

The Stanmore Medical Centre

Quality Report

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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 service	Good	
Are services safe?	Good	
Are services effective?	Good	
Are services caring?	Good	
Are services responsive to people's needs?	Good	
Are services well-led?	Good	

Summary of findings

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Overall summary

Letter from the Chief Inspector of General Practice

Following a comprehensive inspection of the Stanmore Medical Centre in February 2015, the practice was given an overall inadequate rating and a decision was made to place the practice in special measures. Specifically, we found the practice to be inadequate for providing safe and well led services, requires improvement for providing effective services and good for providing caring and responsive services. It was also rated as inadequate for all the population groups.

We carried out a second comprehensive inspection at the Stanmore Medical Centre on 29 September 2015, to consider whether sufficient improvements had been made to bring the practice out of special measures. At the inspection we found sufficient improvements had been made, however the systems in place for mitigating risks in relation to the health and safety of service users were still not sufficiently robust. Overall the practice was rated as requires improvement.

We then carried out a third comprehensive inspection on 6 December 2016 to assess if the necessary

improvements had been made since our previous inspection. At this inspection we found that the necessary improvements had been made and overall the practice is rated as good.

Our key findings across all the areas we inspected were as follows:

- There was an open and transparent approach to safety and an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events.
- Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.
- Staff assessed patients' needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance. Staff had been trained to provide them with the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.
- Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in their care and decisions about their treatment.
- Information about services and how to complain was available and easy to understand. Improvements were made to the quality of care as a result of complaints and concerns.

Summary of findings

- Patients did not always find it easy to make an appointment with a named GP however continuity of care had improved since our last inspection, with urgent appointments available the same day.
- The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- There was a clear leadership structure and staff felt supported by management. The practice proactively sought feedback from staff and patients, which it acted on.
- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the duty of candour.
- The practice demonstrated a strong ethos of advocating for their patients which was exemplified by over 30 case reviews presented to us at our inspection. The case reviews were examples of exceptional care

provided in managing and supporting vulnerable patients. These included patients experiencing poor mental health, patients with learning disabilities and those receiving treatment for substance misuse.

The areas where the provider should make improvement are:

- Continue to improve childhood immunisation and cervical screening uptake to bring in line with national averages.
- Continue to improve patient satisfaction with access to care and treatment.

Professor Steve Field CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP

Chief Inspector of General Practice

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Are services safe?

The practice is rated as good for providing safe services.

- There was an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events.
- Lessons were shared to make sure action was taken to improve safety in the practice.
- When things went wrong patients received reasonable support, truthful information, and a written apology. They were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again.
- The practice had clearly defined and embedded systems, processes and practices in place to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse.
- Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.

Good



Are services effective?

The practice is rated as good for providing effective services.

- Data from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) showed patient outcomes were at or above average compared to the national average.
- Staff assessed needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance.
- Clinical audits demonstrated quality improvement.
- Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.
- There was evidence of appraisals and personal development plans for all staff.
- Staff worked with other health care professionals to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs.

Good



Are services caring?

The practice is rated as good for providing caring services.

- Data from the national GP patient survey showed patients rated the practice similar to others for some aspects of care.
- Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in decisions about their care and treatment.
- Information for patients about the services available was easy to understand and accessible.
- We saw staff treated patients with kindness and respect, and maintained patient and information confidentiality.

Good



Summary of findings

Are services responsive to people's needs?

The practice is rated as good for providing responsive services.

- Practice staff reviewed the needs of its local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group to secure improvements to services where these were identified. For example, the practice participated in the CCG whole systems integrated care scheme to provide integrated care to older patients.
- Patients did not always find it easy to make an appointment with a named GP however continuity of care had improved since our last inspection, with urgent appointments available the same day.
- The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- Information about how to complain was available and easy to understand and evidence showed the practice responded quickly to issues raised. Learning from complaints was shared with staff.

Good



Are services well-led?

The practice is rated as good for being well-led.

- The practice had a clear vision and strategy to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients. Staff were clear about the vision and their responsibilities in relation to it.
- There was a clear leadership structure and staff felt supported by management. The practice had a number of policies and procedures to govern activity and held regular governance meetings.
- There was an overarching governance framework which supported the delivery of the strategy and good quality care. This included arrangements to monitor and improve quality and identify risk.
- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the duty of candour. The partners encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place for notifiable safety incidents and ensured this information was shared with staff to ensure appropriate action was taken.
- The practice proactively sought feedback from staff and patients, which it acted on. The patient participation group was active.
- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels.

Good



Summary of findings

The six population groups and what we found

We always inspect the quality of care for these six population groups.

Older people

The practice is rated as good for the care of older people.

- The practice offered proactive, personalised care to meet the needs of the older people in its population.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older people, and offered home visits and urgent appointments for those with enhanced needs.
- The practice participated in the CCG enhanced nursing service to provide extra support to housebound elderly patients who were at risk of hospital admission.

Good



People with long term conditions

The practice is rated as good for the care of people with long-term conditions.

- Nursing staff had lead roles in chronic disease management and patients at risk of hospital admission were identified as a priority for support from the nurses.
- Performance for diabetes related indicators was above local and national averages and exception reporting was below average.
- Longer appointments and home visits were available when needed.
- All these patients had a named GP and a structured annual review to check their health and medicine needs were being met. For those patients with the most complex needs, the named GP worked with relevant health and care professionals to deliver a multidisciplinary package of care.

Good



Families, children and young people

The practice is rated as good for the care of families, children and young people.

- There were systems in place 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 A&E attendances. Immunisation rates were comparable to local averages however below national averages.
- Patients told us that children and young people were treated in an age-appropriate way and were recognised as individuals.

Good



Summary of findings

- The practice's uptake for the cervical screening programme was 75%, which was slightly below the CCG average of 77% and the national average of 82%.
- Appointments were available outside of school hours and the premises were suitable for children and babies.
- We saw positive examples of joint working with midwives, health visitors and school nurses.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students)

The practice is rated as good for the care of working-age people (including those recently retired and students).

- The needs of the working age population, those recently retired and students had been identified and the practice had adjusted the services it offered to ensure these were accessible, flexible and offered continuity of care.
- The practice was proactive in offering online services as well as a full range of health promotion and screening that reflects the needs for this age group.

Good



People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable

The practice is rated as good for the care of people whose circumstances may make them vulnerable.

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people and those with a learning disability.
- The practice offered longer appointments for patients with a learning disability.
- The practice regularly worked with other health care professionals in the case management of vulnerable patients.
- The practice informed vulnerable patients about how to access various support groups and voluntary organisations.
- Staff knew how to recognise signs of abuse in vulnerable adults and children. Staff were aware of their responsibilities regarding information sharing, documentation of safeguarding concerns and how to contact relevant agencies in normal working hours and out of hours.
- The practice demonstrated a strong ethos of advocating for their patients which was exemplified by over 30 case reviews presented to us at our inspection. The case reviews were examples of exceptional care provided in managing and supporting vulnerable patients. These included patients experiencing poor mental health, patients with learning disabilities and those receiving treatment for substance misuse.

Good



Summary of findings

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

The practice is rated as good for the care of people experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia).

- 80% of patients diagnosed with dementia had had their care reviewed in a face to face meeting in the last 12 months, which was comparable to the national average of 84%.
- 93% of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses had a comprehensive care plan documented in the record, in the preceding 12 months, agreed between individuals, their family and/or carers as appropriate which was above the national average of 89%.
- The practice regularly worked with multi-disciplinary teams in the case management of patients experiencing poor mental health, including those with dementia.
- The practice carried out advance care planning for patients with dementia.
- The practice had told patients experiencing poor mental health about how to access various support groups and voluntary organisations.
- The practice had a system in place to follow up patients who had attended accident and emergency where they may have been experiencing poor mental health.
- Staff had a good understanding of how to support patients with mental health needs and dementia.

Good



Summary of findings

What people who use the service say

The national GP patient survey results were published on 7 July 2016. Two hundred and ninety survey forms were distributed and 114 were returned. This represented 0.8% of the practice's patient list. The results showed:

- 49% of patients found it easy to get through to this practice by phone compared to the CCG average of 64% and the national average of 73%.
- 78% of patients were able to get an appointment to see or speak to someone the last time they tried compared to the CCG average of 81% and the national average of 85%.
- 74% of patients described the overall experience of this GP practice as good compared to the CCG average of 79% and the national average of 85%.

- 63% of patients said they would recommend this GP practice to someone who has just moved to the local area compared to the CCG average of 73% and the national average of 78%.

As part of our inspection we also asked for CQC comment cards to be completed by patients prior to our inspection. We received four comment cards which were generally positive about the standard of care received. Patients said the practice had improved over the last 12 months and they were happy with the services provided.

We spoke with ten patients during the inspection. All ten patients said they were satisfied with the care they received and thought staff were approachable, committed and caring.

Areas for improvement

Action the service **SHOULD** take to improve

- Continue to improve childhood immunisation and cervical screening uptake to bring in line with national averages.
- Continue to improve patient satisfaction with access to care and treatment.

The Stanmore Medical Centre

Detailed findings

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by:

Our inspection team was led by a CQC Lead Inspector. The team included a GP specialist adviser and an Expert by Experience.

Background to The Stanmore Medical Centre

The Stanmore Medical Centre operates from 85 Crowshott Avenue, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 1HS. There is also a branch surgery at William Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4FZ which is a four minute drive away. The practice provides primary care services through a Personal Medical Services (PMS) contract to approximately 13,500 patients living within Stanmore and the surrounding area. (PMS is one of the three contracting routes that have been available to enable commissioning of primary medical services). The practice is part of the NHS Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which comprises 34 GP practices.

The registered patients are widely representative of most age groups. The practice provides care for a local private boarding school and has over double the national average of male patients between the ages of 15 and 19 years. The practice also provides care for over ten nursing and care homes where elderly patients and those with learning disabilities. The Stanmore Medical Centre is an approved training practice providing training opportunities for trainee GPs and medical students from London universities.

The practice is registered with the Care Quality Commission to provide the following regulated activities; diagnostic and screening procedures, family planning, maternity and midwifery services, surgical procedures and the treatment of disease, disorder or injury.

The practice staff comprise of three GP partners (two male and one female), seven GPs who are salaried or sessional, two practice nurses, a phlebotomist, a health care assistant, a practice manager who is supported by a large team of reception/administration staff. The GPs provide a total of 47 clinical sessions per week. The practice participates in an enhanced nursing scheme with two enhanced nurses in post who provide extra support for vulnerable housebound elderly patients.

The practice opening hours are 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Appointments are from 9am to 11.30am every morning and 3pm to 6pm daily. Extended hours appointments are offered on a Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8pm and alternate Saturday mornings from the branch practice. Telephone lines are open throughout the opening hours and patients are referred to NHS 111 services for out-of-hours care.

The practice offers a range of services including cervical screening, contraceptive services, child health surveillance, family planning and sexual health, maternity services, joint injections, vaccinations and childhood immunisations. The GPs have a wide range of specialisations including women's health, neurology, geriatrics, dermatology and psychiatry.

Why we carried out this inspection

We carried out a comprehensive inspection of this service under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as

Detailed findings

part of our regulatory functions. The inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008, to look at the overall quality of the service, and to provide a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

Following a comprehensive inspection of the Stanmore Medical Centre in February 2015, the practice was given an overall inadequate rating and a decision was made to place the practice in special measures. Specifically, we found the practice to be inadequate for providing safe and well led services, requires improvement for providing effective services and good for providing caring and responsive services. It was also rated as inadequate for all the population groups.

We carried out a second comprehensive inspection at the Stanmore Medical Centre on 29 September 2015, to consider whether sufficient improvements had been made to bring the practice out of special measures. At the inspection we found sufficient improvements had been made, however the systems in place for mitigating risks in relation to the health and safety of service users were still not sufficiently robust. The practice was rated as requires improvement for providing safe, responsive and well-led services and good for providing effective and caring services. It was rated as requires improvement for all the population groups and overall requires improvement.

