

Care Quality Commission

Inspection Evidence Table

Newcastle Medical Centre (1-3017488527)

Inspection date: 8 June 2021

Date of data download: 11 May 2021

Overall rating: Good

At our last inspection in December 2019 we rated this service as Requires Improvement. This was because of poor performance against clinical indicators and the need to develop leadership arrangements. During this inspection we did see evidence of improvement, particularly in the population groups. However, while the practice has made some improvement in its leadership and its approach to its patient population its performance has yet to be reflected in all of the nationally agreed indicators. For this reason we are rating the practice as Requires Improvement in Effective but at the same time recognise the positive changes made in its practice management.

Please note: Any Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) data relates to 2019/20.

Safe

Rating: Good

Safety systems and processes

The practice had clear systems, practices and processes to keep people safe and safeguarded from abuse.

Safeguarding	Y/N/Partial
There was a lead member of staff for safeguarding processes and procedures.	Y
Safeguarding systems, processes and practices were developed, implemented and communicated to staff.	Y
There were policies covering adult and child safeguarding which were accessible to all staff.	Y
Policies and procedures were monitored, reviewed and updated.	Y
Partners and staff were trained to appropriate levels for their role.	Y
There was active and appropriate engagement in local safeguarding processes.	Y
The Out of Hours service was informed of relevant safeguarding information.	Y
There were systems to identify vulnerable patients on record.	Y
Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were undertaken where required.	Y
Staff who acted as chaperones were trained for their role.	Y

Safeguarding	Y/N/Partial
There were regular discussions between the practice and other health and social care professionals such as health visitors, school nurses, community midwives and social workers to support and protect adults and children at risk of significant harm.	Y
Explanation of any answers and additional evidence: Staff were able to identify the safeguarding leads within the practice and were aware how to alert them to any issues or concerns.	

Recruitment systems	Y/N/Partial
Recruitment checks were carried out in accordance with regulations (including for agency staff and locums).	Y
Staff vaccination was maintained in line with current Public Health England (PHE) guidance if relevant to role.	Y
There were systems to ensure the registration of clinical staff (including nurses and pharmacists) was checked and regularly monitored.	Y

Safety systems and records	Y/N/Partial
There was a record of portable appliance testing or visual inspection by a competent person. Date of last inspection/test: February 2021	Y
There was a record of equipment calibration. Date of last calibration: October 2020	Y
There were risk assessments for any storage of hazardous substances for example, liquid nitrogen, storage of chemicals.	Y
There was a fire procedure.	Y
A fire risk assessment had been completed. Date of completion: February 2021	Y
Actions from fire risk assessment were identified and completed.	Y

Health and safety	Y/N/Partial
Premises/security risk assessment had been carried out. Date of last assessment: January 2021	Y
Health and safety risk assessments had been carried out and appropriate actions taken. Date of last assessment: January 2021	Y

Infection prevention and control

Appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene were met.

	Y/N/Partial
There was an infection risk assessment and policy.	Y
Staff had received effective training on infection prevention and control.	Y
Infection prevention and control audits were carried out. Date of last infection prevention and control audit:	Y
The practice had acted on any issues identified in infection prevention and control audits.	Y
There was a system to notify Public Health England of suspected notifiable diseases.	Y
The arrangements for managing waste and clinical specimens kept people safe.	Y

Risks to patients

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

	Y/N/Partial
There was an effective approach to managing staff absences and busy periods.	Y
There was an effective induction system for temporary staff tailored to their role.	Y
The practice was equipped to respond to medical emergencies (including suspected sepsis) and staff were suitably trained in emergency procedures.	Y
Receptionists were aware of actions to take if they encountered a deteriorating or acutely unwell patient and had been given guidance on identifying such patients.	Y

Information to deliver safe care and treatment

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

	Y/N/Partial
Individual care records, including clinical data, were written and managed securely and in line with current guidance and relevant legislation.	Y
There was a system for processing information relating to new patients including the summarising of new patient notes.	Y
There were systems for sharing information with staff and other agencies to enable them to deliver safe care and treatment.	Y
Referrals to specialist services were documented, contained the required information and there was a system to monitor delays in referrals.	Y
There was a documented approach to the management of test results and this was managed in a timely manner.	Y
There was appropriate clinical oversight of test results, including when reviewed by non-clinical staff.	Y

Appropriate and safe use of medicines

The practice had systems for the appropriate and safe use of medicines, including medicines optimisation

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
Number of antibacterial prescription items prescribed per Specific Therapeutic group Age-sex Related Prescribing Unit (STAR PU) (01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020) <small>(NHS Business Service Authority - NHSBSA)</small>	0.23	0.87	0.76	Significant Variation (positive)
The number of prescription items for co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins and quinolones as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for selected antibacterial drugs (BNF 5.1 sub-set). (01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020) <small>(NHSBSA)</small>	6.2%	8.3%	9.5%	Tending towards variation (positive)

