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318 Erith Road Dental Practice

Inspection Report

318 Erith Road
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Overall summary

We carried out this announced inspection on 11 July 2017 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 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 form the framework for the areas we look at during the inspection.

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

318 Erith Road Dental Practice is in Barnehurst, in the London Borough of Bexley. It provides NHS and private treatment to patients of all ages.

There is level access for people who use wheelchairs and those with pushchairs. Car parking spaces, including those for patients with disabled badges are available in the surrounding roads. There is also limited parking available on the premises. There is Closed Circuit Television monitoring on the premises.

Summary of findings

The dental team includes a practice manager (who is also a qualified dental nurse), two dentists, three dental nurses, a trainee dental nurse, two dental hygienists, a dental therapist, a receptionist (who is also a qualified dental nurse), and two cleaners. The practice has four treatment rooms.

The practice is owned by an individual who is the principal dentist there. They have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated regulations about how the practice is run.

On the day of inspection we received feedback from 39 patients. This information gave us a positive view of the practice.

During the inspection we spoke with two dentists, two dental nurses, the receptionist, a dental hygienist, and the practice manager. We looked at practice policies and procedures and other records about how the service is managed.

The practice is open from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Our key findings were:

- Staff knew how to deal with emergencies. Appropriate medicines and life-saving equipment were available.
- The practice had systems to help them manage risk.
- The practice had suitable safeguarding processes and staff knew their responsibilities for safeguarding adults and children.
- The practice had thorough staff recruitment procedures.
- The clinical staff provided patients' care and treatment in line with current guidelines.
- Staff treated patients with dignity and respect and took care to protect their privacy and personal information.
- The appointment system met patients' needs.
- The practice had effective leadership. Staff felt involved and supported and worked well as a team.
- The practice asked staff and patients for feedback about the services they provided.
- The practice dealt with complaints positively and efficiently.
- The practice was clean and the premises were well maintained.
- The practice had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Are services safe?

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

The practice had systems and processes to provide safe care and treatment. They used learning from incidents and complaints to help them improve.

Staff received training in safeguarding and knew how to recognise the signs of abuse and how to report concerns.

Staff were qualified for their roles and the practice completed essential recruitment checks.

Premises and equipment were clean, and the premises were properly maintained.

The practice followed national guidance for cleaning, sterilising and storing dental instruments.

The practice had suitable arrangements for dealing with medical and other emergencies.

No action



Are services effective?

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

The dentists assessed patients' needs and provided care and treatment in line with recognised guidance. The dentists discussed treatment with patients so they could give informed consent and recorded this in their records.

The practice had clear arrangements when patients needed to be referred to other dental or health care professionals.

The practice supported staff to complete training relevant to their roles and had systems to help them monitor this.

No action



Are services caring?

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

We received feedback about the practice from 39 people. Patients were positive about all aspects of the service the practice provided. They told us staff were caring and professional and treated them with dignity and respect.

We saw that staff protected patients' privacy and were aware of the importance of confidentiality.

No action



Are services responsive to people's needs?

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

The practice's appointment system was efficient and met patients' needs. Patients could get an appointment quickly if they were in pain.

No action



Summary of findings

Staff considered patients' different needs. This included providing facilities for disabled patients and families with children. The practice had access to telephone interpreter services and had arrangements to help patients with hearing loss.

The practice took patients views seriously. They valued compliments from patients and responded to concerns and complaints quickly and constructively.

Are services well-led?

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

The practice had arrangements to ensure the smooth running of the service. These included systems for the practice team to discuss the quality and safety of the care and treatment provided. There was a clearly defined management structure and staff felt supported and appreciated.

The practice team kept completed patient dental care records which were, clearly written.

The practice monitored clinical and non-clinical areas of their work to help them improve and learn. This included asking for and listening to the views of patients and staff.

No action



Are services safe?

Our findings

Reporting, learning and improvement from incidents

Staff understood their role in the process of reporting, investigating and responding to incidents and significant events. The practice told us they discussed incidents to reduce risk and support future learning.

Improvements could be made to ensure there was a significant event policy and recording form. Shortly after the inspection the practice sent us evidence that these were in place.

The practice received national patient safety and medicines alerts from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA). Relevant alerts were discussed with staff; the principal dentist told us they were acted on and stored for three months for reference before being destroyed.

Reliable safety systems and processes (including safeguarding)

Staff knew their responsibilities if they had concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults who were vulnerable due to their circumstances. The practice had safeguarding policies and procedures to provide staff with information about identifying, reporting and dealing with suspected abuse. We saw evidence that staff received safeguarding training. Staff knew about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and how to report concerns.

The practice had a whistleblowing policy. Staff told us they felt confident they could raise concerns without fear of reprimand.

We looked at the practice's arrangements for safe dental care and treatment. These included risk assessments which staff reviewed every year.

The practice followed relevant safety laws when using needles and other sharp dental items. The dentists used rubber dams in line with guidance from the British Endodontic Society when providing root canal treatment.

The practice told us they had a business continuity plan, though there was none available during the inspection.