The provider was required to take the following action:

- Ensure more effective arrangements are in place for managing risks and implementing mitigating actions; including those for monitoring risks associated with legionella bacteria, infection control, inappropriate vaccine storage and general health and safety.
- Review policy and procedures for managing incidents/significant events.

How we carried out this inspection

Before visiting, we reviewed a range of information we hold about the practice and asked other organisations to share what they knew. We carried out an announced visit on 6 December 2016.

During our visit we:

- Spoke with a range of staff (three GPs, a nurse, the healthcare assistant and two non-clinical staff) and spoke with ten patients who used the service.
- Observed how patients were being cared for and talked with carers and/or family members.
- Reviewed comment cards where patients and members of the public shared their views and experiences of the service.

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?

We also looked at how well services were provided for specific groups of people and what good care looked like for them. The population groups are:

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

Please note that when referring to information throughout this report, for example any reference to the Quality and Outcomes Framework data, this relates to the most recent information available to the CQC at that time.

Are services safe?

Our findings

Safe track record and learning

There was an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events.

- Staff told us they would inform the practice manager of any incidents and there was a recording form available on the practice's computer system. The incident recording form supported the recording of notifiable incidents under the duty of candour. (The duty of candour is a set of specific legal requirements that providers of services must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment).
- We saw evidence that when things went wrong with care and treatment, patients were informed of the incident, received reasonable support, truthful information, a written apology and were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again.
- The practice carried out a thorough analysis of the significant events.

We reviewed safety records, incident reports, patient safety alerts and minutes of meetings where these were discussed. We saw evidence that lessons were shared and action was taken to improve safety in the practice. For example, one incident involving a patient whose medical condition was deteriorating rapidly whilst waiting for an emergency appointment with the duty doctor was discussed in a staff meeting and learning shared. The learning from the incident was for staff to be more vigilant and to use screen messages when requesting urgent help from the GPs to ensure medical emergencies were dealt with immediately.

Overview of safety systems and processes

The practice had clearly defined and embedded systems, processes and practices in place to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse, which included:

- Arrangements were in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse. These arrangements reflected relevant legislation and local requirements. Policies were accessible to all staff. The policies clearly outlined who to contact for further guidance if staff had concerns about a patient's welfare. There was a lead member of staff for safeguarding. The GPs attended

safeguarding meetings when possible and always provided reports where necessary for other agencies. Staff demonstrated they understood their responsibilities and all had received training on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults relevant to their role. GPs were trained to child protection or child safeguarding level 3 and nurses to level 2.

- A notice in the waiting room advised patients that chaperones were available if required. All staff who acted as chaperones were trained for the 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).
- The practice maintained appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene. We observed the premises to be clean and tidy. A practice nurse was the infection control clinical lead who liaised with the local infection prevention teams to keep up to date with best practice. There was an infection control protocol in place and staff had received up to date training. Annual infection control audits were undertaken and we saw evidence that action was taken to address any improvements identified as a result.
- The arrangements for managing medicines, including emergency medicines and vaccines, in the practice kept patients safe (including obtaining, prescribing, recording, handling, storing, security and disposal). Processes were in place for handling repeat prescriptions which included the review of high risk medicines. The practice carried out regular medicines audits, with the support of the local CCG pharmacy teams, to ensure prescribing was in line with best practice guidelines for safe prescribing. Blank prescription forms and pads were securely stored and there were systems in place to monitor their use. Patient Group Directions had been adopted by the practice to allow nurses to administer medicines in line with legislation. (PGDs are written instructions for the supply or administration of medicines to groups of patients who may not be individually identified before presentation for treatment). Health Care Assistants were trained to administer vaccines and medicines against a patient specific prescription or direction from a prescriber.
- We reviewed five personnel files and found appropriate recruitment checks had been undertaken prior to

Are services safe?

employment. For example, proof of identification, references, qualifications, registration with the appropriate professional body and the appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Monitoring risks to patients

Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.

