

Thursday 23 January 2025

Reduced working week - next steps? At the start of the month, we confirmed we did not have any clear guidance or instruction from Scottish Government regarding a further reduction in the working week for Agenda for Change staff. This remains the case; we do not know if we will be expected to reduce by a further 30 minutes (pro-rata) in the next financial year, or the full 60 minutes (pro-rata). If you/your team are at the point of setting new rotas for the month ahead, please do so based on a 37-hour week for full-time AfC staff.

We, along with colleagues at all other boards, are continuing to advocate for a reasonable and realistic national implementation timescale, regardless of the reduction required. We would ask all managers and team leaders reading to discuss with your teams how you might further reduce the working week but be assured there is **no instruction** to act at present. Once received, guidance will be shared via this brief.

Use of FRSMs Please note, we are continuing to encourage the use of Type 11R fluid resistant surgical masks by staff in clinical areas. This is due to the ongoing prevalence of 'flu and other respiratory infections. Further guidance on the use of these masks is contained in the national infection control manual here (section 1.4): [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Chapter 1 - Standard Infection Control Precautions \(SICPs\)](#)

Hyperbaric service open days Did you know hyperbaric oxygen is used for more than diving and decompression illness? It also has benefits in cases of soft tissue radiation damage e.g. cystitis or proctitis, osteoradionecrosis, selected non-healing surgical wounds, and diabetic foot ulcers. The hyperbaric team are hosting one day information courses if you are interested in learning more about hyperbaric and potential benefits to your patients.

- Nursing/AHP colleagues: 4 March 2025, 30 September 2025
- Medical staff: 25 March 2025, 28 October 2025

For more information or to book your place email gram.hyperbaric@nhs.scot or call Ext. 53264

INFORM study A team of researchers from the University of Aberdeen have launched a project to test a new approach in which patients are empowered to question the prescriber and be more involved in the decision-making around their care. This study – and media coverage of its launch - may lead to an increase in questions/queries from patients to clinicians.

Patients aged 65 year and older who use one or more anticholinergic medicines have been invited to take part in the research. More information can be found here: [INFORM Study | The Institute of Applied Health Sciences | The University of Aberdeen](#) If you would like any further information about the project, please contact Dr. Carrie Stewart via carrie.stewart@abdn.ac.uk

Migraine management – healthcare professionals workshop Yesterday we shared a reminder of our upcoming public webinar on migraine management. We are also offering a dedicated healthcare professionals' event on Wednesday 5 February between 7-8.30pm. This will follow a Q&A format, so if you have questions after [completing the migraine e-learning](#) on Turas (requires log-in) or simply want to improve your knowledge for the benefit of patients, come along! The event will take place on Teams and [you can register using this link](#).

Gentamicin and vancomycin calculators available via Grampian Guidance Following ongoing instances of incorrect calculators being used, links to our board gentamicin and vancomycin calculators and prescribing guidance are now available via the [Infectious Diseases page on Grampian Guidance](#). They can also be located using the search function. All previous methods of access remain available (via TrakCare, Right Decisions desktop icon, or links on Hospital Portal). Prescribers **must** use the correct health board calculator; use of other calculators should be reported via Datix. Any queries please contact gram.antibioticpharmacists@nhs.scot.

Leading person-centred care We are accepting applications for the May, August and September cohorts of Leading Person-Centred Culture & Care at NHS Grampian: An NMAHP Leader's Programme

[Full programme details](#) including what to expect/available cohort dates and application form are available on [the intranet here](#) (networked devices only). Please note, the March cohort is fully booked. Leaders learn how to empower their teams to work collectively to develop a team vision and values; ways of being; evaluating and improving practice; challenging routines and ritualised practices and behaviours.

This is available to all NMAHPs who are in a senior clinical leadership role (B6 and above). We would strongly encourage them to consider undertaking this programme as part of their leadership development. Please direct any enquiries and send completed applications (attached) to gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot

Foresterhill – roadworks this weekend To allow for essential works outside The Baird Family Hospital there will be pedestrian diversions in place on Foresterhill Road and as you enter the site from Westburn Road this Saturday and Sunday (25 & 26 January). Please take care and follow local signage. There will also be an occasional STOP/GO traffic system in place, priority will always be given to emergency vehicles and vehicles coming into the site. This site entrance will be manned to direct any visitors. Apologies in advance for any inconvenience caused.

Tune of the day Much like Picasso between 1901-1904, we are in our blue period. Rachel Medich (senior charge ODP in AMH theatres) has requested [Blue Orchid](#) by The White Stripes, Catherine Bolt from the chronic pain service suggests [Blue Denim Days](#) by Ian Bruce, and Stephanie Baxter (medical secretary) rounds us off with Blue Nile and [Tinseltown In The Rain](#). Anymore for anymore? (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