

Monday 20 May 2024

UK Infected Blood Inquiry The final report of the UK Infected Blood Inquiry has been published today. This inquiry has been examining the circumstances in which people were given infected blood and blood products during treatment by the NHS in the 1970s, 1980s, and early 1990s, across the UK. The full inquiry report is available to read here: [The Inquiry Report | Infected Blood Inquiry](#)

This statement has been issued on behalf of all NHS boards in Scotland: “Our deepest sympathies are with the patients who were infected by the use of blood products and their loved ones. We sincerely apologise for the historical failings described in the Infected Blood Inquiry and empathise with the impact these events had on infected and affected people. We welcome the publication of this Inquiry, and we would like to thank the Chair and staff for the work undertaken to produce this comprehensive report.

“Modern safety standards are rigorous, and significant advancements in screening and testing protocols have been made since the events that have been the subject of this Inquiry. All donated blood then undergoes thorough testing before being used for transfusions. NHS Scotland is committed to ensuring lessons from these events have been learned as we continue to prioritise a safe and sustainable blood supply across Scotland.”

iMatter 2024 This year’s questionnaire now live. Emails containing links to the survey will have been arriving in inboxes throughout the day. As highlighted last week, around 19,000 emails are being sent this year, so please be patient if yours hasn’t arrived yet. When it does, please complete the questionnaire and encourage your colleagues to do the same. The more people in your team who take part, the more meaningful your results will be. If you have any queries about iMatter, please contact gram.imatter@nhs.scot

HEPMA downtime – your questions answered The hospital electronic prescribing and medicines administration (HEPMA) team gathered your feedback following the recent unplanned downtime. There were some common queries, so the answers to these have been put together in one document to help you. [This is available to read here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

Neurodiversity Empowerment Group (NEG) The next meeting of the NEG will take place next Monday (27 May), 11am - 12 noon. The topic this month is ‘Speak Up Culture and Neurodiversity in NHS Grampian’, and we are delighted to welcome Katie Cunningham, Whistleblowing & Speak-Up Manager, along with Rachel Medich, Speak-Up Ambassador & Neurodiversity Champion, to give a presentation followed by a Q&A session. If you would like to receive the link to the meeting and join the group’s mailing list, please email: gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot

New dental website for Grampian It's National Smile Month and the theme for 2024 is 'Love Your Smile'. Research suggests a quarter of UK adults don't like their smile, while at some point more than half have been made to feel anxious about how their smile looks. To help you maintain a healthy smile and keep your teeth looking tip-top, we've created a new dental website. This is your one-stop-shop for information on registering with a dentist, looking after your oral health at any age, plus a dedicated section for dental professionals. Add www.grampiadental.com to your favourites file and love your smile.

NMAHP research in Grampian – grant writing seminar If you are a nurse, midwife, or AHP and interested in undertaking research, you are invited to attend this seminar on Thursday (23 May) between 1.30-2.30pm. You'll learn more about how to approach your application and how panels make decisions. The seminar will be held on Teams, no need to register, [just save this link](#).

Pause for thought We can swim against the tide and risk becoming exhausted; tread water and let the tide sweep us along; or we can swim with the tide and let it take us where it wants us to go. How might you and the tide work together for both your needs?

Tune of the day The evergreen Cher celebrates her 78th birthday today. She's had more comebacks than most of us have had hot dinners. One came in the form of [Believe](#) in 1998, so let's have that as our tune of the day (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