Medicines management	Y/N/Partial
The practice ensured medicines were stored safely and securely with access restricted to authorised staff.	Y
Blank prescriptions were kept securely, and their use monitored in line with national guidance.	Y
Staff had the appropriate authorisations to administer medicines (including Patient Group Directions or Patient Specific Directions).	Y
The practice could demonstrate the prescribing competence of non-medical prescribers, and there was regular review of their prescribing practice supported by clinical supervision or peer review.	Y
There was a process for the safe handling of requests for repeat medicines and evidence of structured medicines reviews for patients on repeat medicines.	Y
The practice had a process and clear audit trail for the management of information about changes to a patient's medicines including changes made by other services.	Y
There was a process for monitoring patients' health in relation to the use of medicines including high risk medicines (for example, warfarin, methotrexate and lithium) with appropriate monitoring and clinical review prior to prescribing.	Y
The practice monitored the prescribing of controlled drugs. (For example, investigation of unusual prescribing, quantities, dose, formulations and strength).	Y
There were arrangements for raising concerns around controlled drugs with the NHS England Area Team Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer.	Y

Medicines management	Y/N/Partial
If the practice had controlled drugs on the premises there were appropriate systems and written procedures for the safe ordering, receipt, storage, administration, balance checks and disposal of these medicines, which were in line with national guidance.	Y
The practice had taken steps to ensure appropriate antimicrobial use to optimise patient outcomes and reduce the risk of adverse events and antimicrobial resistance.	Y
For remote or online prescribing there were effective protocols for verifying patient identity.	Y
The practice held appropriate emergency medicines, risk assessments were in place to determine the range of medicines held, and a system was in place to monitor stock levels and expiry dates.	Y
There was medical oxygen and a defibrillator on site and systems to ensure these were regularly checked and fit for use.	Y
Vaccines were appropriately stored, monitored and transported in line with PHE guidance to ensure they remained safe and effective.	Y

Track record on safety and lessons learned and improvements made

The practice learned and made improvements when things went wrong.

Significant events	Y/N/Partial
The practice monitored and reviewed safety using information from a variety of sources.	Y
Staff knew how to identify and report concerns, safety incidents and near misses.	Y
There was a system for recording and acting on significant events.	Y
Staff understood how to raise concerns and report incidents both internally and externally.	Y
There was evidence of learning and dissemination of information.	Y
Number of events recorded in last 12 months:	17
Number of events that required action:	17

Example(s) of significant events recorded and actions by the practice.

Event	Specific action taken
Telephone system failed due to a national network issue	The practice reflected on this issue and concluded staff were unaware of how to report issues around the telephone system in a timely manner and recognised they needed to develop a robust mobile phone based back up system.

Issue with swabbing identified via local accident and emergency department.	A query was raised as to whether swabs were being taken correctly at the practice. The practice nursing team identified the need for additional training and information to ensure a consistent approach.
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Safety alerts	Y/N/Partial
There was a system for recording and acting on safety alerts.	Y
Staff understood how to deal with alerts.	Y
We saw examples of actions taken on recent alerts for example, regarding sodium valproate. There were systems in place to ensure all clinicians were aware of safety alerts and compliance was monitored by clinical audits, which were overseen by the practice pharmacist.	

Effective improvement

Rating:

Requires

We rated Effective as Requires Improvement because attainment levels for some areas of clinical practice continued to be lower than local and national averages.

Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

Patients' needs were not always assessed, and care and treatment was not always delivered in line with current legislation, standards and evidence-based guidance supported by clear pathways and tools.

	Y/N/Partial
The practice had systems and processes to keep clinicians up to date with current evidence-based practice.	Y
Patients' immediate and ongoing needs were fully assessed. This included their clinical needs and their mental and physical wellbeing.	N
Patients presenting with symptoms which could indicate serious illness were followed up in a timely and appropriate way.	Y
We saw no evidence of discrimination when staff made care and treatment decisions.	Y
Patients' treatment was regularly reviewed and updated.	Y
There were appropriate referral pathways to make sure that patients' needs were addressed.	Y
Patients were told when they needed to seek further help and what to do if their condition deteriorated.	Y

Any additional evidence or comments

The practice recognised they had not always been able to meet patients ongoing needs or carry out assessments due to the limitations placed on the practice by the pandemic. Cervical screening figures were historically poor and though the practice had recovery plans in place they had been unable to implement these in full due to the the pandemic restrictions.

Older people

Population group rating: Good

Findings

- The practice used a clinical tool to identify older patients who were living with moderate or severe frailty. Those identified received a full assessment of their physical, mental and social needs.
- The practice followed up on older patients discharged from hospital. It ensured that their care plans and prescriptions were updated to reflect any extra or changed needs.
- The practice carried out annual medicines reviews for older patients and currently are planning to adopt a structured annual check known as 'year of care'.
- Staff had appropriate knowledge of treating older people including their psychological, mental and communication needs.