Shortly after the inspection the practice sent us a business continuity plan describing how the practice would deal with events which could disrupt the normal running of the practice.

Medical emergencies

Staff knew what to do in a medical emergency and completed training in emergency resuscitation and basic life support every year.

Emergency equipment and medicines were available as described in recognised guidance. Staff told us they regularly checked these to make sure they were available, within their expiry date, and in working order, though they did not keep records of their checks. Shortly after the inspection the practice sent us a recording template for checks of the medicines and equipment.

Staff recruitment

The practice had a staff recruitment policy and procedure to help them employ suitable staff. This reflected the relevant legislation. We looked at two staff recruitment files. These showed the practice followed their recruitment procedure. Improvements could be made to ensure references obtained verbally were documented.

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

Monitoring health & safety and responding to risks

The practice's health and safety policies and risk assessments were up to date and reviewed to help manage potential risk. These covered general workplace and specific dental topics. Improvements were needed to ensure safety measures were included for all risks identified.

The practice had current employer's liability insurance and checked each year that the clinicians' professional indemnity insurance was up to date.

A dental nurse worked with the dentists when they treated patients. Staff told us a dental nurse could provide chairside assistance for the dental hygienists and dental therapist if they were available. Shortly after the inspection the practice sent us a lone worker protocol to indicate how the dental hygienists/therapist would be appropriately supported when treating patients.

Are services safe?

Infection control

The practice had an infection prevention and control policy and procedures to keep patients safe. They followed guidance in The Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices (HTM01-05) published by the Department of Health. Staff completed infection prevention and control training every year.

The practice had suitable arrangements for transporting, cleaning, checking, sterilising and storing instruments in line with HTM01-05. The records showed equipment staff used for cleaning and sterilising instruments was maintained and used in line with the manufacturers' guidance.

The practice carried out infection prevention and control audits twice a year. The latest audit showed the practice was meeting the required standards.

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

We saw cleaning schedules for the premises. The practice was clean when we inspected and patients confirmed this was usual.

Equipment and medicines

We saw servicing documentation for the equipment used. Staff carried out checks in line with the manufacturers' recommendations.

The practice had suitable systems for storing medicines. They stored and kept records of NHS prescriptions. Improvements could be made to ensure serial numbers of prescription pads were recorded to prevent them from being misappropriated; shortly after the inspection the practice sent us evidence to show the serial numbers had been logged.

Radiography (X-rays)

The practice had suitable arrangements to ensure the safety of the X-ray equipment. They met current radiation regulations and had the required information in their radiation protection file.

We saw evidence that the principal dentist and associate dentist justified, graded and reported on the X-rays they took. The practice carried out X-ray audits every year following current guidance and legislation. Improvements could be made to ensure reasons for imaging errors were included with actions for improvement.

Shortly after the inspection the practice sent us a revised version of their radiograph audit template which included a selection of reasons for errors that could lead to poor X-ray imaging quality.

Clinical staff completed continuous professional development in respect of dental radiography.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

Monitoring and improving outcomes for patients

The practice kept detailed dental care records containing information about the patients' current dental needs, past treatment and medical histories. The dentists assessed patients' treatment needs in line with recognised guidance.

We saw that the practice audited patients' dental care records to check that the dentists recorded the necessary information.

Health promotion & prevention

The practice provided preventative care and supported patients to ensure better oral health in line with the Delivering Better Oral Health toolkit.

The dentists told us they prescribed high concentration fluoride toothpaste if a patient's risk of tooth decay indicated this would help them. They used fluoride varnish for all children based on an assessment of the risk of tooth decay for each child.

The dentists told us they discussed smoking, alcohol consumption and diet with patients during appointments. The practice had a selection of dental products for sale and provided health promotion leaflets to help patients with their oral health.

Staffing

Staff new to the practice had a period of induction based on a structured induction programme. We confirmed clinical staff completed the continuous professional development required for their registration with the General Dental Council (GDC).

Staff told us they discussed training needs at annual appraisals. We saw evidence of completed appraisals for the dental nurses. The principal dentist told us they would ensure the practice manager also received an appraisal in future.

Working with other services

Dentists confirmed they referred patients to a range of specialists in primary and secondary care if they needed treatment the practice did not provide. This included referring patients with suspected oral cancer under the national two week wait arrangements. This was initiated by the National Institute (NICE) in 2005 to help make sure patients were seen quickly by a specialist. The practice monitored urgent referrals to make sure they were dealt with promptly.

Consent to care and treatment

The practice team understood the importance of obtaining and recording patients' consent to treatment. The dentists told us they gave patients information about treatment options and the risks and benefits of these so they could make informed decisions. Patients confirmed their dentist listened to them and gave them clear information about their treatment.

The practice's consent policy included information about the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The team understood their responsibilities under the act when treating adults who may not be able to make informed decisions. The policy also referred to Gillick competence and the dentists were aware of the need to consider this when treating young people under 16.

Staff described how they involved patients' relatives or carers when appropriate and made sure they had enough time to explain treatment options clearly.

