

**B Dental Limited**

**B Dental**

**Inspection report**

61 Islington Park Street  
London  
N1 1QB  
Tel: 02072268074  
www.bdental.co.uk

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## Overall summary

We carried out this announced comprehensive inspection on 24 January 2024 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 advisor.

To get to the heart of patients' experiences of care and treatment, we always ask the following 5 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 dental clinic appeared clean and well-maintained.
- The practice had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.
- Staff knew how to deal with medical emergencies. Appropriate medicines and life-saving equipment were available.
- The practice had systems to manage risks for patients, staff, equipment and the premises.
- Safeguarding processes were in place and staff knew their responsibilities for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.
- The practice had staff recruitment procedures which reflected current legislation.
- Clinical staff provided patients' care and treatment in line with current guidelines.

# Summary of findings

- Patients were treated with dignity and respect. Staff took care to protect patients' privacy and personal information.
- Staff provided preventive care and supported patients to ensure better oral health.
- The appointment system worked efficiently to respond to patients' needs.
- The frequency of appointments was agreed between the dentist and the patient, giving due regard to National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines.
- There was effective leadership and a culture of continuous improvement.
- Staff felt involved, supported and worked as a team.
- Staff and patients were asked for feedback about the services provided.
- Complaints were dealt with positively and efficiently.
- The practice had information governance arrangements.

## Background

B Dental is part of Bupa Dental Care, a group dental provider.

The practice is in the London Borough of Islington and provides private dental care treatment for adults and children.

There is step free access to the practice via a portable ramp for people who use wheelchairs and those with pushchairs. Car parking spaces, including dedicated parking for disabled people, are available at the practice. Public transport services are located close to the practice. The practice has made reasonable adjustments to support patients with access requirements.

The dental team includes 10 dentists, 2 dental hygienists, 2 dental therapists, and 10 dental nurses. The clinical team is supported by 3 receptionists, a treatment coordinator and a practice manager.

The practice has 4 treatment rooms.

During the inspection we spoke with 2 dentists, 2 dental nurses, 1 dental hygienist and the practice manager. We also spoke with the regional manager for central London locations.

We looked at practice policies, procedures and other records to assess how the service is managed.

The practice is open:

Between 9.15am and 6pm on Mondays to Fridays, and between 9am and 2pm on Saturdays.

# Summary of findings

## The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

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

# 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. Staff undertook training in safeguarding matters and felt confident to report concerns and had access to information to assist them to do so. The practice had an appointed safeguarding lead to oversee these procedures.

The practice had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance. Infection prevention and control procedures were monitored and audited. The practice had an appointed lead nurse to monitor and oversee these procedures.

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

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

The practice appeared clean, tidy and organised and there was an effective schedule in place to ensure it was kept clean.

The practice had a recruitment policy and procedure to help them employ suitable staff. These reflected the relevant legislation. We reviewed a sample of staff recruitment records and found that all of the required checks were carried out including Disclosure and Barring Services checks, identity confirmation and evidence of conduct in previous employment for relevant staff.

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

The practice ensured equipment was safe to use, maintained and serviced according to manufacturers' instructions. The practice ensured the facilities were maintained in accordance with regulations.

A fire safety risk assessment was carried out in line with the legal requirements. The management of fire safety was effective.

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

### **Risks to patients**

The practice had implemented systems to assess, monitor and manage risks to patient and staff safety. The practice followed published guidelines in relation to sharps safety, and risks associated with the handling and disposal of dental sharps were assessed and procedures implemented to mitigate these risks. Information was available to help staff recognise signs of sepsis and take prompt action. The dental hygienists and therapists generally worked with chairside support. A lone working risk assessment was in place on rare occasions where this was not possible.

Emergency equipment and medicines were available and checked in accordance with national guidance.

Staff knew how to respond to a medical emergency and had completed training in emergency resuscitation and basic life support every year.

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**

# Are services safe?

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

The practice had systems for referring patients with suspected oral cancer under the national 2 week wait arrangements.

## **Safe and appropriate use of medicines**

The practice had systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines. Antimicrobial prescribing audits were carried out.