- The practice offered telephone calls to older people who did not want to attend the practice during the pandemic.
- Health checks, including frailty assessments, were offered to patients over 75 years of age.
- Flu, shingles and pneumonia vaccinations were offered to relevant patients in this age group.

People with long-term conditions

Population group rating: Good

Findings

- Patients with long-term conditions were offered an annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being met. For patients with the most complex needs, the GP worked with other health and care professionals to deliver a coordinated package of care.
- Staff who were responsible for reviews of patients with long-term conditions had received specific training.
- GPs followed up patients who had received treatment in hospital or through out of hours services for an acute exacerbation of asthma.
- The practice shared clear and accurate information with relevant professionals when deciding care delivery for patients with long-term conditions.
- The practice could demonstrate how they identified patients with commonly undiagnosed conditions, for example diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), atrial fibrillation and hypertension.
- Adults with newly diagnosed cardio-vascular disease were offered statins.
- Patients with suspected hypertension were offered ambulatory blood pressure monitoring.
- Patients with atrial fibrillation were assessed for stroke risk and treated appropriately.
- Patients with COPD were offered rescue packs.
- Patients with asthma were offered an asthma management plan.
- The practice offered telephone reviews during the pandemic where appropriate.

Long-term conditions	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients aged 79 years or under with coronary heart disease in whom the last blood pressure reading (measured in the preceding 12 months) is 140/90 mmHg or less (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) <small>(QOF)</small>	80.0%	83.8%	82.0%	No statistical variation

Findings

- The practice has not met the minimum 90% for childhood immunisation uptake indicators. The practice has not met the WHO based national target of 95% (the recommended standard for achieving herd immunity) for childhood immunisation uptake indicators.
- The practice contacted the parents or guardians of children due to have childhood immunisations.
- The practice had arrangements for following up failed attendance of children's appointments following an appointment in secondary care or for immunisation and would liaise with health visitors when necessary.
- The practice had arrangements to identify and review the treatment of newly pregnant women on long-term medicines. These patients were provided with advice and post-natal support in accordance with best practice guidance.
- Young people could access services for sexual health and contraception.
- Staff had the appropriate skills and training to carry out reviews for this population group.
- The practice had a nominated administration lead for childhood immunisations
- The practice offered appointments for childhood vaccinations during all opening hours so were able to fit round school and work times

Child Immunisation	Numerator	Denominator	Practice %	Comparison to WHO target of 95%
The percentage of children aged 1 who have completed a primary course of immunisation for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Pertussis, Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), Hepatitis B (Hep B) ((i.e. three doses of DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB) (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) (NHS England)	21	27	77.8%	Below 80% uptake
The percentage of children aged 2 who have received their booster immunisation for Pneumococcal infection (i.e. received Pneumococcal booster) (PCV booster) (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) (NHS England)	23	27	85.2%	Below 90% minimum
The percentage of children aged 2 who have received their immunisation for Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) and Meningitis C (MenC) (i.e. received Hib/MenC booster) (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) (NHS England)	23	27	85.2%	Below 90% minimum
The percentage of children aged 2 who have received immunisation for measles, mumps and rubella (one dose of MMR) (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) (NHS England)	23	27	85.2%	Below 90% minimum

Any additional evidence or comments

The practice had adopted different strategies to encourage parents to bring their children for their immunisations. Having identified key demographics within the practice patient list interpreters had been utilised and letters had been sent out in different languages. In addition the practice had simplified the system for receiving immunisation. Appointments were available at all times rather than limited to specific clinics.

The practice acknowledged the difficulties in improving their performance during the pandemic but had recovery plans in place. The practice has made some significant changes with the way it engages with families, however their efforts are yet to be reflected in the immunisation rates. For this reason we are recommending the practice continue with their work to improve the immunisation programme.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students)

Population group rating: Requires improvement

Findings

- The practice had systems to inform eligible patients to have the meningitis vaccine, for example before attending university for the first time.
- Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks including NHS checks for patients aged 40 to 74. There was appropriate and timely follow-up on the outcome of health assessments and checks where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.
- Patients could book or cancel appointments online and order repeat medicines without the need to attend the surgery.
- Telephone and video calls were available.
- Saturday appointments were available.

Cancer Indicators	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of women eligible for cervical cancer screening at a given point in time who were screened adequately within a specified period (within 3.5 years for women aged 25 to 49, and within 5.5 years for women aged 50 to 64). (Snapshot date: 31/12/2020) (Public Health England)	25.4%	N/A	80% Target	Below 70% uptake
Females, 50-70, screened for breast cancer in last 36 months (3 year coverage, %) (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) (PHE)	64.6%	71.7%	70.1%	N/A
Persons, 60-74, screened for bowel cancer in last 30 months (2.5 year coverage, %)(01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) (PHE)	53.4%	N/A	63.8%	N/A
(to) (QoF)		-	-	N/A
Number of new cancer cases treated (Detection rate: % of which resulted from a two week wait (TWW) referral) (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) (PHE)	42.9%	54.0%	54.2%	No statistical variation

Any additional evidence or comments

The practice presented unverified figures for person, 60-74, screened for bowel cancer. Their figures showed the practice had achieved 91%.

In terms of cervical cancer screening the practice acknowledged this remained unacceptably low and had been for quite some time. However, the practice had presented an action plan to the CQC prior to the pandemic and this plan had been developed further. It included measures such as understanding the patient demographic in more detail than previously. The practice were able to show they could target ethnic minorities using a range of interventions including appropriate interpreters and language within

correspondence. In addition the practice planned various health promotions and putting on additional womens clinics. This would be led by the nursing team with the support of social prescribers at the practice using a variety of interventions and IT solutions. The practice since the last inspection in December 2019 had undertaken significant changes to their approach with cervical cancer screening within their patient population. Despite these efforts the screening rates were yet to improve. For this reason we are supporting the practice to continue their work to address the unacceptable low rates of cervical cancer screening.

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable

Population group rating: **Good**

Findings

- Same day appointments and longer appointments were offered when required.
- All patients with a learning disability were offered an annual health check. We have an LD audit in place at the practice and an admin lead for LD
- End of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of those whose circumstances may make them vulnerable.
- The practice had a system for vaccinating patients with an underlying medical condition according to the recommended schedule.
- The practice demonstrated that they had a system to identify people who misused substances.
- The practice has a homeless lead supported by a Patient Participation Group (PPG) member.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

Population group rating: **Good**

Findings

- The practice assessed and monitored the physical health of people with mental illness, severe mental illness, and personality disorder by providing access to health checks, interventions for physical activity, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and access to 'stop smoking' services.
- Same day and longer appointments were offered when required.
- There was a system for following up patients who failed to attend for administration of long-term medicines.
- When patients were assessed to be at risk of suicide or self-harm the practice had arrangements in place to help them to remain safe.
- Patients at risk of dementia were identified and offered an assessment to detect possible signs of dementia. When dementia was suspected there was an appropriate referral for diagnosis.
- All staff had received dementia training and were 'dementia friends'. Becoming a dementia friends means finding out more about dementia and how it affects people.
- Patients with poor mental health, including dementia, were referred to appropriate services.
- The practice reviewed third sector mental health providers in the area and were aware to access them on behalf of patients.
- The practice worked closely with their university partners to ensure students had access to mental health support.

Mental Health Indicators	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses who have a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the record, in the preceding 12 months (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) <small>(QOF)</small>	74.2%	83.5%	85.4%	No statistical variation
PCA rate (number of PCAs).	13.9% (5)	14.5%	16.6%	N/A
The percentage of patients diagnosed with dementia whose care plan has been reviewed in a face-to-face review in the preceding 12 months (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020) <small>(QOF)</small>	100.0%	81.6%	81.4%	No statistical variation
PCA rate (number of PCAs).	()	-		N/A

Monitoring care and treatment

The practice had a comprehensive programme of quality improvement activity and routinely reviewed the effectiveness and appropriateness of the care provided.

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average
Overall QOF score (out of maximum 559)	498.8	Not Available	533.9
Overall QOF score (as a percentage of maximum)	89.2%	Not Available	95.5%
Overall QOF PCA reporting (all domains)	6.5%	Not Available	5.9%

	Y/N/Partial
Clinicians took part in national and local quality improvement initiatives.	Y
The practice had a programme of targeted quality improvement and used information about care and treatment to make improvements.	Y
The practice regularly reviewed unplanned admissions and readmissions and took appropriate action.	Y

Examples of improvements demonstrated because of clinical audits or other improvement activity in past two years

The practice had reviewed the way it monitored patients with mental health issues and their medicines. They had implemented a new system to ensure patients were recalled for reviews in a timely manner and their medicines were appropriately monitored, or changed, in line with current guidance.

Effective staffing

The practice was able staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out their roles.

	Y/N/Partial
Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care, support and treatment.	Y
The practice had a programme of learning and development.	Y
Staff had protected time for learning and development.	Y
There was an induction programme for new staff.	Y
Staff had access to regular appraisals, one to ones, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision and revalidation. They were supported to meet the requirements of professional revalidation.	Y
The practice could demonstrate how they assured the competence of staff employed in advanced clinical practice, for example, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists and physician associates.	Y
There was a clear and appropriate approach for supporting and managing staff when their performance was poor or variable.	Y
The practice had comprehensive training records in place. There was evidence of development including staff completing a care certificate and the practice manager being able to access a management qualification.	

Coordinating care and treatment

Staff worked together and with other organisations to deliver effective care and treatment.

Indicator	Y/N/Partial
Care was delivered and reviewed in a coordinated way when different teams, services or organisations were involved.	Y
Patients received consistent, coordinated, person-centred care when they moved between services.	Y

Helping patients to live healthier lives

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

	Y/N/Partial
The practice identified patients who may need extra support and directed them to relevant services. This included patients in the last 12 months of their lives, patients at risk of developing a long-term condition and carers.	Y
Staff encouraged and supported patients to be involved in monitoring and managing their own health.	Y
Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks.	Y
Staff discussed changes to care or treatment with patients and their carers as necessary.	Y
The practice supported national priorities and initiatives to improve the population's health, for example, stop smoking campaigns and tackling obesity.	Y

Consent to care and treatment

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

	Y/N/Partial
Clinicians understood the requirements of legislation and guidance when considering consent and decision making. We saw that consent was documented.	Y
Clinicians supported patients to make decisions. Where appropriate, they assessed and recorded a patient's mental capacity to make a decision.	Y
Do Not Attempt Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) decisions were made in line with relevant legislation and were appropriate.	Y

Caring

Rating: Good

Kindness, respect and compassion

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion. Feedback from patients was positive about the way staff treated people.

	Y/N/Partial
Staff understood and respected the personal, cultural, social and religious needs of patients.	Y
Staff displayed understanding and a non-judgemental attitude towards patients.	Y
Patients were given appropriate and timely information to cope emotionally with their care, treatment or condition.	Y

National GP Survey results

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that the last time they had a general practice appointment, the healthcare professional was good or very good at listening to them (01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020)	84.5%	89.0%	88.5%	No statistical variation
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that the last time they had a general practice appointment, the healthcare professional was good or very good at treating them with care and concern (01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020)	76.8%	88.1%	87.0%	Tending towards variation (negative)
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that during their last GP appointment they had confidence and trust in the healthcare professional they saw or spoke to (01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020)	92.6%	95.0%	95.3%	No statistical variation
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who responded positively to the overall experience of their GP practice (01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020)	55.1%	81.8%	81.8%	Variation (negative)

Question	Y/N
The practice carries out its own patient survey/patient feedback exercises.	Y

Any additional evidence
The practice were looking at ways of promoting the patient satisfaction survey to people in the hope this would increase the uptake which they felt was too low to give an accurate representation of their service. They had went to local organisations including Healthwatch to examine ways to improve the patient experience. Measures currently in place included an ongoing review of patient access to appointments and targeted flu clinics, the date and times of which were patient led.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

Staff helped patients to be involved in decisions about care and treatment.

	Y/N/Partial
Staff communicated with patients in a way that helped them to understand their care, treatment and condition, and any advice given.	Y
Staff helped patients and their carers find further information and access community and advocacy services.	Y
Explanation of any answers and additional evidence: Easy read and pictorial materials were available as well as interpreters and interpreted correspondence.	

National GP Survey results

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that during their last GP appointment they were involved as much as they wanted to be in decisions about their care and treatment (01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020)	77.7%	92.7%	93.0%	Significant Variation (negative)

Any additional evidence or comments
The practice acknowledged the result of the patient survey was not as good as they had hoped. In response to it they analysed the outcomes and carried out surveys of their own. They identified the large amount of students on their patient list, who had previously been positive about the service they received, were not present due to covid restrictions at the time both internal and external surveys were carried out. The practice believed there would be improvement once students returned to university. We will continue to monitor this.

	Y/N/Partial
Interpretation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language.	Y
Patient information leaflets and notices were available in the patient waiting area which told patients how to access support groups and organisations.	Y
Information leaflets were available in other languages and in easy read format.	Y
Information about support groups was available on the practice website.	Y

Carers	Narrative
Percentage and number of carers identified.	31 equating to 0.18% of the practice population. This was a marginal improvement on previous figures but remains a low number of carers for a practice of this size.
How the practice supported carers (including young carers).	The practice had identified carers champions and had established links with the local carers centre. In addition social prescribers were able to provide direct support this included direct telephone contact over the pandemic.
How the practice supported recently bereaved patients.	Bereaved families were contacted by their most well known GP and referrals to bereavement counselling services were made available.

Privacy and dignity

The practice respected patients' privacy and dignity.

	Y/N/Partial
Curtains were provided in consulting rooms to maintain patients' privacy and dignity during examinations, investigations and treatments.	Y
Consultation and treatment room doors were closed during consultations.	Y
A private room was available if patients were distressed or wanted to discuss sensitive issues.	Y
There were arrangements to ensure confidentiality at the reception desk.	Y

Responsive

Rating: Good

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs.

	Y/N/Partial
The practice understood the needs of its local population and had developed services in response to those needs.	Y
The importance of flexibility, informed choice and continuity of care was reflected in the services provided.	Y
The facilities and premises were appropriate for the services being delivered.	Y
The practice made reasonable adjustments when patients found it hard to access services.	Y
There were arrangements in place for people who need translation services.	Y
The practice complied with the Accessible Information Standard.	Y
Explanation of any answers and additional evidence: The practice was constantly reviewing access to the practice and how patients could access appointments suitable to their needs. During the pandemic they had managed to offer over 6000 face to face appointments.	

