

Aspatria Medical Group

Inspection report

West Street Health Centre
Aspatria
Wigton
Cumbria
CA7 3HH
Tel: 01697 320209
www.aspatriamedicalgroup.co.uk

Date of inspection visit: 07/12/2018
Date of publication: N/A (DRAFT)

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 location

Good 

Are services safe?

Good 

Are services effective?

Good 

Are services caring?

Good 

Are services responsive?

Good 

Are services well-led?

Good 

Overall summary

This practice is rated as Good overall. (Previous rating November 2015 – Good)

The key questions at this inspection are rated as:

Are services safe? – Good

Are services effective? – Good

Are services caring? – Good

Are services responsive? – Good

Are services well-led? – Good

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection at Aspatra Medical Group on 7 December 2018 as part of our inspection programme.

At this inspection we found:

- The practice had systems to manage risk so that safety incidents were less likely to happen. When incidents did happen, the practice learned from them and improved their processes.
- The practice routinely reviewed the effectiveness and appropriateness of the care it provided. It ensured that care and treatment was delivered according to evidence-based guidelines.

- Staff involved and treated patients with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect.
- Patients found the appointment system easy to use and reported that they were able to access care when they needed it.
- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels of the organisation.

We saw some areas where the practice should make improvements:

- Progress quickly with plans to ensure prescription stationary is stored securely;
- Make sure all staff are aware of the location of emergency oxygen;
- Follow up areas identified for improvement in infection control audits.

Professor Steve Field CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP
Chief Inspector of General Practice

Please refer to the detailed report and the evidence tables for further information.

Population group ratings

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

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by a Care Quality Commission (CQC) lead inspector. The team included a GP specialist adviser and a practice manager specialist advisor. The inspection was shadowed by a nurse practitioner specialist advisor as part of their training.

Background to Aspatria Medical Group

Aspatria Medical Group provides Primary Medical Services to the town of Aspatria and surrounding villages. The practice provides services from one location at West Street Health Centre, Aspatria, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 3HH.

West Street Health Centre is a purpose built building. Patient facilities are on the ground and first floor, which can be accessed by a lift. There is step free access at the front of the building and a disabled toilet on the ground floor and baby change facilities on the first floor. There is dedicated parking for patients at the rear of the surgery including marked disabled parking bays.

The practice has three female GP partners a salaried GP (male) and two retainer GPs (one male, one female). The practice is a teaching and training practice and teaches medical students and foundation year doctors. There is a nurse practitioner (male), four practice nurses and a healthcare assistant. There are administration and secretarial staff which include an IT and premises manager and an office manager.

The practice provides services to approximately 6,700 patients of all ages. The practice is part of North Cumbria clinical commissioning group (CCG). Information taken from Public Health England placed the area in which the practice was located in the fifth least deprived decile. In general, people living in more deprived areas tend to have greater need for health services. Data from Public Health England shows that the practice has higher than average levels of patients aged between 40 and 80 years old and lower levels of patients below the age of 39.

The practice is open between 8:00am - 6:30pm Mondays to Friday. Consulting times are Monday to Friday 8.30am to 12.30pm, 2.30pm to 6.00pm. Evening and weekend appointments could be booked through the practice.

The practice provides services to patients of all ages based on a General Medical Services (GMS) contract agreement for general practice. The service for patients requiring urgent medical attention out of hours is through the NHS 111 service and Cumbria Health On Call (CHOC).

Are services safe?

We rated the practice as good for providing safe services.

Safety systems and processes

The practice had systems to keep people safe and safeguarded from abuse, though some improvements were needed.

- The practice had appropriate systems to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse. The practice held monthly safeguarding meetings with health professionals including midwives and health visitors. There was a safeguarding lead and all staff knew how to identify and report concerns and learning from safeguarding incidents were available to staff. Staff received safeguarding and safety training appropriate to their role.
- Staff who acted as chaperones were trained for their 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.) Staff were risk assessed to determine whether or not they required a DBS check before starting their role.
- Staff took steps, including working with other agencies, to protect patients from abuse, neglect, discrimination and breaches of their dignity and respect.
- The practice carried out appropriate staff checks at the time of recruitment and on an ongoing basis. There was no copy of photographic ID for staff members in the recruitment files, however we were told that photo ID was checked when staff started their role. We were also told that copies would be kept from now on.
- There was an effective system to manage infection prevention and control. We saw there was an area highlighted on the infection control audit which had not been followed up in subsequent audits, but this was rectified after the inspection.
- The practice had arrangements to ensure that facilities and equipment were safe and in good working order.
- Arrangements for managing waste and clinical specimens kept people safe.
- The practice was the only one in Cumbria to be part of the SIGN UP TO SAFETY initiative. As part of this, the practice had a daily “Huddle” meeting with members

from all staff groups to share relevant information about the practice to ensure that everyone was aware at all times of any issues that may affect safety or patient care.

