

Vein Solutions Ltd Chester Wellness Centre

Inspection 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 location		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	

Overall summary

This service is rated as Good overall.

The key questions 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 Vein Solutions Ltd Chester Wellness Centre as part of our inspection programme. We carried out this inspection because this location had not been inspected or rated since its registration with the Care Quality Commission in 2021.

Vein Solutions is a private service specialising in varicose vein treatment using a range of minimally invasive modern techniques for the treatment of all types of varicose veins. Vein Solutions also provided a range of non-surgical cosmetic interventions, for example anti-ageing injections and dermal fillers which are not within CQC scope of registration. Therefore, we did not inspect or report on these services.

The Regulated Activities are delivered by a clinician who is also the registered manager. A registered manager is a person who is registered with the Care Quality Commission to manage the service. Like registered providers, they are 'registered persons'. Registered persons have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated Regulations about how the service is run.

Our key findings were:

- Patients received care that was delivered safely and effectively.
- Clinicians assessed patients according to appropriate guidance, legislation and standards and delivered care and treatment in line with current evidence-based guidance.
- There were enough staff who were suitably qualified and trained.
- Patients were treated with respect and staff were kind, caring and involved them in decisions about their care.
- Patients received detailed and clear information about their proposed treatment which enabled them to make an informed decision. This included costs, risks and benefits of treatment.
- Pre-operative and post-operative care and advice was clear and written information was available in different formats.
- Patients were offered appointments and treatment in a timely manner to suit their needs.
- The service had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- Information about services and how to complain was available and easy to understand.
- There was an effective governance framework in place in order to gain feedback and to assess, monitor and improve the quality of the services provided.
- The provider was aware of the requirements of the Duty of Candour.

The areas where the provider **should** make improvements are:

Overall summary

- Review the dispensing of post-operative medicines to include personalised information on the medicine container.
- Consider implementing an infection control audit to be undertaken on a regular basis.

Dr Sean O’Kelly BSc MB ChB MSc DCH FRCA

Chief Inspector of Hospitals and Interim Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services

Our inspection team

The inspection was led by a CQC inspector who had access to advice from a specialist advisor.

Background to Vein Solutions Ltd Chester Wellness Centre

Vein Solutions Ltd Chester Wellness Centre operates from within premises at Chester Wellness Centre. The premises have been adapted for use.

They provide care and treatment to people aged 18 years and over.

Vein Solutions service consists of a doctor and nurse who are specialists in their field of work. The clinical team are supported by administrative staff.

Opening hours/hours of operation:

- Wednesday 1pm – 5pm
- Friday 4pm -7pm
- Saturday three out of four weekends

The service is registered with CQC under the Health and Social Care 2008 to provide the following Regulated Activities:

Diagnostic and screening procedures

Surgical procedures

Treatment of disease, disorder or injury

How we inspected this service

Before visiting we reviewed information we hold about the service and asked the service to send us information. This included their latest statement of purpose, details of staff employed including their qualifications and proof of registration with their professional bodies. As part of the inspection we reviewed feedback gathered from patients, spoke to the registered manager, clinical staff and non-clinical staff. We reviewed a range of documents.

To get to the heart of patients' experiences of care and treatment, we always ask the following five questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

These questions therefore formed the framework for the areas we looked at during the inspection.

Are services safe?

We rated safe as Good because:

The service provided care in a way that kept patients safe and protected them from avoidable harm.

Safety systems and processes

The service had clear systems to keep people safe and safeguarded from abuse.

- The provider had safety risk assessments in place. It had appropriate safety policies, which were regularly reviewed and updated. The service had systems to safeguard people from abuse.
- The service worked with other agencies, where relevant, and staff took steps to protect patients from abuse, discrimination and breaches of their dignity and respect.
- The provider carried out staff checks at the time of recruitment and on an ongoing basis where appropriate. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were undertaken where required. (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 received up-to-date safeguarding and safety training appropriate to their role. They knew how to identify and report concerns.
- There was an effective system to manage infection prevention and control, including, clinical waste management, Legionella risk management, single-use items and vaccination of healthcare staff.
- Infection control checks of the environment were undertaken monthly and documented and discussed at meetings. However, a formal infection control audit had not been undertaken.
- The provider ensured that other facilities and equipment were safe, and that equipment belonging to the service was maintained according to manufacturers' instructions.
- The premises had appropriate environmental risk assessments in place.