Practice Opening Times	
Day	Time
Opening times:	
Monday	8.00-6.30
Tuesday	8.00-6.30
Wednesday	8.00-6.30
Thursday	8.00-6.30
Friday	8.00-6.30
Appointments available:	
Monday	8.00 – 1.00 and 1.30-6.00
Tuesday	8.00 – 1.00 and 1.30-6.00
Wednesday	8.00 – 1.00 and 1.30-6.00
Thursday	8.00 – 1.00 and 1.30-6.00
Friday	8.00 – 1.00 and 1.30-6.00

Older people

Population group rating: Good

Findings

- All patients had a named GP who supported them in whatever setting they lived.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older patients and offered home visits and urgent appointments for those with enhanced needs and complex medical issues.
- The practice provided effective care coordination to enable older patients to access appropriate services.

People with long-term conditions

Population group rating: Good

Findings

- The practice had plans in place so that patients with multiple conditions would have their needs reviewed in one appointment.
- The practice provided effective care coordination to enable patients with long-term conditions to access appropriate services.
- The practice liaised regularly with the local district nursing team and community matrons to discuss and manage the needs of patients with complex medical issues.
- Care and treatment for people with long-term conditions approaching the end of life was coordinated with other services.
- The practice were able to provide additional home visits in liaison with their primary care network (PCN).

Families, children and young people

Population group rating: Good

Findings

- Additional nurse appointments were available on Saturdays until 1pm and also weekdays until 6pm to allow people with school age children to attend
- The practice had systems to identify and follow up children living in disadvantaged circumstances and who were at risk, for example, children and young people who had a high number of accident and emergency (A&E) attendances. They communicated with parents and sent them child health books and letters about opening times and services.
- All parents or guardians calling with concerns about a child were offered a same day appointment when necessary.
- There was evidence of good communication with health visitor and midwife teams re safeguarding
- Child vaccination clinics were available during opening hours and not set times to ensure the practice could benefit working parents or parents with other children.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students)

Population group rating: Good

Findings

- The needs of this population group had been identified and the practice had adjusted the services it offered to ensure these were accessible, flexible and offered continuity of care.
- Clinic times from 8.00-6pm and also Saturday clinics available with a Nurse, GP and HCA between 9.00-1.00
- Health checks were offered
- Online access for appointments were available for ordering medication and viewing medical records.

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable

Population group rating: Good

Findings

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people, Travellers and those with a learning disability.
- People in vulnerable circumstances were easily able to register with the practice, including those with no fixed abode such as homeless people and Travellers. The practice had a homelessness lead and support from local volunteers who are registered patients.
- The practice provided effective care coordination to enable patients living in vulnerable circumstances to access appropriate services.
- The practice adjusted the delivery of its services to meet the needs of patients with a learning disability.
- There was two 'dementia champions' at the practice and staff and patient participation group members were trained as 'dementia friends'.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

Population group rating: Good

Findings

- Priority appointments were allocated when necessary to those experiencing poor mental health.
- The practice was aware of support groups within the area and signposted their patients to these accordingly.
- The practice used a text messaging service to contact Mental health patients and signpost them to local support groups and services.
- The practice had identified specific roles for staff to support people with their mental health.

Access to the service

People were able to access care and treatment in a timely way.

National GP Survey results

	Y/N/Partial
There was information available for patients to support them to understand how to access services (including on websites and telephone messages).	Y
Patients were able to make appointments in a way which met their needs.	Y
The practice offered a range of appointment types to suit different needs (e.g. face to face, telephone, online).	Y
There were systems in place to support patients who face communication barriers to access treatment.	Y
Patients with urgent needs had their care prioritised.	Y
The practice had systems to ensure patients were directed to the most appropriate person to respond to their immediate needs.	Y
Explanation of any answers and additional evidence:	

Indicator	Practice	CCG average	England average	England comparison
(to)		N/A		-
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who responded positively to the overall experience of making an appointment (01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020)	39.9%	65.5%	65.5%	Variation (negative)
The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who were very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their GP practice appointment times (01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020)	47.4%	63.4%	63.0%	No statistical variation
(to)		-		-

Any additional evidence or comments

The practice did not dispute the national survey figures but had carried out their own surveys which indicated over 71% of patients were satisfied with the overall experience of making an appointment.

The practice used a variety of systems to support appointment including econsult and telephone. In addition we saw evidence that special arrangements were in place for people who did not have access to a telephone or internet. We observed people choosing to ring the doorbell of the practice in order to make an appointment.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

Complaints were listened and responded to and used to improve the quality of care.

Complaints	
Number of complaints received in the last year.	8
Number of complaints we examined.	8
Number of complaints we examined that were satisfactorily handled in a timely way.	8
Number of complaints referred to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.	0

	Y/N/Partial
Information about how to complain was readily available.	Y
There was evidence that complaints were used to drive continuous improvement.	Y

Example(s) of learning from complaints.

