

# Union Brae and Norham Practice

## Inspection report

Union Brae  
Tweedmouth  
Berwick Upon Tweed  
Northumberland  
TD15 2HB  
Tel: 01289 330333  
[www.unionbraesurgery.com](http://www.unionbraesurgery.com)






Date of inspection visit: 1 November 2018  
Date of publication: 30/11/2018

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 location

Good 

Are services safe?	Requires improvement 
Are services effective?	Good 
Are services caring?	Good 
Are services responsive?	Good 
Are services well-led?	Good 

# Overall summary

**This practice is rated as Good overall.** (Previous rating October 2014 – Good)

The key questions at this inspection are rated as:

Are services safe? – Requires Improvement

Are services effective? – Good

Are services caring? – Good

Are services responsive? – Good

Are services well-led? – Good

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection at Union Brae and Norham Practice on 1 November 2018 as part of our inspection programme.

At this inspection we found:

- Staff demonstrated a very caring approach to their patients and it was clear they treated them with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect.
- Clinicians assessed patients' needs and delivered person-focussed care and treatment.
- The practice had clear systems to manage risk so that safety incidents were less likely to happen. When incidents did happen, the practice learned from them and improved their processes.
- Patients found the appointment system easy to use and reported that they were able to access care when they needed it.
- The practice engaged well with their patients. There was an active patient participation group which provided support and challenge.

- There was a strong focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels of the organisation.
- Managers valued their staff and provided many opportunities for career progression.

We saw an area of outstanding practice:

- The practice was aware of the lack of some health care services provided in and around the town of Berwick. Ear, nose and throat (ENT) and audiology services were provided for patients across the area (not just those registered with the practice). An ophthalmology clinic was beginning on the day of the inspection and a dermatology service was due to start later in the month.

The area where the provider **must** make improvements is:

- Ensure care and treatment is provided in a safe way to patients.

The areas where the provider **should** make improvements are:

- Carry out a risk assessment to determine whether it is necessary to carry out Disclosure and Barring Service checks for non-clinical staff.
- Continue to review and implement effective infection control policies and procedures.
- Formalise the system for recording action taken following receipt of patient and medicines safety alerts.

**Professor Steve Field** CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP  
Chief Inspector of General Practice

**Please refer to the detailed report and the evidence tables for further information.**

## Population group ratings

<b>Older people</b>	<b>Good</b>	
<b>People with long-term conditions</b>	<b>Good</b>	
<b>Families, children and young people</b>	<b>Good</b>	
<b>Working age people (including those recently retired and students)</b>	<b>Good</b>	
<b>People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable</b>	<b>Good</b>	
<b>People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)</b>	<b>Good</b>	

## Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by a Care Quality Commission (CQC) lead inspector and included a GP specialist advisor.

## Background to Union Brae and Norham Practice

Union Brae and Norham Practice provides care and treatment to around 7,100 patients in Berwick, Northumberland. The practice is part of Northumberland clinical commissioning group (CCG) and operates on a Personal Medical Services (PMS) contract agreement for general practice.

The practice provides services from the following two addresses. We visited the main surgery at Union Brae during this inspection:

- Union Brae, Tweedmouth, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland, TD15 2HB
- Pedwell Way Surgery, Norham, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland, TD15 2LD

The Union Brae surgery is located in a purpose-built two-storey building. All patient facilities are on the ground floor. There is a car park, an accessible WC, wheelchair and step-free access.

The Pedwell Way surgery is located in a converted building and is fully accessible. All patient facilities are on the ground floor. Parking spaces are available directly outside the surgery.

The practice offers dispensing services (from both surgeries) to those patients on the practice list who live more than one mile (1.6km) from their nearest pharmacy.

Patients can book appointments in person, on-line or by telephone and could attend either site.

The service for patients requiring urgent medical attention out of hours is provided by the NHS 111 service and Vocare (known locally as Northern Doctors Urgent Care).

The practice has:

- Three GP partners (two male and one female),
- two salaried GPs (both female),
- two nurse practitioners (both female),
- two practice nurses (both female),
- three healthcare assistants,
- a practice manager, and
- 18 staff who carry out reception, administrative and dispensing duties.