Risks to patients

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

- There were arrangements for planning and monitoring the number and mix of staff needed.
- Staff understood their responsibilities to manage emergencies and to recognise those in need of urgent medical attention.
- There were appropriate indemnity arrangements in place.
- There were suitable medicines and equipment to deal with medical emergencies which were stored appropriately and checked regularly.

Information to deliver safe care and treatment

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

- Individual care records were written and managed in a way that kept patients safe. The records we saw showed that information needed to deliver safe care and treatment was available to relevant staff in an accessible way.

Safe and appropriate use of medicines

The service had systems in place for appropriate and safe handling of medicines.

Are services safe?

- The provider stocked and used a small number of medicines. They had local anaesthetic which was stored and managed safely. They prescribed and issued post-operative medicines which were managed appropriately with appropriate prescription and records. However, when issued, the medicines were not labelled with the patient's name and details of self-administration.
- The service did not prescribe Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs (medicines that have the highest level of control due to their risk of misuse and dependence). Neither did they prescribe schedule 4 or 5 controlled drugs.

Track record on safety and incidents

The service had a good safety record.

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

Lessons learned and improvements made

The service learned and made improvements when things went wrong.

- There was a system for recording and acting on significant events. Staff understood their duty to raise concerns and report incidents and near misses.
- Staff could describe the incident reporting process. We saw documentation in place for reporting, analysing and making improvements as necessary and viewed three incident reports that had comprehensive root cause analysis detailed. Incidents and their outcomes were shared at meetings both clinical and non-clinical.
- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the Duty of Candour. The provider encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The service had systems in place for knowing about notifiable safety incidents.

The service acted on and learned from external safety events as well as patient and medicine safety alerts. The service had an effective mechanism in place to disseminate alerts to all members of the team.

Are services effective?

We rated effective as Good because:

People received effective care and treatment that met their needs.

Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

Clinicians assessed needs and delivered care and treatment in line with current legislation, standards and guidance relevant to their service.

- The provider assessed needs and delivered care in line with relevant and current evidence-based guidance and standards including the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).
- Patients' immediate and ongoing needs were fully assessed. Where appropriate this included their clinical needs and their mental and physical wellbeing.
- We saw no evidence of discrimination when making care and treatment decisions.

Monitoring care and treatment

The service was actively involved in quality improvement activity.

- The service used information and feedback about care and treatment to make improvements as necessary. The service carried out audits and quality improvement activity. They monitored infection prevention and control through documented quality checks and patient outcomes through audit.

Effective staffing

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

- All staff were appropriately qualified and experienced.
- Relevant professionals were registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) and were up to date with revalidation.
- The provider understood the learning needs of staff and provided protected time and training to meet them. Records of skills, qualifications and training were maintained. Staff were encouraged, supported and given opportunities to develop.

Coordinating patient care and information sharing

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

- Before providing treatment, doctors ensured they had adequate knowledge of the patient's health, any relevant test results and their medicines history.
- Details of their consultation and treatment were shared with their registered GP when they used the service.
- Referrals to specialist and secondary care were made appropriately where necessary.

Supporting patients to live healthier lives

Staff were consistent and proactive in empowering patients and supporting them to manage their own health and maximise their independence.

- Where appropriate, staff gave people advice so they could self-care.

Are services effective?

- Risk factors were identified, communicated to patients and advice and support given. Where appropriate patients were referred or signposted back to their normal care provider for additional support. For example, advice and support was given in respect of obesity, smoking, exercise and deep vein thrombosis (DVT), all of which could impact on patients' health related to their care and treatment.
- Where patients needs could not be met by the service, staff redirected them to the appropriate service for their needs.