- There were procedures in place for monitoring and managing risks to patient and staff safety. There was a health and safety policy available with a poster in the reception office which identified local health and safety representatives. The practice had up to date fire risk assessments and carried out regular fire drills. All electrical equipment was checked to ensure the equipment was safe to use and clinical equipment was checked to ensure it was working properly. The practice had a variety of other risk assessments in place to monitor safety of the premises such as control of substances hazardous to health and infection control and legionella (Legionella is a term for a particular bacterium which can contaminate water systems in buildings).
- Arrangements were in place for planning and monitoring the number of staff and mix of staff needed to meet patients' needs. There was a rota system in place for all the different staffing groups to ensure enough staff were on duty.

Arrangements to deal with emergencies and major incidents

The practice had adequate arrangements in place to respond to emergencies and major incidents.

- There was an instant messaging system on the computers in all the consultation and treatment rooms which alerted staff to any emergency.
- All staff received annual basic life support training and there were emergency medicines available in the treatment room.
- The practice had a defibrillator available on the premises and oxygen with adult and children's masks. A first aid kit and accident book were available.
- Emergency medicines were easily accessible to staff in a secure area of the practice and all staff knew of their location. All the medicines we checked were in date and stored securely.
- The practice had a comprehensive business continuity plan in place for major incidents such as power failure or building damage. The plan included emergency contact numbers for staff.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

Effective needs assessment

The practice assessed needs and delivered care in line with relevant and current evidence based guidance and standards, including National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) best practice guidelines.

- The practice had systems in place to keep all clinical staff up to date. Staff had access to guidelines from NICE and used this information to deliver care and treatment that met patients' needs.
- The practice monitored that these guidelines were followed through clinical audit.

Management, monitoring and improving outcomes for people

The practice used the information collected for the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) and performance against national screening programmes to monitor outcomes for patients. (QOF is a system intended to improve the quality of general practice and reward good practice). The most recent published results were 97% of the total number of points available with a clinical exception rate of 8% (Exception reporting is the removal of patients from QOF calculations where, for example, the patients are unable to attend a review meeting or certain medicines cannot be prescribed because of side effects).

This practice was not an outlier for any QOF (or other national) clinical targets. Data from 2015/16 showed:

- Performance for diabetes related indicators was 100%.
- Performance for mental health related indicators was 100%.
- Performance for hypertension related indicators was 100%.

Exception reporting for the above indicators was below both the CCG and the national average.

There was evidence of quality improvement including clinical audit.

- The practice provided us with two completed audits, these were two cycle audits where the improvements made were implemented and monitored. The first completed audit was to identify patients with gestational diabetes (this is when women without diabetes, develop high blood sugar levels during

pregnancy. Babies born to mothers with poorly treated gestational diabetes are at increased risk of being too large, having low blood sugar after birth, and jaundice). The initial audit carried out in October 2015 showed that 45% of those patients at risk of gestational diabetes had had their blood sugar levels checked. After the initial audit an action plan was drawn up and implemented and a re-audit in September 2016 showed 61% of patients had had their blood sugar levels checked which was a 16% improvement on the initial audit. The second completed audit was to check that patients on New Oral Anti-Coagulant medicines (NOACs) were receiving blood tests in line with NICE guidance (NOACs are used for the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation). The initial audit carried out in March 2016 showed that 40% of patients had received blood tests. After the initial audit an action plan was drawn up and implemented and a re-audit in June 2016 showed that 93% of patients had received a blood test which was a 50% improvement on the initial audit.

Effective staffing

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.

- The practice had an induction programme for all newly appointed staff. This covered such topics as safeguarding, infection prevention and control, fire safety, health and safety and confidentiality.
- The practice could demonstrate how they ensured role-specific training and updating for relevant staff. For example, for those reviewing patients with long-term conditions.
- Staff administering vaccines and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training which had included an assessment of competence. Staff who administered vaccines could demonstrate how they stayed up to date with changes to the immunisation programmes, for example by access to on line resources and discussion at practice meetings.
- The learning needs of staff were identified through a system of appraisals, meetings and reviews of practice development needs. Staff had access to appropriate training to meet their learning needs and to cover the scope of their work. This included ongoing support,

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

one-to-one meetings, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision and facilitation and support for revalidating GPs. All staff had received an appraisal within the last 12 months.