Risks to patients

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

- Arrangements were in place for planning and monitoring the number and mix of staff needed to meet patients’ needs, including planning for holidays, sickness, busy periods and epidemics.
- There was an effective induction system for staff, tailored to their role.
- The practice was equipped to deal with medical emergencies and staff were suitably trained in emergency procedures, although on the day of inspection some staff did not know where the emergency oxygen was located when asked.
- Staff understood their responsibilities to manage emergencies on the premises and to recognise those in need of urgent medical attention. Clinicians knew how to identify and manage patients with severe infections including sepsis.
- When there were changes to services or staff the practice assessed and monitored the impact on safety.

Information to deliver safe care and treatment

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

- The care records we saw showed that information needed to deliver safe care and treatment was available to staff.
- The practice had systems for sharing information with staff and other agencies to enable them to deliver safe care and treatment.
- Clinicians made timely referrals in line with protocols.

Appropriate and safe use of medicines

The practice had systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines.

- The systems for managing and storing medicines, including vaccines, medical gases, emergency medicines and equipment, minimised risks.
- Staff prescribed and administered or supplied medicines to patients and gave advice on medicines in

Are services safe?

line with current national guidance. The practice had reviewed its antibiotic prescribing and taken action to support good antimicrobial stewardship in line with local and national guidance. Antibiotic prescribing was comparable to CCG and England averages.

- Patients' health was monitored in relation to the use of medicines and followed up on appropriately. Patients were involved in regular reviews of their medicines.
- At the time of the inspection prescription stationary was not stored in a locked room when the practice was closed. The practice was aware of this and planned to change their system, however on the day of the inspection there was no formalised plan in place for these changes to be made.

Track record on safety

The practice had a good track record on safety.

- There were comprehensive risk assessments in relation to safety issues.

- The practice monitored and reviewed safety using information from a range of sources.

Lessons learned and improvements made

The practice learned and made improvements when things went wrong.

- Staff understood their duty to raise concerns and report incidents and near misses. Leaders and managers supported them when they did so.
- There were adequate systems for reviewing and investigating when things went wrong. The practice learned and shared lessons, identified themes and took action to improve safety in the practice.
- The practice acted on and learned from external safety events as well as patient and medicine safety alerts.

Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.

Are services effective?

We rated the practice and all of the population groups as good for providing effective services overall .

(Please note: Any Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) data relates to 2017/18. QOF is a system intended to improve the quality of general practice and reward good practice.)

Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

The practice had systems to keep clinicians up to date with current evidence-based practice. We saw that clinicians assessed needs and delivered care and treatment in line with current legislation, standards and guidance supported by clear clinical pathways and protocols.

- Patients' immediate and ongoing needs were fully assessed. This included their clinical needs and their mental and physical wellbeing.
- We saw no evidence of discrimination when making care and treatment decisions.
- Staff used appropriate tools to assess the level of pain in patients.
- Staff advised patients what to do if their condition got worse and where to seek further help and support.

Older people:

- Older patients who were frail or may have been vulnerable received a full assessment of their physical, mental and social needs. The practice used an appropriate tool to identify patients aged 65 and over who were living with moderate or severe frailty. Those identified as being frail had a clinical review including a review of medication.
- Patients aged over 75 were invited for a health check. If necessary they were referred to other services such as voluntary services and supported by an appropriate care plan.
- The practice followed up on older patients discharged from hospital and ensured that their care plans and prescriptions were updated to reflect any extra or changed needs.
- Staff had appropriate knowledge of treating older people including their psychological, mental and communication needs.

People with long-term conditions:

- Patients with long-term conditions had a structured 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.
- The practice had arrangements for adults with newly diagnosed cardiovascular disease including the offer of high-intensity statins for secondary prevention. People with suspected hypertension were offered ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and patients with atrial fibrillation were assessed for stroke risk and treated as appropriate.
- The practice was able to demonstrate how they identified patients with commonly undiagnosed conditions, for example diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), atrial fibrillation and hypertension.