The age profile of the practice population is broadly in line with the local averages; however, the proportion of patients over the age of 65 is well above the national average (25% compared to the national average of 17%) and there is a lower than average proportion of patients under the age of 18 (18.5% compared to the national average of 21%). Information taken from Public Health

England placed the area in which the practice is located in the fifth less deprived decile. In general, people living in more deprived areas tend to have greater need for health services.

# Are services safe?

## We rated the practice as requires improvement for providing safe services.

The practice was rated as requires improvement for providing safe services because:

- The practice's systems for monitoring patients prescribed high risk medicines were unsatisfactory. Patients were not always reviewed in line with national guidelines.
- Some medicines were not securely stored.
- The practice's arrangements for monitoring how patient and medicine safety alerts were dealt with were not fully embedded into working practices. The practice did not maintain records to show that alerts had been actioned.

### Safety systems and processes

The practice had systems to keep people safe and safeguarded from abuse, but improvements could be made.

- The practice had appropriate systems to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse. All staff received up-to-date safeguarding and safety training appropriate to their role. They knew how to identify and report concerns. Learning from safeguarding incidents were available to staff. Staff who acted as chaperones were trained for their role and had received a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. (DBS checks identify whether a person has a criminal record or is on an official list of people barred from working in roles where they may have contact with children or adults who may be vulnerable.) However, other non-clinical staff had not had a DBS check and no risk assessment had been carried out to determine whether or not this was necessary.
- Staff took steps, including working with other agencies, to protect patients from abuse, neglect, discrimination and breaches of their dignity and respect.
- The practice carried out appropriate staff checks at the time of recruitment and on an ongoing basis.
- There was a system to manage infection prevention and control; a new infection lead had recently been appointed and they were in the process of reviewing and updating policies and procedures as some had not been updated for a number of years.
- The practice had arrangements to ensure that facilities and equipment were safe and in good working order.

- Arrangements for managing waste and clinical specimens kept people safe.

### Risks to patients

There were adequate systems to assess, monitor and manage risks to patient safety.

- Arrangements were in place for planning and monitoring the number and mix of staff needed to meet patients' needs, including planning for holidays, sickness, busy periods and epidemics.
- There was an induction system for temporary staff tailored to their role.
- The practice was equipped to deal with medical emergencies and staff were suitably trained in emergency procedures.
- Staff understood their responsibilities to manage emergencies on the premises and to recognise those in need of urgent medical attention. Clinicians knew how to identify and manage patients with severe infections including sepsis.
- When there were changes to services or staff the practice assessed and monitored the impact on safety.

### Information to deliver safe care and treatment

Staff had the information they needed to deliver safe care and treatment to patients.

- The care records we saw showed that information needed to deliver safe care and treatment was available to staff.
- The practice had systems for sharing information with staff and other agencies to enable them to deliver safe care and treatment.
- Clinicians made timely referrals in line with protocols.

### Appropriate and safe use of medicines

The practice had some systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines but improvements could be made.

- The majority systems for managing and storing medicines, including vaccines, medical gases, emergency medicines and equipment, minimised risks. Emergency medicines were stored in an accessible area; however, other non-emergency medicines were also stored in this unlocked room.
- Staff prescribed and administered or supplied medicines to patients and gave advice on medicines in

## Are services safe?

line with current national guidance. The practice had reviewed its antibiotic prescribing and taken action to support good antimicrobial stewardship in line with local and national guidance.

- Patients were involved in regular reviews of their medicines. However, the practice's systems for monitoring patients prescribed high risk medicines were unsatisfactory.
- Arrangements for dispensing medicines at the practice kept patients safe.

### Track record on safety

The practice had a good track record on safety.

- There were comprehensive risk assessments in relation to safety issues.
- The practice monitored and reviewed safety using information from a range of sources.

### Lessons learned and improvements made

The practice learned and made improvements when things went wrong.

- Staff understood their duty to raise concerns and report incidents and near misses. Leaders and managers supported them when they did so.
- There were adequate systems for reviewing and investigating when things went wrong. The practice learned and shared lessons, identified themes and took action to improve safety in the practice.
- The practice's arrangements for monitoring how patient and medicine safety alerts were dealt with were not fully embedded into working practices.

**Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.**

# Are services effective?

**We rated the practice and all of the population groups as good for providing effective services .**

## Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

The practice had systems to keep clinicians up to date with current evidence-based practice. We saw that clinicians assessed needs and delivered care and treatment in line with current legislation, standards and guidance supported by clear clinical pathways and protocols.

- Patients' immediate and ongoing needs were fully assessed. This included their clinical needs and their mental and physical wellbeing.
- We saw no evidence of discrimination when making care and treatment decisions.
- Staff advised patients what to do if their condition got worse and where to seek further help and support.

### Older people:

- Older patients who were frail or may have been vulnerable received a full assessment of their physical, mental and social needs. The practice used an appropriate tool to identify patients aged 65 and over who were living with moderate or severe frailty. Those identified as being frail had a clinical review including a review of medication.
- The practice followed up on older patients discharged from hospital, and ensured their care plans and prescriptions were updated to reflect any extra or changed needs.
- Staff had appropriate knowledge of treating older people including their psychological, mental and communication needs.

### People with long-term conditions:

- Patients with long-term conditions had a structured annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being met. For patients with the most complex needs, the GP worked with other health and care professionals to deliver a coordinated package of care.
- Staff who were responsible for reviews of patients with long term conditions had received specific training.
- GPs followed up patients who had received treatment in hospital or through out of hours services for an acute exacerbation of asthma.
- Adults with newly diagnosed cardiovascular disease were offered statins for secondary prevention. People

with suspected hypertension were offered ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and patients with atrial fibrillation were assessed for stroke risk and treated as appropriate.

- The practice was able to demonstrate how they identified patients with commonly undiagnosed conditions, for example diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), atrial fibrillation and hypertension)
- The practice's performance on quality indicators for long term conditions was in line with local and national averages.

### Families, children and young people:

- Childhood immunisation uptake rates were above the target percentage of 90%.
- The practice had clear arrangements for following up failed attendance of children's appointments following an appointment in secondary care or for immunisation.

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

- The practice's uptake for cervical screening was below the 80% coverage target for the national screening programme. The practice was taking action to improve; they sent out reminders to patients, appointments could be booked at various times and a female sample taker was available.
- The practice's uptake for breast and bowel cancer screening was in line with the national average.
- The practice had systems to inform eligible patients to have the meningitis vaccine, for example before attending university for the first time.
- Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks including NHS checks for patients aged 40-74. There was appropriate follow-up on the outcome of health assessments and checks where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.

### People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:

- End of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of those whose circumstances may have made them vulnerable.
- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people, travellers and those with a learning disability.

# Are services effective?

- The practice had a system for vaccinating patients with an underlying medical condition according to the recommended schedule.

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

- The practice assessed and monitored the physical health of people with mental illness, severe mental illness, and personality disorder by providing access to health checks, interventions for physical activity, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and access to 'stop smoking' services. There was a system for following up patients who failed to attend for administration of long term medication.
- When patients were assessed to be at risk of suicide or self-harm the practice had arrangements in place to help them to remain safe.
- Patients at risk of dementia were identified and offered an assessment to detect possible signs of dementia. When dementia was suspected there was an appropriate referral for diagnosis.
- The practice offered annual health checks to patients with a learning disability.
- The practice's performance on quality indicators for mental health was in line with local and national averages.

## Monitoring care and treatment

The practice had a comprehensive programme of quality improvement activity and routinely reviewed the effectiveness and appropriateness of the care provided. Where appropriate, clinicians took part in local and national improvement initiatives.

- In 2016/2017 the practice had achieved 98.5% of the total number of QOF points available, compared to the local average of 99% and the national average of 95.5%. The clinical exception reporting rate was below local and national averages at 9.5% (CCG average 10.3%, national average 9.9%).
- One of the GP partners was the nominated lead for QOF. They provided training for staff, monitored patient outcomes and ensured that all exceptions were correctly coded.
- The practice used information about care and treatment to make improvements.

- The practice was actively involved in quality improvement activity. Where appropriate, clinicians took part in local and national improvement initiatives.