- Staff received training that included: safeguarding, fire safety awareness, basic life support and information governance. Staff had access to and made use of e-learning training modules and in-house training.

Coordinating patient care and information sharing

The information needed to plan and deliver care and treatment was available to relevant staff in a timely and accessible way through the practice's patient record system and their intranet system.

- This included care and risk assessments, care plans, medical records and investigation and test results.
- The practice shared relevant information with other services in a timely way, for example when referring patients to other services.

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs and to assess and plan ongoing care and treatment. This included when patients moved between services, including when they were referred, or after they were discharged from hospital. Meetings took place with other health care professionals on a monthly basis when care plans were routinely reviewed and updated for patients with complex needs.

Consent to care and treatment

Staff sought patients' consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

- Staff understood the relevant consent and decision-making requirements of legislation and guidance, including the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- When providing care and treatment for children and young people, staff carried out assessments of capacity to consent in line with relevant guidance.
- Where a patient's mental capacity to consent to care or treatment was unclear the GP or practice nurse assessed the patient's capacity and, recorded the outcome of the assessment.

Supporting patients to live healthier lives

The practice identified patients who may be in need of extra support. For example:

- Patients receiving end of life care, carers, those at risk of developing a long-term condition and those requiring advice on their diet, smoking and alcohol cessation. Patients were signposted to the relevant service.

The practice's uptake for the cervical screening programme was 75%, which was slightly below the CCG average of 77% and the national average of 82%. There was a policy to offer telephone reminders for patients who did not attend for their cervical screening test. The practice demonstrated how they encouraged uptake of the screening programme by ensuring a female sample taker was available. There were failsafe systems in place to ensure results were received for all samples sent for the cervical screening programme and the practice followed up women who were referred as a result of abnormal results. The practice also encouraged its patients to attend national screening programmes for bowel and breast cancer screening.

Childhood immunisation rates for the vaccinations given were comparable to CCG averages, however below national averages. For example, childhood immunisation rates for the vaccinations given to under two year olds ranged from 24% to 91% (CCG 21% to 91%, national 73% to 95%) and five year olds from 25% to 93% (CCG 20% to 93%, national 81% to 95%).

The practice were aware that immunisation and cervical screening uptake were areas for improvement and with the recent employment of a second nurse the practice said this would be addressed.

Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks. These included health checks for new patients and NHS health checks for patients aged 40–74. Appropriate follow-ups for the outcomes of health assessments and checks were made, where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.

Are services caring?

Our findings

Kindness, dignity, respect and compassion

We observed members of staff were courteous and very helpful to patients and treated them with dignity and respect.

- Curtains were provided in consulting rooms to maintain patients' privacy and dignity during examinations, investigations and treatments.
- We noted that consultation and treatment room doors were closed during consultations; conversations taking place in these rooms could not be overheard.
- Reception staff knew when patients wanted to discuss sensitive issues or appeared distressed they could offer them a private room to discuss their needs.

All of the four patient Care Quality Commission comment cards we received were positive about the service experienced. Patients said they felt the practice offered an excellent service and staff were helpful, caring and treated them with dignity and respect.

We spoke with one member of the patient participation group (PPG). They also told us they were satisfied with the care provided by the practice and said their dignity and privacy was respected. Comment cards highlighted that staff responded compassionately when they needed help and provided support when required.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed patients felt they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect. The practice was in line with local and national averages for its satisfaction scores on consultations with GPs and nurses. For example:

- 89% of patients said the GP was good at listening to them compared to the clinical commissioning group (CCG) average of 88% and the national average of 89%.
- 82% of patients said the GP gave them enough time compared to the CCG average of 85% and the national average of 87%.
- 97% of patients said they had confidence and trust in the last GP they saw compared to the CCG average of 96% and the national average of 95%.
- 79% of patients said the last GP they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern compared to the CCG average of 83% and the national average of 85%.