Families, children and young people:

- Childhood immunisations were carried out in line with the national childhood vaccination programme. Uptake rates were above the World Health Organisation target percentage of 95% for immunisations.
- 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.
- The practice had arrangements for following up failed attendance of children's appointments in secondary care or for immunisation.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students):

- The practice's uptake for cervical screening was comparable to local and national averages in 2017/18.
- The practice's uptake for breast and bowel cancer screening was comparable to the national average in 2017/18.
- 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 40-74. There was appropriate follow-up on the outcome of health assessments and checks where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.

Are services effective?

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:

- End of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of those whose circumstances may have made them vulnerable.
- The practice had a system for vaccinating patients with an underlying medical condition according to the recommended schedule.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia):

- 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. There was a system for following up patients who failed to attend for administration of long term medication.
- 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.
- The number of patients diagnosed with dementia who had their care reviewed in a face to face meeting in the previous 12 months was comparable with the national average.
- The number of patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses who had a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the previous 12 months was comparable with the national average.
- The practice specifically considered the physical health needs of patients with poor mental health and those living with dementia.
- 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.

Monitoring care and treatment

The practice routinely reviewed the effectiveness and appropriateness of the care provided. Where appropriate, clinicians took part in local and national improvement initiatives, such as the clinical commissioning group's (CCG) Quality Improvement Scheme.

- In 2017/18 the practice had achieved 99% of the total number of 559 QOF points available, compared to the

CCG average of 99% and the national average of 96%. Overall the practice exception reporting rate was comparable local and national averages at 10.5% (CCG average 10.1%, national average 10.1%).

- The practice used information about care and treatment to make improvements.
- The practice participated in the local Quality Improvement Scheme (QIS), and there was some evidence of examples of identification of audit subjects and subsequent review. However, there was no systematic approach to the choice of audit topic to support practice wide improvement. The audit topic was driven by individual GPs choice rather than a planned coordinated approach.

Effective staffing

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out their roles.

- The practice understood the learning needs of staff and provided protected time to meet them. Staff had appropriate knowledge for their role, for example, to carry out reviews for people with long term conditions, older people and people requiring contraceptive reviews.
- Staff whose role included immunisation and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training and could demonstrate how they stayed up to date.
- The practice provided staff with ongoing support. This included an induction process, one-to-one meetings, appraisals, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision and support for revalidation.
- There was a clear approach for supporting and managing staff when their performance was poor or variable.

Coordinating care and treatment

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to deliver effective care and treatment.

- We saw records that showed that all appropriate staff, including those in different teams and organisations, were involved in assessing, planning and delivering care and treatment.
- The practice shared clear and accurate information with relevant professionals when deciding care delivery for people with long term conditions and when coordinating healthcare for care home residents. They

Are services effective?

shared information with, and liaised, with community services, social services and carers for housebound patients and with health visitors and community services for children who had relocated into the local area.

- Patients received coordinated and person-centred care. This included when they moved between services, when they were referred, or after they were discharged from hospital. The practice worked with patients to develop personal care plans that were shared with relevant agencies.
- The practice ensured that end of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of different patients, including those who may have been vulnerable because of their circumstances.

Helping patients to live healthier lives

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

- The practice identified patients who may be in need of 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.

- Staff encouraged and supported patients to be involved in monitoring and managing their own health, for example through social prescribing schemes.
- Staff discussed changes to care or treatment with patients and their carers as necessary.
- The practice supported national priorities and initiatives to improve the population's health, for example, stop smoking and tackling obesity campaigns.

Consent to care and treatment

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

- Clinicians understood the requirements of legislation and guidance when considering consent and decision making.
- Clinicians supported patients to make decisions. Where appropriate, they assessed and recorded a patient's mental capacity to make a decision.
- The practice monitored the process for seeking consent appropriately.

Please refer to the Evidence Tables for further information.

Are services caring?

We rated the practice as good for caring.

Kindness, respect and compassion

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion.

- Feedback from patients on the day of inspection was positive about the way staff treat people.
- Staff understood patients' personal, cultural, social and religious needs.
- The practice gave patients timely support and information.
- The practice's National GP Patient Survey results were generally in line with local and national averages for questions relating to kindness, respect and compassion.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

Staff helped patients to be involved in decisions about care and treatment. They were aware of the Accessible Information Standard (a requirement to make sure that patients and their carers can access and understand the information that they are given.)

