

Thursday 5 December 2024

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**Urgent – linen service contingency measures** Following machinery breakdown, our linen services team have introduced contingency measures, as follows:

- Linen must be used appropriately – it is for patient use **only**
- Priority linen orders will be processed, other orders may have to wait.
- Departments must utilise stock currently available to them
- Please ensure **only** soiled linen is returned in the soiled linen stream. The team are seeing clean linen in this stream, which then has to be rewashed, due to the risk of cross contamination

The linen services team appreciate your patience, support, and cooperation with the above measures. They understand the pressure clinical services are under and ask similar understanding is shown to their team while repairs are undertaken.

**Dr Gray's Hospital sickness outbreak** Non-essential visiting remains suspended at the hospital, due to the current outbreak. A list of situations where essential visits will be supported is available here; please share this with colleagues, friends, and family who may not have seen it: [Sickness outbreak - Dr Gray's Hospital](#)

**Scottish budget** The Scottish Government outlined their budget for 2025/26 yesterday afternoon. It includes £21Bn for health and social care in Scotland and will now be considered by the Scottish parliament. Further information is available here: [Scottish Budget 2025 to 2026 - gov.scot](#)

**Policy for the covert administration of medication to adults** Version six of this policy is now available. More information is available via the links below (networked devices only); please ensure previous versions are discarded:

[Policy For The Covert Administration Of Medication In Adults For Staff Working Within NHS Grampian, Version 6](#)

[Appendix 1 - NHS Grampian Covert Administration Of Medication Care Pathway Review e-form](#)

[Appendix 2 - NHS Grampian Covert Administration Of Medication Care Pathway Review e-form](#)

[Appendix 3 - NHS Grampian Record Of Pharmacist Advice On Method Of Covert Administration Of Medicines e-form](#)

**Christmas meals – part 1** We're pleased to confirm our retail catering outlets will be serving Christmas lunches, as follows:

- ARI (Pink Zone cafe) - 11 December
- Woodend and Royal Cornhill – 12 December
- Dr Gray's - 17 December

The menu will be the same across all outlets: Scotch Broth (£1.35), a choice of turkey, beef rib, or Quorn fillet, served with all the trimmings (£7.50), and Christmas cheesecake or Christmas pudding (£3)

**Christmas meals – part 2** Lots of you who will be working on Christmas Day or New Year's Day will already be organising your own snacks and celebrations as a team. However, if you would like to order a hot meal for 25 December or 1 January, the catering team are once again offering this option. All you need to do is pop along to your nearest retail catering outlet, or kitchen in the community hospitals, and speak to the catering team to place your order. These will be delivered along with patient lunches on 25 December/1 January. If you are based at Foresterhill, but not working on a ward, you will be able to collect your meal, by arrangement from the ARI kitchen.

[The full menu and ordering details are available here](#) (networked devices only).

**Paediatric MTC education sessions** The next event in this series will take place Thursday 12 December between 12-1pm. This session will focus on the role of youth navigators. To request the joining link, please email [gram.nosmtc@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.nosmtc@nhs.scot)

**It's official! Pathway to Excellence application accepted** Our Mental Health and Learning Disability Service has become the first in Scotland to be accepted as an official applicant for the [Pathway to Excellence](#) programme. Joining the programme means they are committed to creating a positive practice environment that empowers and engages staff. The programme provides a framework for supporting staff needs and promoting high standards of care – essentially, it helps us prioritise what's most important. The next step is for frontline staff to be involved in sharing their experiences of working as part of NHS Grampian before designation can be achieved. Staff who would like to find out more about the Pathway to Excellence programme and how to contribute towards this should email [gram.ideasforimprovement@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.ideasforimprovement@nhs.scot)

**Free coffee** Across the UK today (5 December), Starbucks are offering a free, tall, beverage of their choice to any member of NHS staff. All you need to do is show your staff ID when ordering.

Remember, our own retail catering outlets sell a range of hot drinks. They aren't quite free, but they are very reasonably priced, and you can get a little discount when you bring your own reusable cup

**Memorial service, ARI** On behalf of colleagues at ARI, we want to remind you about a memorial service for Shona Pirie, formerly senior charge nurse on Ward 216. Shona passed away at the start of November; a short service will take place in the ARI chapel at 2pm on tomorrow. All welcome.

**Tune of the day** Some days, only Madonna will do. [Like A Prayer](#) is for you, whether you're dealing with sickness outbreaks, broken machinery, or just another day at the coal face. It's hard going right now, I know (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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)