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Care Quality Commission takes action to close slimming clinics in South Yorkshire

Published: 5 February 2018

Provider: Medical Slimming Clinic Ltd

Categories: Media, GP and GP out-of-hours services

The Care Quality Commission has taken action to remove the registration of a slimming clinic in South Yorkshire. Medical Slimming Clinics Ltd, with locations in Rotherham and Doncaster, have had their registration to operate withdrawn following inspections in 2016 and 2017

The provider was found to be breaching regulations relating to safe care and treatment, good governance and fit and proper persons.

At the Doncaster clinic, inspectors found that patients were treated with unlicensed medicines. It is permissible to treat patients with unlicensed medicines but there is a higher risk than treating patients with licensed medicines, because unlicensed medicines may not have been assessed for safety, quality and efficacy.

Inspections of the Doncaster and Rotherham clinics in December 2016 and January 2017 respectively led to CQC beginning a legal process to cancel the registration of Medical Slimming Clinics Ltd and in May 2017 a formal Notice of Decision to cancel their registration was issued.

The company decided to appeal the decision at a tribunal, but in January 2018 withdrew their appeal. The clinics have closed.

Sarah Billington, CQC Head of Medicines Optimisation, said:

"It is our duty to ensure that health and social care services provide people with safe, effective and high-quality care. It was clear from our inspections that both locations were operating outside of safe guidelines. The medicines used by the clinic were not always safely prescribed and there was inadequate sharing of information with GPs, as well as lack of effective governance processes and inadequate leadership."

"Inspectors saw examples of medical histories not being fully completed and in one case medicines had been prescribed when they were contra-indicated. Additionally, decisions relating to treatment had not been clearly recorded in the patient's notes. This represents very poor practice."

"It is only right that where CQC sees poor practice, it takes decisive action to stop it. Users of this service were at risk due to inadequate prescribing and poor record keeping, CQC had no confidence that they could operate safely and comply with regulations."

"People have the right to know the quality of care they are receiving – in this case a service that was providing ineffective services at two locations. Medical Slimming Clinics were not providing safe services and CQC acted to remove their registration"

Ends

For further information, please contact David Fryer, Regional Communications Manager - North, on 07754 438750.

Journalists wishing to speak to the press office outside of office hours can find out how to contact the team here [<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/our-media-office/our-media-office>].

Please note: the press office is unable to advise members of the public on health or social care matters. For general enquiries, please call 03000 61 61 61.

Last updated: 5 February 2018

Notes to editors

The two clinics that have closed are:

Medical Slimming Clinics Ltd – Donaster, 11a Priory Place Doncaster South Yorkshire DN1 1BL

Medical Slimming Clinics Ltd – Rotherham, 94 Wellgate, Rotherham, S60 2LP

Previous reports relating to Medical Slimming Clinics Ltd are available on our website; here [<https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-259008324/reports>]and here [<https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-258986040/reports>].

To get to the heart of people's experiences of care, we always ask the following five questions of services.

- Are they safe?
- Are they effective?
- Are they caring?
- Are they responsive to people's needs?
- Are they well-led?

For every NHS GP practice and out-of-hours service, we will look at the quality of care for the following six population groups:

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

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

Providers are required to display their ratings [<https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/ratings/display-ratings>] on their premises and on their websites so that the public can see their rating quickly and easily.

About the Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and social care in England.

We make sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care and we encourage care services to improve.

We monitor, inspect and regulate services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety and we publish what we find to help people choose care.

It is only right that where CQC sees poor practice, it takes decisive action to stop it

Sarah Billington, CQC Head of Medicines Optimisation

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