## Effective staffing

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

- Staff had appropriate knowledge for their role, for example, to carry out reviews for people with long term conditions, older people and people requiring contraceptive reviews.
- Staff whose role included immunisation and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training and could demonstrate how they stayed up to date.
- The practice understood the learning needs of staff and provided protected time and training to meet them. Up to date records of skills, qualifications and training were maintained. Staff were encouraged and given opportunities to develop.
- The practice provided staff with ongoing support. There was an induction programme for new staff. This included one to one meetings, appraisals, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision and revalidation.
- There was a clear approach for supporting and managing staff when their performance was poor or variable.
- Dispensary staff were appropriately qualified and their competence was assessed regularly. They could demonstrate how they kept up to date.

## Coordinating care and treatment

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to deliver effective care and treatment.

- We saw records that showed that all appropriate staff, including those in different teams and organisations, were involved in assessing, planning and delivering care and treatment.
- The practice shared clear and accurate information with relevant professionals when discussing care delivery for people with long term conditions and when coordinating healthcare for care home residents. They shared information with, and liaised, with community services, social services and carers for housebound patients and with health visitors and community services for children.



# Are services effective?

- Patients received coordinated and person-centred care. This included when they moved between services, when they were referred, or after they were discharged from hospital. The practice worked with patients to develop personal care plans that were shared with relevant agencies.
- The practice ensured that end of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of different patients, including those who may have been vulnerable because of their circumstances.

## Helping patients to live healthier lives

Staff were consistent and proactive in helping patients to live healthier lives.

- The practice identified patients who may be in need of extra support and directed them to relevant services. This included patients in the last 12 months of their lives, patients at risk of developing a long-term condition and carers.
- Staff encouraged and supported patients to be involved in monitoring and managing their own health, for example through social prescribing schemes.

- Staff discussed changes to care or treatment with patients and their carers as necessary.
- The practice supported national priorities and initiatives to improve the population's health, for example, stop smoking and tackling obesity campaigns.

## Consent to care and treatment

The practice obtained consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

- Clinicians understood the requirements of legislation and guidance when considering consent and decision making.
- Clinicians supported patients to make decisions. Where appropriate, they assessed and recorded a patient's mental capacity to make a decision.
- The practice monitored the process for seeking consent appropriately.

**Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.**

# Are services caring?

**We rated the practice as good for caring.**

## **Kindness, respect and compassion**

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion.

- Feedback from patients was positive about the way staff treat people.
- Staff understood patients' personal, cultural, social and religious needs.
- The practice gave patients timely support and information.
- The practice's National GP Patient Survey results were comparable with local and national averages for questions relating to kindness, respect and compassion

## **Involvement in decisions about care and treatment**

Staff helped patients to be involved in decisions about care and treatment. They were aware of the Accessible Information Standard (a requirement to make sure that patients and their carers can access and understand the information that they are given.)

- Staff communicated with people in a way that they could understand, for example, communication aids and easy read materials were available.

- Staff helped patients and their carers find further information and access community and advocacy services. They helped them ask questions about their care and treatment.
- The practice proactively identified carers and supported them.
- The practice's National GP Patient Survey result for the question relating to involvement in decisions about care and treatment was in line with local and national averages.

## **Privacy and dignity**

The practice respected patients' privacy and dignity.

- When patients wanted to discuss sensitive issues or appeared distressed reception staff offered them a private room to discuss their needs.
- Staff recognised the importance of people's dignity and respect. They challenged behaviour that fell short of this.

**Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.**

# Are services responsive to people's needs?

**We rated the practice, and all of the population groups, as good for providing responsive services .**

## Responding to and meeting people's needs

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

- The practice understood the needs of its population and tailored services in response to those needs. (For example, extended opening hours, online services such as repeat prescription requests, advanced booking of appointments, advice services for common ailments).
- The practice improved services where possible in response to unmet needs. A number of clinics were held at the main surgery in Berwick, to provide care closer to home. This included ear, nose and throat (ENT) and audiology services. An ophthalmology clinic was beginning on the day of the inspection and a dermatology service was due to start later in the month. Services could be accessed by patients across the area (not just those registered with the practice).
- The practice made reasonable adjustments when patients found it hard to access services. For example, home visits were available for older patients and patients who had clinical needs which resulted in difficulty attending the practice.
- Care and treatment for patients with multiple long-term conditions and patients approaching the end of life was coordinated with other services.
- The facilities and premises were appropriate for the services delivered. The main surgery had recently been extended to accommodate the additional clinics and the waiting room and consultation rooms had been updated.
- The practice provided additional services for dispensing patients who needed support with their medicines, for example, large print labels.

### Older people:

- All patients had a named GP who supported them in whatever setting they lived, whether it was at home or in a care home or supported living scheme. Each local care home had a nominated lead GP; they visited the home each week to ensure continuity of care.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older patients, and offered home visits and urgent

appointments for those with enhanced needs. The GP and practice nurse also accommodated home visits for those who had difficulties getting to the practice due to limited local public transport availability.

- An annual flu clinic was held at the practice; staff made it a social occasion with charity stalls and information on display to encourage attendance.
- Some staff had been trained as support planners; they provided support and assistance on benefits and local social activities, targeted at older people.

### People with long-term conditions:

- Patients with a long-term condition received an annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being appropriately met. The practice was in the process of amending the arrangements so that patients with multiple conditions would receive one appointment for all conditions, rather than separate reviews. Consultation times were flexible to meet each patient's specific needs.
- The practice held regular meetings with the local district nursing team to discuss and manage the needs of patients with complex medical issues.

### Families, children and young people:

- We found there were systems to identify and follow up children living in disadvantaged circumstances and who were at risk, for example, children and young people who had a high number of accident and emergency (A&E) attendances. Records we looked at confirmed this.
- All parents or guardians calling with concerns about a child were offered a same day appointment when necessary.
- The practice regularly engaged with young people. A local youth group leader was part of the practice's patient participation group and represented the views of young people and the nurse practitioner carried out talks at the local youth centre on sexual health and how young people could access services.

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

- The needs of this population group had been identified and the practice had adjusted the services it offered to ensure these were accessible, flexible and offered continuity of care. For example, extended opening hours every Wednesday evening were available with both GPs and nurses.

# Are services responsive to people's needs?

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people, travellers and those with a learning disability.
- People in vulnerable circumstances were easily able to register with the practice, including those with no fixed abode.
- One of the practice nurses was the named lead for patients with learning difficulties. They had formed close working relationships with those patients and carried out their health checks and any necessary vaccinations.
- Vulnerable adults had previously been discussed in practice safeguarding meetings. However, it was felt that this did not involve the appropriate professionals; so, the practice changed their frail elderly multi-disciplinary team meeting to include all vulnerable adults.

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

- Staff interviewed had a good understanding of how to support patients with mental health needs and those patients living with dementia.
- The practice had recognised that there was a lack of support services in the local area; so, they had brought independent counselling services provided by a local charity. A trainee counsellor was also based in the surgery one day each week.
- Dementia screening was offered to all patients over the age of 65, if they had concerns. A picture board of all of the GPs was on display in the reception area, in line with advice from the dementia support team.

## Timely access to care and treatment

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

- Patients had timely access to initial assessment, test results, diagnosis and treatment.
- Waiting times, delays and cancellations were minimal and managed appropriately.
- Patients with the most urgent needs had their care and treatment prioritised.
- Patients reported that the appointment system was easy to use.
- The practice's National GP Patient Survey results were in line with local and national averages for questions relating to access to care and treatment.

## Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

The practice took complaints and concerns seriously and responded to them appropriately to improve the quality of care.

- Information about how to make a complaint or raise concerns was available. Staff treated patients who made complaints compassionately.
- The complaint policy and procedures were in line with recognised guidance. The practice learned lessons from individual concerns and complaints and also from analysis of trends. It acted as a result to improve the quality of care.

**Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.**

# Are services well-led?

**We rated the practice as good for providing a well-led service.**

## Leadership capacity and capability

Leaders had the capacity and skills to deliver high-quality, sustainable care.

- Leaders were knowledgeable about issues and priorities relating to the quality and future of services. They understood the challenges and were addressing them.
- Leaders at all levels were visible and approachable. They worked closely with staff and others to make sure they prioritised compassionate and inclusive leadership.
- The practice had effective processes to develop leadership capacity and skills, including planning for the future leadership of the practice.

## Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision and credible strategy to deliver high quality, sustainable care.

- There was a clear vision and set of values. The practice had a realistic strategy and supporting business plans to achieve priorities.
- Staff were aware of and understood the vision, values and strategy and their role in achieving them.
- The strategy was in line with health and social care priorities across the region. The practice planned its services to meet the needs of the practice population.
- The practice monitored progress against delivery of the strategy.

## Culture

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

- Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued. They were proud to work in the practice.
- The practice focused on the needs of patients.
- Leaders and managers acted on behaviour and performance inconsistent with the vision and values.
- Openness, honesty and transparency were demonstrated when responding to incidents and complaints. The provider was aware of and had systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour.
- Staff who completed questionnaires told us they were able to raise concerns and were encouraged to do so. They had confidence that these would be addressed.

- There were processes for providing all staff with the development they needed. This included appraisal and career development conversations. All staff received annual appraisals and a six-monthly review. Staff were supported to meet the requirements of professional revalidation where necessary.
- There was a strong emphasis on the safety and well-being of all staff.
- The practice actively promoted equality and diversity. Staff had received equality and diversity training. Staff felt they were treated equally.
- There were positive relationships between staff and teams.

## Governance arrangements

There were clear responsibilities, roles and systems of accountability to support good governance and management.

- Structures, processes and systems to support good governance and management were clearly set out, understood and effective. The governance and management of partnerships, joint working arrangements and shared services promoted co-ordinated person-centred care.
- Staff were clear on their roles and accountabilities including in respect of safeguarding and infection prevention and control
- Practice leaders had established policies, procedures and activities to ensure safety and assured themselves that they were operating as intended.

## Managing risks, issues and performance

There were clear processes for managing risks, issues and performance.

- There was an effective, process to identify, understand, monitor and address current and future risks including risks to patient safety.
- The practice had processes to manage current and future performance. Practice leaders had oversight of incidents and complaints.
- Clinical audit had a positive impact on quality of care and outcomes for patients. There was clear evidence of action to change practice to improve quality.
- The practice had plans in place and had trained staff for major incidents.
- The practice considered and understood the impact on the quality of care of service changes or developments.

# Are services well-led?

## Appropriate and accurate information

The practice acted on appropriate and accurate information.

- Quality and operational information was used to ensure and improve performance. Performance information was combined with the views of patients.
- The information used to monitor performance and the delivery of quality care was accurate and useful. There were plans to address any identified weaknesses.
- The practice used information technology systems to monitor and improve the quality of care.
- The practice submitted data or notifications to external organisations as required.
- There were arrangements in line with data security standards for the availability, integrity and confidentiality of patient identifiable data, records and data management systems.

## Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

The practice involved patients, the public, staff and external partners to support high-quality sustainable services.

- A full and diverse range of patients', staff and external partners' views and concerns were encouraged, heard and acted on to shape services and culture. There was an active patient participation group.
- The service was transparent, collaborative and open with stakeholders about performance.

## Continuous improvement and innovation

There were systems and processes for learning, continuous improvement and innovation.

- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement.
- Staff knew about improvement methods and had the skills to use them.
- The practice made use of internal and external reviews of incidents and complaints. Learning was shared and used to make improvements.
- Leaders and managers encouraged staff to take time out to review individual and team objectives, processes and performance.

**Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.**

This section is primarily information for the provider

## Requirement notices

### Action we have told the provider to take

The table below shows the legal requirements that the service provider was not meeting. The provider must send CQC a report that says what action it is going to take to meet these requirements.

Regulated activity	Regulation
Diagnostic and screening procedures Family planning services Maternity and midwifery services Surgical procedures Treatment of disease, disorder or injury	<p>Regulation 12 HSCA (RA) Regulations 2014 Safe care and treatment</p> <p><b>How the regulation was not being met:</b></p> <p>There was no proper and safe management of medicines. In particular; patients who had been prescribed high risk medicines were not always monitored in line with national guidelines and some non-emergency medicines were not securely stored.</p> <p>This was in breach of regulation 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations</p>