

Thursday 29 June 2023

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**Industrial action update** The Industrial Action Short Life Working Group met again earlier today. Discussions were focused on contingency planning for the days of industrial action; from 7am on Wednesday 12 July until 6.59am on Saturday 15 July. As a reminder, an FAQ document was circulated with yesterday's brief, and we would encourage everyone to read it carefully.

**Sir Rod Stewart donation** We are delighted to confirm there will be additional MRI scanning taking place this weekend, thanks to a generous donation from Sir Rod Stewart. The veteran pop star's £10,000 donation follows his own experience of prostate cancer and will fund additional diagnostic scans this weekend, allowing up to 24 people to receive an earlier investigation into potential cancers. Sir Rod said: *"It's vital that people receive early investigations and quick diagnosis. It is an honour to be in the position to be able to help support the NHS by funding some additional scans to boost NHS Grampian's current capacity."*

**Unscheduled Care Update Sessions** Between September 2022 and March 2023, we ran a series of sessions to share updates about the priority workstreams being taken forward through the Unscheduled Care Improvement Programme. Since then, we have sought feedback from colleagues on how helpful they found the sessions, whether they would like them to continue and, if so, what changes they would like to see. Having taken this feedback on board the sessions will be restarting monthly, on the second Wednesday of every month, from 12-1pm on Teams, starting on Wednesday 12 July 2023.

They will feature a wider range of topics and presenters than previous iterations with updates on work happening across the system in relation to Unscheduled Care. Updates planned so far include the Bed Base Review, Unscheduled Care work in Moray, Winter Planning, Primary Care sustainability and the Flow Navigation Centre. If you would like to be sent the invite for these sessions, please contact the team on [gram.uucteam@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.uucteam@nhs.scot). There are still slots available for those who would like an opportunity to share their work with a wider audience at a future session. If you would be interested in presenting your work, please contact Michael Coulthard on [michael.coulthard@nhs.scot](mailto:michael.coulthard@nhs.scot).

**Long COVID update** Last week (22 June) we shared an update on the work taking place locally around Long COVID. As a reminder, there will be an information session on Teams next Thursday (6 July), between 1.30 - 2.30pm. [You can follow this link to access the meeting.](#) It will be recorded for anyone unable to attend.

**HEPMA Rollout** As many of you will know, the Hospital Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (HEPMA) rollout is underway, with new wards being added regularly. Our medical director, Nick Fluck has emphasised the importance of preparation for this change: *"A vital factor to fully embrace HEPMA and to utilise its potential is the timely completion of the NoS Turas eLearning. This step is not only mandatory for HEPMA access but also pivotal in ensuring you are equipped with the appropriate skills for this new system."*

Whilst HEPMA promises benefits - from improved patient safety to increased staff efficiency - we recognise the challenges accompanying such change, which can be daunting. We have a dedicated regional and local HEPMA team at hand, ready to assist and support us throughout the rollout period. We've already observed benefits in areas where HEPMA has been implemented. By being well-prepared, we can ensure a smooth transition and begin to experience these benefits more widely across our hospitals.

**Aberdeenshire vaccination contact centre – number change this weekend** The telephone number for the Aberdeenshire vaccination contact centre will change on Saturday 1 July. **The new number is 01224 555 333.** This number is currently used for contact regarding the following: childhood immunisations, 'flu, COVID-19, schools, shingles and pneumococcal. Please update any records you may have with this new number and share this information with colleagues as required.

**Save the Date – Physician Associates** The Physician Associate Committee is currently organising a CPD Event for 5 & 6 October at the Suttie Centre. This will be open to all Physician Associates, not only in Grampian but across Scotland with a vast range of speakers being lined up. Applications to attend this event will be open very soon, so watch this space!"

**Glove use survey** A total of 583 online responses were collected during our recent survey on use of disposable, non-sterile gloves. A huge thank you to everyone who took part; results are now being processed and collated. We'll share more once this work is complete.

**Tune of the day** Another day, another birthday request! Kim Paterson in the Feedback team hits the big 4-0 tomorrow; Lisa and the team have requested [Tomorrow from Annie](#) as apparently Kim is fond of belting this one out in the office. Happy birthday Kim!

Also marking a birthday are the Aberdeen City Hospital @ Home team, which came into being in June 2018. The team had a celebration event earlier today; here's [The Beatles and Birthday](#) to mark the occasion (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)