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# Baring Road Dental Practice

## Inspection Report

328 Baring Road

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### Overall summary

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection on 21 April 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**

328 Baring Road is located in the London Borough of Lewisham and provides NHS dental services. The opening hours for the practice were Tuesday 9.00am -1.00pm; Wednesday 2pm -5.30pm; Thursday 9.00am 1.00pm and Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm.

The practice comprises of a dentist, a receptionist and two dental nurses.

The premises consists of two treatment room, a decontamination room and a waiting area.

The principal dentist is registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as an individual. Like registered providers, they are 'registered persons'. 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 reviewed 32 completed CQC 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, friendly and helpful and they were treated with dignity and respect.

#### **Our key findings were:**

- There were effective processes in place to reduce and minimise the risk and spread of infection.

# Summary of findings

- Patients' needs were assessed and care was planned in line with best practice guidance such as from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). 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.

# 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 and vulnerable adults 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.

### **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 smoking cessation advice.

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

### **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.

### **Are services responsive to people's needs?**

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

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 practice's own feedback forms. There were arrangements to meet the needs of people whose first language was not English.

### **Are services well-led?**

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

## Summary of findings

There was a clear vision for the practice that was shared with the staff. There were good governance arrangements and an effective management structure. Staff were given the opportunity to give their views of the service. Appropriate policies and procedures were in place, and there was effective monitoring of various aspects of care delivery. Patients were given the opportunity to provide feedback about the practice through their own feedback forms.

# Baring Road Dental Practice

## 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 21 April 2016. The inspection was led by a CQC inspector. They were accompanied by a dental specialist advisor.

We received feedback from 35 patients. We also spoke with three 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 no adverse incident over the past 12 months.

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 incident over the past 12 months. Staff understood the importance of the Duty of Candour and the need to inform the appropriate bodies and 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. The practice had a safeguarding policy. The policy included 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, which was in line with what we saw in the policies. 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 dentist told us relevant information would be discussed with staff during team meetings.

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, procedures for using equipment safely, health and safety process, procedures 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, fire, legionella, health and safety and infection control.

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. For example, they contained details of medicines patients were taking.

The practice used a 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 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 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).

# Are services safe?

## 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 two 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 the necessary required checks for staff who worked in the practice.

## 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. For example, we saw risk assessments for fire, radiation and infection control. The assessments included the controls and actions to manage risks. For example a January 2016 risk assessment of use of equipment highlighted the importance of staff being trained how to use the autoclave correctly.

The practice had a business continuity plan to deal with emergencies that could disrupt the safe and smooth running of the service. The plan covered what to do in the event of issues such as interruption to utility provision, fire and other emergency situations. For example the plan detailed how the practice backed up records in case of a systems failure.

## 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 hand hygiene, clinical waste management and 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 nurse 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

instruments suitably 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 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 stored appropriately and in lockable bins. Bins were collected monthly. The bins were appropriately stored safely away from public access while awaiting collection.

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 in 2016 and the results were negative for bacterium [Legionella is a bacterium found in the environment which can contaminate water systems in buildings]. The water lines were flushed daily and weekly.

There was a cleaning plan, schedule and checklist, which was regularly checked by the practice staff.

## Equipment and medicines

We found the equipment used in the practice was maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This included the equipment used to clean and sterilise the instruments and X-ray equipment. Portable appliance testing (PAT) had not been completed since 2009 in accordance with good practice guidance. PAT is the name of a process where electrical appliances are routinely checked for safety. We saw evidence that staff at the practice had undertaken visual checks of electrical appliance on a yearly basis. Following the inspection we were provided with evidence that showed the PAT test were carried out after the inspection.

# Are services safe?

The practice had clear guidance regarding the prescribing, recording and stock control of the medicines used in the practice. Prescriptions were stored securely.

## **Radiography (X-rays)**

The principal 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 and displayed in clinical areas where X-rays were used. Evidence was seen of radiation training for staff undertaking X-rays. X-rays were graded and audited as they were taken. A comprehensive radiograph audit had been carried out in 2015.



# 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. The practice also showed awareness of the Delivering Better Oral Health Tool-kit. ('Delivering better oral health' is an evidence based toolkit used by dental teams for the prevention of dental disease in a primary and secondary care setting).

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, and a full clinical assessment with an extra- and intra-oral examination. An assessment of the periodontal tissue was taken and recorded using the basic periodontal examination (BPE) tool. (The BPE tool is a simple and rapid screening tool used by dentists to indicate the level of treatment need in relation to a patient's gums). Information about the costs of treatment and some information of treatment options available were on the practice website.

### Health promotion & prevention

Patients' medical histories were updated regularly which included questions about smoking, diet and alcohol intake. 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 instructions as well as fluoride application and alcohol use. We saw that leaflets on oral health and dietary advice were available in the waiting 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) and saw there was a system in place to monitor the number of CPD hours staff had completed.

### Working with other services

The practice worked, where appropriate with other professionals in delivering care of their patients. This included for example referrals for 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 35 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. Some staff had received training on 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). This meant where patients did not have the capacity to consent, the dentist acted in accordance with legal requirements and that vulnerable patients were treated with dignity and respect.

# Are services caring?

## Our findings

### **Respect, dignity, compassion & empathy**

We received feedback from 35 patients. The feedback we received was positive. Staff were described as , caring and friendly. 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. We also saw that the practice had a website that included information about dental care and treatment and costs.

We spoke with the nurse and 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.

### **Tackling inequity and promoting equality**

The practice had recognised the needs of different groups in the planning of its services. There was ramped access to the building. The principal dentist told us that staff at the practice spoke a number of different languages and they would use a language line if they ever needed to communicate with someone whose spoke a language not spoken by staff at the practice.

### **Access to the service**

Opening hours for the practice were available on the practice website and at the entrance to the practice. . The practice was open Tuesday 9.00am -1.00pm; Wednesday 2pm -5.30pm; Thursday 9.00am 1.00pm and Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm. There were clear instructions for patients requiring urgent dental care when the practice was closed. These instructions were on the telephone answering machine.

### **Concerns & complaints**

The practice had effective arrangements in place for handling complaints and concerns. There was a complaints policy dated March 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 General Dental Council. We were told there had been no complaints received 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 meetings were held to discuss issues in the practice and update on things affecting the practice. We saw notes of meetings that confirmed this.

The quality audits undertaken at the practice included infection control, dental 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 managers. 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. Improvements could be made to put in place a formal appraisal system where staff could have the opportunity to discuss training and development requirements. 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 their own surveys and through the NHS Friends and Family Test. We also saw that the practice had a suggestion box that gave patients the opportunity to make suggestions. We saw the practice acted upon feedback they received. For example, we saw that the surgery's internal decoration had been improved following feedback from patients.