- 91% of patients said the last nurse they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern compared to the CCG average of 85% and the national average of 91%.
- 87% of patients said they found the receptionists at the practice helpful compared to the CCG average of 84% and the national average of 87%.

Care planning and involvement in decisions about care and treatment

Patients told us they felt involved in decision making about the care and treatment they received. They also told us they felt listened to and supported by staff and had sufficient time during consultations to make an informed decision about the choice of treatment available to them. Patient feedback from the comment cards we received was also positive and aligned with these views. We also saw that care plans were personalised.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed patients responded positively to questions about their involvement in planning and making decisions about their care and treatment. Results were in line with local and national averages. For example:

- 89% of patients said the last GP they saw was good at explaining tests and treatments compared to the CCG average of 85% and the national average of 86%.
- 75% of patients said the last GP they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care compared to the CCG average of 79% and the national average of 82%.
- 83% of patients said the last nurse they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care compared to the CCG average of 79% and the national average of 85%.

The practice provided facilities to help patients be involved in decisions about their care:

- Staff told us that translation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language. We saw notices in the reception areas informing patients this service was available.
- Information leaflets were available in easy read format.

Patient and carer support to cope emotionally with care and treatment

Are services caring?

Patient information leaflets and notices were available in the patient waiting area which told patients how to access a number of support groups and organisations. Information about support groups was also available on the practice website.

The practice's computer system alerted GPs if a patient was also a carer. The practice had identified 140 patients as carers (1% of the practice list). Written information was

available to direct carers to the various avenues of support available to them. The practice had also established a carers support group and held regular coffee mornings to provide support for them.

Staff told us that if families had suffered bereavement, their usual GP contacted them or sent them a sympathy card. This call was either followed by a patient consultation at a flexible time and location to meet the family's needs and/or by giving them advice on how to find a support service.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice reviewed the needs of its local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to secure improvements to services where these were identified. For example, the practice participated in the CCG whole systems integrated care scheme to provide integrated care to older patients.

- The practice offered a 'Commuter's Clinic' on a Tuesday evening until 8pm and alternate Saturday mornings for working patients who could not attend during normal opening hours.
- There were longer appointments available for patients with a learning disability.
- Home visits were available for older patients and patients who had clinical needs which resulted in difficulty attending the practice.
- Same day appointments were available for children and those patients with medical problems that require same day consultation.
- Patients were able to receive travel vaccinations available on the NHS and were referred to other clinics for vaccines available privately.
- There were disabled facilities and translation services available including access to services for those patients hard of hearing. Staff also spoke a range of languages including Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish and German.
- Dedicated GPs provided care and treatment for residents in over ten nursing and care homes where older patients and patients with learning disabilities lived.
- There was an appointment text reminder service and online messaging service for non-urgent enquiries.
- The practice demonstrated a strong ethos of advocating for their patients which was exemplified by over 30 case reviews presented to us at our inspection. The case reviews were examples of exceptional care provided in managing and supporting vulnerable patients. These included patients experiencing poor mental health, patients with learning disabilities and those receiving treatment for substance misuse.

Access to the service

The practice was open between 8am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Appointments were from 9am to 11.30am every

morning and 3pm to 6pm daily. Extended hours appointments were offered on a Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8pm and alternate Saturday mornings from the branch practice. In addition to pre-bookable appointments that could be booked up to four weeks in advance, urgent appointments were also available for people that needed them. Telephone lines were open throughout the opening hours and patients were referred to NHS 111 services for out-of-hours care.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed that patient's satisfaction with how they could access care and treatment were below local and national averages.

- 68% of patients were satisfied with the practice's opening hours compared to the CCG average of 73% and the national average of 78%.
- 49% of patients said they could get through easily to the practice by phone compared to the CCG average of 64% and the national average of 73%.
- 65% of patients described their experience of making an appointment as good compared to the CCG average of 67% and national average of 73%.
- 28% of patients usually got to see or speak to their preferred GP compared to the CCG average of 49% and the national average of 59%.

Although these results were below average since our last inspection the practice had taken steps to improve patient satisfaction. For example, the ease of getting through by phone had improved by 15%, and the number of patients who described their experience of making an appointment as good had improved by 23%. Two additional GPs had been employed to improve continuity of care and extra appointment slots made available including telephone consultations and as a result the number of patients who got to see their preferred GP had improved by 16%.

