

Monday 13 January 2025

Reminder - use of fluid resistant surgical masks (FRSMs) Given the high levels of 'flu and other respiratory illnesses circulating in the community, we are encouraging healthcare staff to wear Fluid Resistant Type IIR surgical face masks (FRSMs) in all healthcare settings during this time. This will be reviewed on Wednesday (15 January).

In addition, here's a reminder of the guidance available in the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) regarding FRSM use:

- worn by a patient known or suspected to be infected with a respiratory illness if safe to do so and patient can tolerate it.
- worn by all staff caring for suspected or confirmed 'flu or other respiratory infection illness to protect against secretions or excretions into the respiratory mucosa (nose and mouth).
- staff caring for suspected and confirmed 'flu positive patients should observe droplet precautions and if undertaking AGPs, apply airborne precautions as per NIPCM guidance.
- masks must be well fitting and fit for purpose (fully covering the mouth and nose).
- masks must be removed or changed:
 - at the end of a procedure/task
 - if the integrity of the mask is breached, e.g. from moisture build-up after prolonged use or from gross contamination
 - in accordance with specific manufacturers' instructions

Please contact gram.infectioncontrol@nhs.scot for further information if required.

Team Names are changing The names of some of the teams you are a member and/or owner of, are going to be changing, to include a prefix to help identify which board the team belongs to. For example 'M365 Project Team' would become 'GRAM – M365 Project Team'.

By making these changes to the names we can start to reduce the number of duplicate named teams, help you more easily find the team you are looking for and at a glance allow you to understand who else you may be sharing information with. It also establishes a consistent way in which our teams are named which supports other security, records management and Information Governance functions.

From today this will be done gradually in stages and some of names will change faster than others.

Users don't have to do anything, all these changes will happen automatically.

If you are an owner of an existing team, or creating a new team in the future, you must maintain/use the standard described above.

Treatment Escalation Plans Over the last year, we have been promoting the use of Treatment Escalation Plans (TEPs) for all inpatients. A TEP is a tool which captures the outcome of realistic conversations with our patients and their loved ones, to make sure that their treatment and care is based on what matters to them. It is brilliant to see that the use of TEPs has continued to rise. The most recent data shows that in November over 10% of our inpatients had a TEP, great evidence of Realistic Medicine happening in NHS Grampian.

There are lots of learning resources to help shape realistic conversations and complete a TEP. Registered Turas users can find a [Shared Decision Making module](#) and more resources are available on the Future Care Planning SharePoint site ([request access here](#)).

No metal items in orange stream waste bags, please Please remember our orange stream waste bags are not sent for incineration, they are sterilised using steam after being shredded. This means it is vital we make sure **no solid metal items** are disposed of in orange bags as these can, and have, caused significant damage to the shredding equipment.

NHS boards are re-charged for repair costs which can run into tens of thousands of pounds. Damage to equipment will also mean downtime for repairs leading to a backlog in treatment of wastes which could affect collections from hospital sites. Theatre metals, infectious metals and tools should be placed into appropriate sharps bins for disposal. Non-infectious metal items can either be placed into mixed recycling bins or sent to the Metal Scrap Skip, Mile End.

Pause for thought At the start of a new year, when everything is revving up, how might your body and mind benefit from slowing down? What might this mean for you and your work?

Tune of the day It's a two for the price of one Monday; Dave Evans from the RACH homecare team requests Creedence Clearwater Revival and [Have You Ever Seen The Rain](#) for colleague Niona Stephenson and CCR's [Fortunate Son](#) for himself. Happy Monday! (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