

Monday 21 October 2024

Reminder - Reduced Working Week – requesting backfill support Services which have been unable to implement the reduced working week may now request backfill support. Guidance on how this can be requested and the governance process for making decisions on such [requests is available here](#), along with all the reduced working week information (networked devices only).

Backfill requests must be made by Friday 8 November. It should be understood requests are not guaranteed to be fully or partially approved. Backfill requests cannot be made by services which have already reduced their working week.

Relaunch of green bag scheme – QI opportunity The green bag scheme – which supports people to bring their own medication with them when they come into hospital – will shortly be relaunched. To support this, we are seeking Foundation Year Doctors looking for QI experience to get involved and support baseline and follow up audit to measure the impact of this project within their ward areas. Anyone keen to get involved should get in touch with Katy Styles, Clinical Lead for Realistic Medicine katy.styles@nhs.scot. A flyer with more information [is available on the intranet here](#) (networked devices only).

Drop-in IT training support – ARI (Orange Zone) From Tuesday 5 November, the digital directorate applications training and facilitation team will be on-hand to offer advice on a drop-in basis. They will provide support and guidance on all things TrakCare and related systems e.g. HEPMA, CDD etc. This includes:

- applying for access/access issues
- setting preferences
- advice & training
- sign posting to further support resources

For all technical issues (including password resets) please continue to log calls with the IT Service Desk either by calling ext 54444 or using the [online self service portal](#).

The team will be based in the training & facilitation room, level 3, ARI Orange Zone, Tuesdays and Fridays, 8.30am-5.30pm, from Tuesday 5 November. These are trial hours and will be reviewed.

International Stammering Awareness Day - tomorrow Stammering, also known as stuttering, is a difference in the way some people speak. Research suggests there are both neurological and genetic causes of stammering. Life can be an obstacle course for people who stammer...having to say your name when ordering a coffee or using the phone to make a GP appointment can be a nightmare for people who stammer. STAMMA, the UK's national charity for stammering, have produced this Patient

Contact Guide to ensure health care settings are accessible for everyone: [stammering and patients final \(stamma.org\)](#) It includes helpful strategies for managing silent calls (people who stammer can have difficulty in initiating speech and can experience silent blocks). If you – or a colleague – stammer, then this guide from the charity may also be helpful: [Working with someone who stammers.docx.pdf \(stamma.org\)](#)

ICYMI - supporting values-based referrals The realistic medicine team are continuing to work on a project exploring referral and vetting decision making and use this to identify future improvement activity. This is in collaboration with Progressive Partnership; there's more information on the project here: [Value Based Referral Decision Making - Project Brief for Staff Survey \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)

Interested? Follow this link to the survey: [Referral Decision Making survey \(progressivepartnership.co.uk\)](#). We'd also be grateful if you can share this information with any colleagues who may be interested. You can contact gram.realisticmedicine@nhs.scot with any questions.

Respiratory and palliative/end of life care MCN events The following November events have been organised by the Managed Clinical Networks:

- The **respiratory MCN Winter event** takes place 9.30am-12.30pm on Wednesday 13 November via Teams. The session will include prescribing updates, information on acute respiratory infections, realistic medicine, winter snapshots, and a paediatric update. [Registration is via this link.](#)
- **Palliative and end of life care professional conference** - registration is now open for this event, taking place at Aberdeen Altens Hotel on Wednesday 20 November. As always, it will focus on networking, sharing challenges and successes, and provide a broad range of educational talks and interactive workshops. The event costs £35 and registration is via Eventbrite here: [Grampian Palliative and End of Life Care Network Conference 2024 Tickets, Wed 20 Nov 2024 at 08:30 | Eventbrite](#)

If you have any queries about either event, please contact gram.mcn@nhs.scot

Pause for thought It's conker time – shiny treasure inside a gnarly shell. What is in the way of the treasure you seek? How might you find a way through?

Ticket offer There's 50% off tickets to The Magic of The Beatles at P&J Live this Friday (25 October). If that sounds up your street, [you can snap up your tickets via this link.](#)

Tune of the day We're wishing a fond farewell to Sharon Glenday, senior healthcare support worker, as she gets ready for her final shift with the Hospital@Night team. Sharon has been with the NHS for 25 years; Mhairi and all the team hope your next chapter is filled with endless joy and happiness. We hope you all have a little shimmy to Chic and [Good Times](#) (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