- Staff communicated with people in a way that they could understand, for example, communication aids and easy read materials were available.
- Staff helped patients and their carers find further information and access community and advocacy services. They helped them ask questions about their care and treatment.
- The practice identified carers and supported them.
- The practice's national GP patient survey results were in line with local and national averages for questions relating to involvement in decisions about care and treatment.

Privacy and dignity

The practice respected patients' privacy and dignity.

- When patients wanted to discuss sensitive issues or appeared distressed reception staff offered them a private room to discuss their needs.
- Staff recognised the importance of people's dignity and respect. They challenged behaviour that fell short of this.

Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

We rated the practice, and all of the population groups, as good for providing responsive services .

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs. It took account of patient needs and preferences.

- The practice understood the needs of its population and tailored services in response to those needs.
- Telephone GP consultations were available which supported patients who were unable to attend the practice during normal working hours.
- The facilities and premises were appropriate for the services delivered.
- The practice made reasonable adjustments when patients found it hard to access services.
- The practice provided effective care coordination for patients who were more vulnerable or who had complex needs. They supported them to access services both within and outside the practice.
- Care and treatment for patients with multiple long-term conditions and patients approaching the end of life was coordinated with other services.
- There was a blood pressure machine in the waiting room for patients to use. There was also information about local groups and events and a book swap.
- The practice hosts a police drop-in service from the surgery. Patients have used this service to get support from the police since the police station in the town closed.
- The practice set up a Citizen Advice Bureau clinic, which now runs from the local library. Patients use this service to get support with social, legal and financial matters which may also impact on their health and wellbeing.
- Pilates classes are offered to staff and patients at the practice. They also hosted a wellbeing initiative at the practice for free to give classes in mindfulness and confidence-building.

Older people:

- All patients over 75 had a named GP who supported them in whatever setting they lived, whether it was at home or in a care home or supported living scheme.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older patients, and offered home visits and urgent appointments for those with enhanced needs.

- The practice had established links with three local care homes and carried out regular visits to patients who lived there.

People with long-term conditions:

- Nurses at the practice undertook additional training to be able to flush PICC lines for patients who are undergoing chemotherapy. This resulted in saving these patients a 40-mile round trip to the local hospital for this service. Since beginning in July 2016, the service had been used by patients 81 times.
- Patients with a long-term condition received an annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being appropriately met. Consultation times were flexible to meet each patient's specific needs.
- Hour-long appointments were available for the review of patients with long-term conditions.
- The practice held regular meetings with the local multidisciplinary team to discuss and manage the needs of patients with complex medical issues.

Families, children and young people:

- We found there were 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. Records we looked at confirmed this.
- Appointments were blocked out for children who needed to be seen urgently.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students):

- 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. Extended opening hours appointments and repeat prescriptions were available to order online.
- Evening and weekend appointments could be booked through the practice.
- The practice used a text messaging service for appointment reminders, information on the service such as the practice newsletter, and also to enable patients to give direct feedback.

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:

Are services responsive to people's needs?

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances, including carers and those with a learning disability.
- People in vulnerable circumstances were easily able to register with the practice, including those with no fixed abode.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia):

- Staff we interviewed had a good understanding of how to support patients with mental health needs and those patients living with dementia. The practice was part of a town-wide dementia-friendly initiative to make community spaces safer for patients with dementia.
- Patients with dementia were invited to attend for an annual review, to help ensure their needs were being met appropriately.
- Clinical staff actively carried out opportunistic dementia screening, to help ensure patients were receiving the care and support they needed to stay healthy and safe.
- Alerts had been placed on the clinical system to 'flag' patients with dementia, so clinicians could take this into account during a consultation.
- A manager at the practice underwent a three-day course in mental health training in order to better support staff and patients. Exercise classes for staff and patients were started as a result of this training.

Timely access to care and treatment

Patients were able to access care and treatment from the practice within an acceptable timescale for their needs.

- Patients had timely access to initial assessment, test results, diagnosis and treatment.
- Waiting times, delays and cancellations were minimal and managed appropriately. Feedback we received on patient comment cards was positive about access to appointments. Patients with the most urgent needs had their care and treatment prioritised.
- The practice's GP Patient Survey results were above local and national averages for questions relating to access to care and treatment.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

The practice took complaints and concerns seriously and responded to them appropriately to improve the quality of care.

- Information about how to make a complaint or raise concerns was available.
- The complaint policy and procedures were in line with recognised guidance. The practice learned lessons from individual concerns and complaints and from analysis of trends. It acted as a result to improve the quality of care.

Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.

Are services well-led?