## **Track record on safety, and lessons learned and improvements**

The practice had systems to review and investigate incidents and accidents. Learning from incidents was shared with the practice team and more widely throughout the providers locations to help improve safety measures.

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. The dental hygienists and therapists provided treatments and advice in relation to diet, oral hygiene instruction, guidance on the effects of sugar, tobacco and alcohol consumption.

Staff were aware of and involved with national oral health campaigns and local schemes which supported patients to live healthier lives.

### **Consent to care and treatment**

Staff obtained patients' consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance. They undertook training and 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 patient care records in line with recognised guidance.

Staff conveyed an understanding of supporting more vulnerable members of society such as patients living with dementia or adults and children with a learning disability.

We saw evidence the dentists justified, graded and reported on the radiographs they took. The practice carried out radiography audits. The findings from audits had an analysis and action plan to drive improvements.

### **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. There were arrangements to monitor and follow up on referrals to help ensure patients received treatment in a timely way.

# Are services caring?

## Our findings

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

### **Kindness, respect and compassion**

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

The practice sought and monitored patient feedback. The results of patient feedback were reviewed, shared and used to make improvements.

Patients who provided feedback said staff were welcoming, empathetic, and 'go the extra mile' to help put them at ease when they were nervous, in pain, distress or discomfort.

### **Privacy and dignity**

Staff were aware of the importance of privacy and confidentiality.

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

### **Involving people in decisions about care and treatment**

Staff helped patients to be involved in decisions about their care and gave patients clear information to help them make informed choices about their treatment.

The practice's website provided patients with information about the range of treatments available at the practice.

The dentist explained the methods they used to help patients understand their treatment options. These included for example photographs, scans, videos, X-ray images and an intra-oral camera.

# 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 and preferences.

Staff were clear about the importance of providing emotional support to patients when delivering care.

The practice had made reasonable adjustments for patients with access requirements, including step free access via a portable ramp to treatment rooms on the ground floor, accessible toilet facilities, a hearing induction loop and information in a range of accessible formats. Staff had carried out a disability access audit and had formulated an action plan to continually improve access for patients.

### **Timely access to services**

The practice displayed its opening hours and provided information on their website.

Patients could access care and treatment from the practice within an acceptable timescale for their needs. The practice had an appointment system to respond to patients' needs. The frequency of appointments was agreed between the dentist and the patient, giving due regard to NICE guidelines. Patients had enough time during their appointment and did not feel rushed.

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.

Patients who needed an urgent appointment were offered one in a timely manner. When the practice was unable to offer an urgent appointment, they worked with partner organisations to support urgent access for patients. Patients with the most urgent needs had their care and treatment prioritised.

### **Listening and learning from concerns and complaints**

The practice responded to concerns and complaints appropriately. Staff discussed outcomes to share learning and improve the service. We saw evidence of actions taken arising from complaints so as to improve patients experience of using 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 provider demonstrated a transparent and open culture in relation to people's safety.

There was strong leadership with emphasis on evidence based practice and on continued improvement over time.

Systems and processes were embedded, and staff worked together in such a way that the inspection did not highlight any issues or omissions.

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

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

### **Culture**

Staff could show how they ensured high-quality sustainable services and demonstrated improvements over time.

Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued. They told us they worked well as a team and they were proud and happy to work in the practice.

Staff discussed their training needs during annual appraisals. 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 good governance and management.

The practice had a governance system which included policies, protocols and procedures that were accessible to all members of staff and were reviewed on a regular basis.

We saw there were clear and effective processes for managing risks, issues and performance. Risk assessments had detailed action plans which were completed in a timely way to maintain and improve safety within the practice.

### **Appropriate and accurate information**

Staff acted on appropriate and accurate information.

The practice had information governance arrangements and staff were aware of the importance of protecting patients' personal information.

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

Staff gathered feedback from patients, the public and external partners and demonstrated a commitment to acting on feedback.

Feedback from staff was obtained 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 where appropriate.

### **Continuous improvement and innovation**

# Are services well-led?

The practice had systems and processes for learning, quality assurance and continuous improvement. These included audits of, disability access, radiographs, antimicrobial prescribing, and infection prevention and control. The results from these audits were analysed and used to maintain and drive improvements in the practice.