Consent to care and treatment

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

- Staff understood the requirements of legislation and guidance when considering consent and decision making. We saw examples of completed consent to surgery forms. These contained all relevant information required including risks and benefits of procedures. Patients were informed of the procedures and risks and had signed their consent.
- Staff supported patients to make decisions. Where appropriate, they assessed and recorded a patient's mental capacity to make a decision.

Are services caring?

We rated caring as Good because:

People received care and treatment in a caring manner

Kindness, respect and compassion

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion.

- The service sought feedback on the quality of care patients received.
- Feedback from patients was very positive about the way staff treat people. We saw examples of feedback left on validated online reviews.
- Staff understood patients' personal, cultural, social and religious needs. They displayed an understanding and non-judgmental attitude to all patients.
- The service gave patients timely support and information.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

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

- Interpretation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language.
- Staff communicated with people in a way that they could understand.

Privacy and Dignity

The service respected patients' privacy and dignity.

- Staff recognised the importance of people's dignity and respect.
- Consultation and clinical rooms offered privacy and afforded dignity to patients.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

We rated responsive as Good because:

Services were tailored to meet the needs of individual patients and were accessible.

Responding to and meeting people's needs

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

- The provider understood the needs of their patients.
- The facilities and premises were appropriate for the services delivered.
- Reasonable adjustments had been made so that people in vulnerable circumstances could access and use services on an equal basis to others. For example, the premises were accessible to disabled patients.

Timely access to the service

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

- Patients had timely access to initial assessment, diagnosis and treatment.
- Waiting times, delays and cancellations were minimal and managed appropriately.
- The appointment system was easy to use.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

The service took complaints and concerns seriously and would respond to them appropriately to improve the quality of care.

- Information about how to make a complaint or raise concerns was available.
- The service had a complaint policy and procedures in place. The service had received no complaints over the last 12 months but discussed how they would deal with any complaints and learn and improve from them where appropriate.

Are services well-led?

We rated well-led as Good because:

There was an effective governance framework in place that demonstrated quality assurance and improvement. The service demonstrated a culture which focused on the needs of patients and staff and a commitment to delivering the best possible care and outcomes.

Leadership capacity and capability

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

- The provider was knowledgeable about issues and priorities relating to the quality and future of services and understood any challenges.
- Leaders were visible and approachable and worked closely with other staff to make sure they prioritised compassionate and inclusive leadership.

Vision and strategy

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

- There was a clear vision, ethos and set of values which were shared by all staff. Staff understood their role in achieving them.

Culture

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

- Staff felt respected, supported and valued.
- The service focused on the needs of patients and their staff.
- Openness, honesty and transparency were demonstrated in discussions around how they would respond to incidents and complaints.
- There were processes for providing all staff with the training and development they need, including appraisal.
- The service promoted equality and diversity. Staff had received equality and diversity training. Staff felt they were treated equally. Positive relationships between staff were demonstrated.

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.
- Staff were clear on their roles and accountabilities.
- Policies, procedures and processes had been developed and implemented to ensure safety and effective care and treatment. These were reviewed and revised as needed on a regular basis.
- The service submitted data or notifications to external organisations as required.
- There were arrangements in line with data security standards for the availability, integrity and confidentiality of patient identifiable data, records and data management systems.

Are services well-led?

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 risks including risks to patient safety.
- The service had processes to manage performance.
- They had oversight of safety alerts, incidents, and complaints.
- Clinical audit was undertaken to assess and review the quality of care and outcomes for patients.

Appropriate and accurate information

The service acted on appropriate and accurate information.

- Quality and operational information was reported on, assessed and reviewed. Performance information was combined with the views of patients.
- Quality and sustainability were discussed.

Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

The service involved patients and staff to support high-quality sustainable services.

- There were systems in place for staff and patients to give feedback and to be involved.

Continuous improvement and innovation

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

- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement.
- The service would review incidents and complaints, learn from them and make improvements if they occurred.
- The service utilised advanced technology in varicose vein treatment for example, cyanoacrylate glue, endovenous laser treatment, thermal ablation and foam sclerotherapy.
- The provider carried out research, conducted studies and published articles in relation to initiatives and developments of vascular services and treatments.