update on things affecting the practice. Staff we spoke with confirmed that meetings took place and we saw notes of these meetings. For example we saw that cross infection was discussed at a April 2016 meeting

The quality audits undertaken at the practice included infection control, and radiography audits.

Leadership, openness and transparency

Staff we spoke with said they felt the owner of the practice was open and transparent. Staff told us they were

comfortable about raising concerns with the owner. They felt they were listened to and responded to when they did so. They described the culture encouraged candour, openness and honesty.

The practice was also keen to ensure that all of their staff provided highly-skilled care.

Learning and improvement

Staff told us they had good access to training. There was a system in place to monitor staff training to ensure essential training was completed each year. Staff working at the practice were supported to maintain their continuing professional development (CPD) as required by the General Dental Council (GDC).

Practice seeks and acts on feedback from its patients, the public and staff

The practice had gathered feedback from patients through the NH Friends and Family Test and their own feedback systems, which included a suggestion forms. We review the feedback received by patients through the Friends and Family Test and found that that majority of patients were happy with the service received and would recommend the service to Friends and Family.