Are services caring?

Our findings

Respect, dignity, compassion and empathy

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

We received feedback about the practice from 39 people. Patients commented positively that staff were caring, kind and professional. We saw that staff treated patients with respect and in a caring manner; they were friendly towards patients at the reception desk and over the telephone.

Nervous patients commented that staff were compassionate and understanding. Patients could choose whether they saw a male or female dentist.

Staff were aware of the importance of privacy and confidentiality. The layout of the reception and waiting areas provided privacy when reception staff were dealing with patients. Staff told us that if a patient asked for more

privacy they would take them into another room. The reception computer screens were not visible to patients and staff did not leave personal information where other patients might see it.

Staff stored patients' dental care records securely.

Information posters and leaflets were available for patients to read.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

The practice gave patients clear information to help them make informed choices. Patients confirmed that staff listened to them, did not rush them and discussed options for treatment with them. The dentists described the conversations they had with patients to satisfy themselves they understood their treatment options.

Each treatment room had a screen so the dentists could show patients photographs and X-ray images when they discussed treatment options. Staff also used visual aids to explain treatment options to patients needing more complex treatment.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

Responding to and meeting patients' needs

Patients described high levels of satisfaction with the responsive service provided by the practice.

The practice had an efficient appointment system to respond to patients' needs. Staff told us that patients who requested an urgent appointment could be seen the same day. Patients commented they had enough time during their appointment and did not feel rushed. Appointments ran smoothly on the day of the inspection.

Staff told us that they currently had no patients for whom they needed to make adjustments to enable them to receive treatment.

Promoting equality

The practice made reasonable adjustments for patients with disabilities. These included step free access, a hearing loop, and an accessible toilet with hand rails and a call bell. There was a baby changing facility in the patient toilet.

Staff said they could provide information in different formats and languages to meet individual patients' needs. Staff spoke English and Portuguese. The practice told us they had access to interpreter/translation services which included British Sign Language.

Access to the service

The practice displayed its opening hours in the premises and in their information leaflet.

We confirmed the practice kept waiting times and cancellations to a minimum.

The practice was committed to seeing patients experiencing dental pain on the same day. The information leaflet and answerphone provided telephone numbers for patients needing emergency dental treatment during the working day and when the practice was not open. Patients commented they could make routine and emergency appointments easily and were rarely kept waiting for their appointment.

Concerns & complaints

The practice had a complaints policy providing guidance to staff on how to handle a complaint. The practice information leaflet explained how to make a complaint. The practice manager was responsible for dealing with these. Staff told us they would tell the practice manager about any formal or informal comments or concerns straight away so patients received a quick response.

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

We looked at comments, compliments and complaints the practice received in the previous 12 months. These showed the practice responded to concerns appropriately and discussed outcomes with staff to share learning and improve the service.

Are services well-led?

Our findings

Governance arrangements

The principal dentist had overall responsibility for the management and clinical leadership of the practice. They were responsible for the day to day running of the service. Staff knew the management arrangements and their roles and responsibilities.

The practice had policies, procedures and risk assessments to support the management of the service and to protect patients and staff. These included arrangements to monitor the quality of the service and make improvements.

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

Leadership, openness and transparency

Staff were aware of the duty of candour requirements to be open, honest and to offer an apology to patients if anything went wrong.

Staff told us there was an open, no blame culture at the practice. They said the practice manager and dentist encouraged them to raise any issues and felt confident they could do this. They knew who to raise any issues with and told us the practice's leaders were approachable, would listen to their concerns and act appropriately. Staff discussed concerns at staff meetings and it was clear the practice worked as a team and dealt with issues professionally.

The practice held regular meetings where staff could raise any concerns and discuss clinical and non-clinical updates. Immediate discussions were arranged to share urgent information.

The principal dentist told us all staff were entitled to a free eye test at an optician every two years.

Learning and improvement

The practice had quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement. These included undertaking audits of dental care records, X-rays and infection prevention and control.

The infection control audit had clear records of the results of these audits and the resulting action plans and improvements; the X-ray and records audits could be improved to ensure this information was added. Shortly after the inspection the practice sent us evidence they had improved the relevant audit templates.

The principal dentist showed a commitment to learning and improvement and valued the contributions made to the team by individual members of staff. The dental nurses had annual appraisals. They discussed learning needs, general wellbeing and aims for future professional development. We saw evidence of completed appraisals for the dental nurses in the staff folders.

Staff told us they completed key training, including medical emergencies, infection prevention and control, and basic life support, each year. The General Dental Council (GDC) requires clinical staff to complete continuous professional development. Staff told us the practice provided support and encouragement for them to do so.

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

The practice used their own quarterly patient survey, yearly staff survey and verbal comments to obtain staff and patients' views about the service. We saw examples of suggestions from patients/staff the practice had acted on.

Patients were encouraged to complete the NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT). This is a national programme to allow patients to provide feedback on NHS services they have used. The most recent results showed all patients surveyed would recommend the practice to their friends or family members.