We rated the practice as good for providing a well-led service.

Leadership capacity and capability

Leaders had the capacity and skills to deliver high-quality, sustainable care.

- Leaders were knowledgeable about issues and priorities relating to the quality and future of services. They understood the challenges and were addressing them.
- Leaders were visible and approachable. They worked closely with staff and others to make sure they prioritised compassionate and inclusive leadership.
- The practice had effective processes to develop leadership capacity and skills, including planning for the future leadership of the practice.

Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision and credible strategy to deliver high quality, sustainable care.

- There was a clear vision and set of values. The practice had a realistic strategy and supporting business plans to achieve priorities.
- Staff were aware of and understood the vision, values and strategy and their role in achieving them.
- The strategy was in line with health and social care priorities across the region. The practice planned its services to meet the needs of the practice population.
- The practice monitored progress against delivery of the strategy.

Culture

The practice had a culture of high-quality sustainable care.

- Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued. They were proud to work in the practice. Staff we spoke to told us they felt well-supported.
- The practice focused on the needs of patients.
- Leaders and managers acted on behaviour and performance inconsistent with the vision and values.
- Openness, honesty and transparency were demonstrated when responding to incidents and complaints. The provider was aware of and had systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour.
- Staff we spoke with told us they were able to raise concerns and were encouraged to do so. They had confidence that these would be addressed.

- There were processes for providing all staff with the development they needed. This included appraisal and career development conversations. All staff had received regular annual appraisals or supervision in the last year. Staff were supported to meet the requirements of professional revalidation where necessary.
- There was an emphasis on the safety and wellbeing of all staff. They offered Pilates classes to staff to improve their wellbeing.
- The practice actively promoted equality and diversity. Staff felt they were treated equally.
- There were positive relationships between staff and teams.

Governance arrangements

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

- Structures, processes and systems to support good governance and management were clearly set out, understood and effective. The governance and management of partnerships, joint working arrangements and shared services promoted co-ordinated person-centred care.
- Staff were clear on their roles and accountabilities including in respect of safeguarding and infection prevention and control.
- Practice leaders had established policies, procedures and activities to ensure safety.

Managing risks, issues and performance

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

- There was an effective, process to identify, understand, monitor and address current and future risks including risks to patient safety.
- The practice had processes to manage current and future performance. Practice leaders had oversight of safety alerts, incidents, and complaints.
- Clinical audit had been carried out at the practice and there was evidence of action to change practice to improve quality.
- The practice had plans in place and had trained staff for major incidents.
- The practice considered and understood the impact on the quality of care of service changes or developments.

Are services well-led?

Appropriate and accurate information

The practice acted on appropriate and accurate information.

- Quality and operational information was used to ensure and improve performance. Performance information was combined with the views of patients.
- Quality and sustainability were discussed in relevant meetings where all staff had sufficient access to information. As part of the SIGN UP TO SAFETY initiative, the practice operated a daily “Huddle” meeting whereby representatives from all staff teams came together. These meetings were used to share relevant information about the practice to ensure that everyone was aware at all times of any issues that may affect safety or patient care.
- The practice used performance information which was reported and monitored. The practice participated in local quality improvement schemes and monitored their performance through this.
- The information used to monitor performance and the delivery of quality care was accurate and useful. There were plans to address any identified weaknesses.
- The practice used information technology systems to monitor and improve the quality of care.
- The practice submitted data or notifications to external organisations as required.
- There were robust arrangements in line with data security standards for the availability, integrity and confidentiality of patient identifiable data, records and data management systems.

Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

The practice involved patients, the public, staff and external partners to support high-quality sustainable services.

- A full and diverse range of patients’, staff and external partners’ views and concerns were encouraged, heard and acted on to shape services and culture. There was an active patient participation group.
- Examples of improvements made at the practice as a result of engagement with the patient participation group included a bereavement leaflet for patients and measures in the waiting area to improve patient privacy. Recently they helped the practice to host a 70th birthday party for the NHS. This was a community event which included a presentation from local school children who helped to design a mural which was displayed in the practice waiting area.
- The service was transparent, collaborative and open with stakeholders about performance.
- There was a practice newsletter to communicate with patients.

Continuous improvement and innovation

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

- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement.
- Staff knew about improvement methods and had the skills to use them.
- The practice made use of internal and external reviews of incidents and complaints. Learning was shared and used to make improvements.
- Leaders and managers encouraged staff to take time out to review individual and team objectives, processes and performance.

Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.