Complaint	Specific action taken
Patient with mental health issues felt unsupported by the practice and could not access the care he required.	The practice contacted the local mental health trust and explained the procedures they operated for referrals was delaying access to care. The local Trust agreed and changed the way GP's were able to access support on behalf of patients.
Missed referral	The practice recognised they had not dealt with this properly, The GP responsible gave a full apology and the practice reviewed their systems to ensure referrals were done correctly.

Well-led

Rating: Good

We previously inspected the practice in December 2019 and found they Required Improvement in well-led. The leadership of the practice had improved with a new practice manager and changes in many of the leadership roles. Further development was required to ensure stability and continue to improve clinical performance figures. We took into account the practice had been unable to demonstrate some improvements in certain areas due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Leadership capacity and capability

There was compassionate, inclusive and effective leadership at all levels but leaders could not always demonstrate that they had the capacity and skills to deliver high quality sustainable care.

	Y/N/Partial
Leaders demonstrated that they understood the challenges to quality and sustainability.	Y
They had identified the actions necessary to address these challenges.	Y
Staff reported that leaders were visible and approachable.	Y
There was a leadership development programme, including a succession plan.	N
Staff told us they were positive about the leadership within the practice. In terms of succession planning the provider had made attempts to develop a clear strategy but could not confirm exactly what the succession plan was at the time of the inspection. The salaried GPs have been with the practice for some time. However, there did not appear to be a clear direction for their future roles and responsibilities in the practice. It was therefore difficult to establish how the practice would be led in the future.	

Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision and credible strategy to provide high quality sustainable care but were not always able to demonstrate their progress.

	Y/N/Partial
The practice had a clear vision and set of values that prioritised quality and sustainability.	Y
There was a realistic strategy to achieve their priorities.	Y
The vision, values and strategy were developed in collaboration with staff, patients and external partners.	Y
Staff knew and understood the vision, values and strategy and their role in achieving them.	Y
Progress against delivery of the strategy was monitored.	Y
The practice had recently joined a Primary Care Network (PCN) and were now members of a GP federation. These arrangements allowed them to access further leadership resources and develop joint strategies to achieve better outcomes for patients.	
The practice manager had clear ideas as to how they wanted the practice to develop and were positive about the support they had received from the provider, the PCN and the GP federation.	

Although progress was monitored appropriately the practice was unable to demonstrate improvements due to the restrictions placed upon them during the pandemic. For example improving the uptake of cervical screening.

Culture

The practice had a culture which drove high quality sustainable care.

	Y/N/Partial
There were arrangements to deal with any behaviour inconsistent with the vision and values.	Y
Staff reported that they felt able to raise concerns without fear of retribution.	Y
There was a strong emphasis on the safety and well-being of staff.	Y
There were systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour.	Y
When people were affected by things that went wrong, they were given an apology and informed of any resulting action.	Y
The practice encouraged candour, openness and honesty.	Y
The practice's speaking up policies were in line with the NHS Improvement Raising Concerns (Whistleblowing) Policy.	Y
The practice had access to a Freedom to Speak Up Guardian.	Y
Staff had undertaken equality and diversity training.	Y
The provider and leadership team focused on staff well-being prior to, and throughout, the pandemic. Team building via social events and reward systems had been prioritized and support was available on an individual basis if required.	

Examples of feedback from staff or other evidence about working at the practice

Source	Feedback
Staff questionnaires	Staff were positive about the leadership arrangements within the practice and felt supported.

Governance arrangements

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

	Y/N/Partial
There were governance structures and systems which were regularly reviewed.	Y
Staff were clear about their roles and responsibilities.	Y
There were appropriate governance arrangements with third parties.	Y
Since our last inspection in December 2019 leadership roles had changed. Staff were aware as to which person was in which roles and the new system was operating successfully.	

Managing risks, issues and performance

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

	Y/N/Partial
There were comprehensive assurance systems which were regularly reviewed and improved.	Y
There were processes to manage performance.	Y
There was a quality improvement programme in place.	Y
There were effective arrangements for identifying, managing and mitigating risks.	Y
A major incident plan was in place.	Y
Staff were trained in preparation for major incidents.	Y
When considering service developments or changes, the impact on quality and sustainability was assessed.	Y

The practice had systems in place to continue to deliver services, respond to risk and meet patients' needs during the pandemic

	Y/N/Partial
The practice had adapted how it offered appointments to meet the needs of patients during the pandemic.	Y
The needs of vulnerable people (including those who might be digitally excluded) had been considered in relation to access.	Y
There were systems in place to identify and manage patients who needed a face-to-face appointment.	Y
The practice actively monitored the quality of access and made improvements in response to findings.	Y
There were recovery plans in place to manage backlogs of activity and delays to treatment.	Y

Changes had been made to infection control arrangements to protect staff and patients using the service.	Y
Staff were supported to work remotely where applicable.	Y

Appropriate and accurate information

There was a demonstrated commitment to using data and information proactively to drive and support decision making.