The practice had a system in place to assess whether a home visit was clinically necessary and the urgency of the need for medical attention which was the decision of the duty doctor. In cases where the urgency of need was so great that it would be inappropriate for the patient to wait for a GP home visit, alternative emergency care arrangements were made. Clinical and non-clinical staff were aware of their responsibilities when managing requests for home visits.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

Are services responsive to people's needs? (for example, to feedback?)

The practice had an effective system in place for handling complaints and concerns.

- Its complaints policy and procedures were in line with recognised guidance and contractual obligations for GPs in England.
- There was a designated responsible person who handled all complaints in the practice.
- We saw that information was available to help patients understand the complaints system including posters in the waiting area and information on the practice website.

We looked at six complaints received in the last 12 months and found they were satisfactorily handled and dealt with in a timely way. Lessons were learnt from individual concerns and complaints and also from analysis of trends and action was taken to as a result to improve the quality of care. For example, a patient complained that their medical records contained inaccurate information and requested they were amended. A meeting was organised with the patient to explain that the practice was unable to delete historic information from medical records but took action to ensure current information was accurate. The issue was discussed in a staff meeting and staff were updated on the guidelines for this matter.

Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

Our findings

Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients.

- The practice had a mission statement and staff knew and understood the values.
- The practice had a robust strategy and supporting business plans which reflected the vision and values and were regularly monitored.

Governance arrangements

The practice had an overarching governance framework which supported the delivery of the strategy and good quality care. This outlined the structures and procedures in place and ensured that:

- There was a clear staffing structure and that staff were aware of their own roles and responsibilities.
- Practice specific policies were implemented and were available to all staff.
- A comprehensive understanding of the performance of the practice was maintained.
- A programme of continuous clinical and internal audit was used to monitor quality and to make improvements.
- There were robust arrangements for identifying, recording and managing risks, issues and implementing mitigating actions.

Leadership and culture

On the day of inspection the partners in the practice demonstrated they had the experience, capacity and capability to run the practice and ensure high quality care. They told us they prioritised safe, high quality and compassionate care. Staff told us the partners were approachable and always took the time to listen to all members of staff.

The provider was aware of and had systems in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour. (The duty of candour is a set of specific legal requirements that providers of services must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment). This included support training for all staff on communicating with

patients about notifiable safety incidents. The partners encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place to ensure that when things went wrong with care and treatment:

- The practice gave affected people reasonable support, truthful information and a verbal and written apology
- The practice kept written records of verbal interactions as well as written correspondence.

There was a clear leadership structure in place and staff felt supported by management.

- Staff told us the practice held regular team meetings.
- Staff told us there was an open culture within the practice and they had the opportunity to raise any issues at team meetings and felt confident and supported in doing so.
- Staff said they felt respected, valued and supported, particularly by the partners in the practice. All staff were involved in discussions about how to run and develop the practice, and the partners encouraged all members of staff to identify opportunities to improve the service delivered by the practice.

Seeking and acting on feedback from patients, the public and staff

The practice encouraged and valued feedback from patients, the public and staff. It proactively sought patients' feedback and engaged patients in the delivery of the service.

- The practice had gathered feedback from patients through the patient participation group (PPG) and through surveys and complaints received. The PPG met regularly, carried out patient surveys and submitted proposals for improvements to the practice management team. For example, the practice had introduced a text messaging service and updated the magazines in the waiting area as a result of feedback from the PPG.
- The practice had gathered feedback from staff through staff meetings, appraisals and discussion. Staff told us they would not hesitate to give feedback and discuss any concerns or issues with colleagues and management. Staff told us they felt involved and engaged to improve how the practice was run.

Continuous improvement

Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels within the practice. The practice team was forward thinking and part of local pilot schemes to improve outcomes for patients in the area. For example,

the practice had participated in a CCG practice pharmacy project. The practice were also participating in a local scheme to deliver improved care to patients with learning disabilities.