

Wednesday 22 February 2023

Responding to your feedback – patient medications One of the points of feedback we received was regarding patient medication; could we reduce costs and wastage by ensuring we use their existing supplies, rather than issuing new prescriptions? Thanks to the pharmacy team for this response:

For many years we have encouraged patients to bring their medication into hospital on their admission. This helps on two levels, firstly it is invaluable as a source of information about the medications patients are taking at the time of their admission that can be matched to the information held on the emergency care summary and through conversation with the patient / carer as part of medicines reconciliation. Secondly it means the patient has their medication with them so we can use whatever medicine is still appropriate for their care during their stay. In the event of an emergency admission, where someone is brought in by ambulance, our SAS colleagues will try and find the patient's own medicines and bring them in with them.

Obviously, there are times when a patient cannot / does not bring their medicine in with them e.g., following a road traffic accident, when they simply forget in the stress of leaving home prior to admission, or when attendance at an Emergency Department which leads to unanticipated admission.

Clearly this subject being raised via staff feedback means there is further work to do to raise awareness amongst staff and patients. We will look to refresh the communications around bringing your own medicines.

Ethics advice & support group - here to help The ethics advice & support group continues to meet to support colleagues across health & social care with complex ethical issues. Anyone working in health & social care can submit an SBAR; all the details you need are available here [Supporting Ethical Decision Making Group \(nhsgrampian.org\)](https://www.nhs.uk/ethics-advice-and-support) The group's next meeting is on Tuesday 7 March and submissions are welcome. Please click the link above or contact gram.ethicaldecisionmakingadvisorygrp@nhs.scot

UK Infected Blood Inquiry You may be aware there has been an update to the retention requirements for medical records in respect of the Infected Blood Inquiry now statements are no longer being heard. In Grampian, we can confirm there is to be no change, given the hybrid nature of our records. All information which may be of relevance to the Inquiry must not be deleted or destroyed. The requirement to retain records remains active until further notice. The scope of the requirement to retain relevant information is not limited to medical records – all potentially relevant information including reports, reviews, briefings, minutes; notes and correspondence however held (paper, electronic, microfiche, audio, video etc.) should not be deleted or destroyed. We will continue to provide relevant updates via the Daily Brief as appropriate.

Chaplaincy on-call service This service will return to 24/7 cover from week beginning 6 March. As before, this is for situations that cannot wait until the next working day; the on-call chaplain can be contacted outwith normal hours (8.30am - 4.30pm) by contacting the switchboard and asking for the on-call chaplain to be paged. There continues to be a Roman Catholic priest on call 24/7, they can also be

contacted via switchboard. The return to 24/7 cover will be reviewed regularly and may be subject to change; these will be shared via this brief.

Adult Support and Protection - Spotting the signs of adult self-neglect The Public Protection team [have produced this short video](#) with Alison Evison, Chair of Grampian NHS Board, in discussion with Kenny O'Brien (Adult Public Protection Lead) to help understand what is meant by self-neglect. It details what healthcare professionals can do to support patients and their colleagues when self-neglect is a factor. Further information can be accessed on the [Public Protection intranet site](#).

Aberdeen City draft Children's Services Strategic Plan 2023-26 Aberdeen City Council is consulting on this draft plan, which sets out priorities to help improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in Aberdeen. The consultation closes on Sunday 12 March, you can view the plan and share your views here: [Revised Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 - Aberdeen City Council - Citizen Space](#). The draft plan will then be considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 19 April. You can also access [a children and young people's version](#) of the Plan, along with an [MS Form](#) to capture the views of children and young people you work with, or friends and family too. If you have any questions, please email communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

We Care Wellbeing Wednesday

- The 'Supporting Staff in Distress & Crisis' information sheet is a compiled list of various support and wellbeing resources available to staff. You can scan the QR code below if you are reading a printed copy of the brief, or if you would prefer a paper copy, please contact We Care via gram.wecare@nhs.scot.



- **Online 'Book Blether'** Reading for pleasure can greatly improve our sense of wellbeing. An online 'Book Blether' session, with best-selling and prize-winning author Lisa Ballantyne, will take place on World Book Day (Thursday 2 March). Running between 1 – 2pm and open to all Health & Social Care staff in Grampian, Lisa will facilitate a conversation around reading for pleasure. You'll also have the chance to contribute your views and ideas, so have paper and pen to hand. To book register, please email cornhill.library@nhs.scot. As an extra incentive, there's a free book for all participants!
- **An Introduction to the Dynamics of Domestic Abuse** Due to high engagement with the first 2 courses, we are pleased to announce a further 3 sessions of this training have been scheduled, these are on 21 March, 29 March, and 20 April, all running between 1 – 3.15pm. Please book online via Turas: [An Introduction to the Dynamics of Domestic Abuse | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#) or contact We Care via gram.wecare@nhs.scot.

Tune of the day Today's request goes out to Linda Lett, Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist, on her final day at work before retirement and with best wishes from all your colleagues in the Breast unit. They say you now have plenty of time to pursue your hobbies and enjoy the holidays. Have fun living your new life to the fullest! They've asked for [Looking For Linda](#) by Hue & Cry

As today is World Thinking Day/Founder's Day, an extra shout out to everyone working in health & social care who also volunteers with Girlguiding and Scouting; [The Promise](#) by Girls Aloud goes out to all of you (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