	Y/N/Partial
Staff used data to monitor and improve performance.	Y
Performance information was used to hold staff and management to account.	Y
There were effective arrangements for identifying, managing and mitigating risks.	Y
Staff whose responsibilities included making statutory notifications understood what this entails.	Y

Governance and oversight of remote services

	Y/N/Partial
The practice used digital services securely and effectively and conformed to relevant digital and information security standards.	Y
The provider was registered as a data controller with the Information Commissioner's Office.	Y
Patient records were held in line with guidance and requirements.	Y
Patients were informed and consent obtained if interactions were recorded.	Y
The practice ensured patients were informed how their records were stored and managed.	Y
Patients were made aware of the information sharing protocol before online services were delivered.	Y
The practice had arrangements to make staff and patients aware of privacy settings on video and voice call services.	Y
Online consultations took place in appropriate environments to ensure confidentiality.	Y
The practice advised patients on how to protect their online information.	Y

Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

The practice involved / did not involve the public, staff and external partners to sustain high quality and sustainable care.

	Y/N/Partial
Patient views were acted on to improve services and culture.	Y
The practice had an active Patient Participation Group.	Y
Staff views were reflected in the planning and delivery of services.	Y
The practice worked with stakeholders to build a shared view of challenges and of the needs of the population.	Y

Feedback from Patient Participation Group.

Feedback
Although the PPG remained active they were operating at a limited level due to the pandemic.

Continuous improvement and innovation

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

	Y/N/Partial
There was a strong focus on continuous learning and improvement.	Y
Learning was shared effectively and used to make improvements.	Y

Examples of continuous learning and improvement
The practice had shown signs of improvement including better access to immunisations and vaccinations and improving the service offered to people with mental health issues.

Notes: CQC GP Insight

GP Insight assesses a practice's data against all the other practices in England. We assess relative performance for the majority of indicators using a "z-score" (this tells us the number of standard deviations from the mean the data point is), giving us a statistical measurement of a practice's performance in relation to the England average. We highlight practices which significantly vary from the England average (in either a positive or negative direction). We consider that z-scores which are higher than +2 or lower than -2 are at significant levels, warranting further enquiry. Using this technique we can be 95% confident that the practice's performance is genuinely different from the average. It is important to note that a number of factors can affect the Z score for a practice, for example a small denominator or the distribution of the data. This means that there will be cases where a practice's data looks quite different to the average, but still shows as no statistical variation, as we do not have enough confidence that the difference is genuine. There may also be cases where a practice's data looks similar across two indicators, but they are in different variation bands.

The percentage of practices which show variation depends on the distribution of the data for each indicator, but is typically around 10-15% of practices. The practices which are not showing significant statistical variation are labelled as no statistical variation to other practices.

N.B. Not all indicators in the evidence table are part of the GP insight set and those that aren't will not have a variation band.

The following language is used for showing variation:

Variation Bands	Z-score threshold
Significant variation (positive)	≤ -3
Variation (positive)	> -3 and ≤ -2
Tending towards variation (positive)	> -2 and ≤ -1.5
No statistical variation	< 1.5 and > -1.5
Tending towards variation (negative)	≥ 1.5 and < 2
Variation (negative)	≥ 2 and < 3
Significant variation (negative)	≥ 3

Note: for the following indicators the variation bands are different:

- Child Immunisation indicators. These are scored against the World Health Organisation target of 95% rather than the England average. Note that practices that have "Met 90% minimum" have not met the WHO target of 95%.
- The percentage of respondents to the GP patient survey who responded positively to how easy it was to get through to someone at their GP practice on the phone uses a rules based approach for scoring, due to the distribution of the data. This indicator does not have a CCG average.
- The percentage of women eligible for cervical cancer screening at a given point in time who were screened adequately within a specified period (within 3.5 years for women aged 25 to 49, and within 5.5 years for women aged 50 to 64). This indicator does not have a CCG average and is scored against the national target of 80%.

It is important to note that z-scores are not a judgement in themselves, but will prompt further enquiry, as part of our ongoing monitoring of GP practices.

Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions on GP Insight can be found on the following link: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/how-we-monitor-gp-practices>

Note: The CQC GP Evidence Table uses the most recent validated and publicly available data. In some cases at the time of inspection this data may be relatively old. If during the inspection the practice has provided any more recent data, this can be considered by the inspector. However, it should be noted that any data provided by the practice will be unvalidated and is not directly comparable to the published data. This has been taken into account during the inspection process.

Glossary of terms used in the data.

- **COPD:** Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.
- **PHE:** Public Health England.
- **QOF:** Quality and Outcomes Framework.
- **STAR-PU:** Specific Therapeutic Group Age-sex weightings Related Prescribing Units. These weighting allow more accurate and meaningful comparisons within a specific therapeutic group by taking into account the types of people who will be receiving that treatment.
- ***PCA:** Personalised Care Adjustment. This replaces the QOF Exceptions previously used in the Evidence Table (see [GMS QOF Framework](#)).
- $\%$ = per thousand.