

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Catering – product recall – action required Following advice from NHS National Services and the Food Standards Agency, we are withdrawing all products from ‘Cool Delight Desserts’. This is range of chilled desserts which include items like trifle, mousse, and ice cream. All ward staff are asked to check their fridges and ensure any products from this brand are returned to catering as soon as possible. Your prompt assistance with this is appreciated.

Pay award arrears pension contributions The Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) advised employers of a change in employee superannuation contribution rates from 1 October 2024. A further circular was then issued – NHS Pension Schemes 2024/10 – which stated that, as 2024/25 pay award arrears were backdated to 1 April 2024, the superannuation contribution rate to be applied to this pay element should be the percentage rate in place prior to 1 October 2024. This means for most scheme members the superannuation contribution rate applicable to pay award arrears payment should have been either a lesser or greater rate than is currently being applied to all other pensionable pay elements of salary.

The appropriate adjustment will be processed in March salaries and will be shown separately on payslips as "Sup Adj Arrs of Pay". The adjustment, which is a minimal amount, ensures scheme members have paid the correct value of superannuation contributions on their pay award arrears. The Scottish Public Pensions Agency will be advised of all adjustments being made to give assurance the requirement of their circular has been met.

Pharmacy dispensary stock take – this Saturday! The annual pharmacy dispensary stock take will take place this Saturday (15 March) at 2pm. To ensure a smooth transition, the cut-off for all work is 12:30pm and the Dispensary will close as normal at 1pm. Please support the pharmacy team and submit any work as early as possible. Queries? Get in touch with Suzanne Lorimer (dispensary manager) via gram.dispensary@nhs.scot or on Ext 59043

Loop – coming soon Loop, an upgraded version of Employee OnLine (EOL), will soon be coming to NHS Grampian. For use by all current EOL users, including those electronically rostered using Optima, and NMAHP bank workers, users will still be able to view rosters, and request annual leave and rostered days off (if these are used in your area); and bank workers can view and book bank shifts. However, now you can do this from an app on your smartphone. Desktop access is also available with slightly different functionality.

[A short Loop Introduction Video is available on to view on YouTube via this link.](#)

We have approximately 9,000 individual users to move across from EOL to Loop, so this transition will come in phases. **You must not download or register for Loop until you are notified it is your turn.** We'll be sharing more information soon, so keep an eye on the brief.

‘Stop and Save’ this No Smoking Day If you’re a smoker, why not make today - No Smoking Day - the day to ‘Stop and Save’? According to the Office for National Statistics, the average cost for a pack of 20 cigarettes in the UK is over £16, so for a pack a day smoker this could save you over £110 per week, over £450 per month and over £5500 per year. For free, local support to help you give up the habit for good visit [Specialist Smoking Support in Grampian](#)

Swallowing Awareness Day This annual event takes place next Wednesday (19 March), in the middle of Nutrition and Hydration Week. It is an opportunity to raise awareness of how speech and language therapists (SLTs) help people living with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties. Eating, drinking and swallowing is an essential part of most people’s day and is often taken for granted, but for some people it is not that easy. Eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties, also known as dysphagia, can affect a person’s quality of life and can lead to other health complications.

Next Wednesday there will be stalls at Aroma Woodend and ARI Rotunda; you’re invited to come along, speak to the SLTs, and learn more about how you can support patients with dysphagia.

Neurodiversity Empowerment Group (NEG) - next meeting We are marking Neurodiversity Celebration Week (17-23 March) with a special spotlight session - 'Neurodiversity and the Menopause' - on Wednesday 19 March, 2-3pm, on Teams. Several studies have indicated menopause can have a pronounced impact on neurodivergent individuals, often intensifying existing symptoms or making latent traits more noticeable. To guide us through this topic, the NEG will welcome Rachel Medich, Senior Charge ODP and Neurodiversity Champion and Alice Ritchie, interim Lead Nurse and chair of our Menopause Forum. If you are interested in attending, please email gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot for the joining link.

There are a host of events taking place as part of Neurodiversity Celebration week; to find out more and to sign up, please visit the campaign website: [2025 Events Schedule | Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#)

Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday

- **Management Development Programme** Are you now, or do you aspire to become, a manager? Boost your knowledge, skills, and confidence with this course providing invaluable development and support for managers. Review the latest policies and management topics while practicing skills in a safe environment. Starting 7 April and running for 10 weeks, applications close 24 March. You can apply via Turas here: [Management Development Digital Programme \(previous Middle Managers Course\) | Turas | Learn](#)
- **Sleep Q&A with Dr. Dimitri Gavrilloff** Join Dr. Dimitri Gavrilloff, a sleep medicine specialist and psychologist this Friday between 12.30-1.30pm for a live Q&A this World Sleep Day on supporting those with insomnia. Learn about the science of sleep and its impact on health, practical strategies to manage insomnia, and evidence-based treatments, including digital CBT. The webinar is on Zoom, registration is via this link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- **Action Learning Set** New dates are now planned for the 3 new Action Learning Sets. If you are interested, [please complete this form.](#)

To contact WCD, please email gram.wcd@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Nicky MacBeath, part of the NHS Grampian Charity team, makes today’s request, selecting [Take A Walk](#) by Passion Pit. Nicky, along with colleague Claire, are delighted to say our official charity will have a team at this year’s Kiltwalk event. [There’s more info on the charity’s intranet page](#) (networked devices only) (EP)

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot