

Tuesday 19 December 2023

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**The week in review** It is a constant juggle to meet increased healthcare needs during winter whilst addressing waiting lists for diagnosis and treatment. Demand for elective care has been increasing due to changes in population health over time and this, combined with capacity constraints during the pandemic, has created big backlogs of care. As of mid-December 2023, over 45,000 distinct patients in Grampian were waiting for a consultant outpatient appointment (50,000+ waiting list entries in total). Our waiting list has reduced by about 2.5% since October so some positive news, but this is still against a context that 8% of the Grampian population are on a waiting list (approximately 1 in 12 people). Almost 17,500 patients are also waiting for treatment ("*treatment time guarantee*" procedures). This has increased slightly since 2022 but will increase even more as outpatient throughput increases. Right now, 3% of our population are on an inpatient waiting list (1 in 33). While the impact of this situation is felt by patients and hospital providers, it affects the wider system too, particularly general practice who continue to care for patients whilst waiting for specialist care. According to the most recent British Social Attitudes Survey, waiting for care is the main reason given for the drop in satisfaction with the NHS, alongside a view that more national funding is needed to address these concerns.

*There will be no 'week in review' post next week; it will return in 2024.*

**Safe Transfer of Patients** A reminder the first weekly drop-in session relating to this project will take place tomorrow (Wednesday 20 December) between 1-2pm. You can get the Teams link by emailing [gram.pipdirector@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pipdirector@nhs.scot) We can also confirm the Standard Operating Procedures relating this project have been updated to give greater clarity on how patients can request assistance from staff, when they are in non-standard patient areas. The SOPs are available on Grampian Guidance.

**Antimicrobial Companion app** There have been some recent technical issues with the updating of content to the mobile version of the Antimicrobial Companion app. Content on the Antimicrobial Companion website is unaffected and can continue to be used. For staff using the Antimicrobial Companion mobile app:

- Please delete this and replace it with the Right Decisions app.
- Search for 'Right Decisions' in your app store and select - Right Decisions: Health & Care (Tactuum).
- Install the app, search for NHS Grampian and choose NHS Grampian, Orkney & Shetland antimicrobial prescribing (HIS/SAPG).
- Add this to 'My Toolkits' for easy access next time you use the app.

Staff can continue to access [the Antimicrobial Companion website](#)



- via a shortcut on the desktop of all HEPMA users
- via the Evidence 'magnifying glass' while in a patient record in Trakcare.

Any queries please contact [gram.antibioticpharmacists@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.antibioticpharmacists@nhs.scot)

**Festive service arrangements** Volume 2 of the festive service arrangements guide is attached to the email used to send today's brief. There are updates from IT Service Desk, Infection Prevention & Control, the Suttie Centre, and Dental Services.

**GIRFEC Child's Plan Practice Statement** This national document aims to provide practitioners with confidence, clarity and practical support to continue to implement GIRFEC. It covers what a child's plan is within GIRFEC, when a child's plan should be considered, who should be involved in the development and review of a child's plan, and how a child's plan supports transitions and chronologies. [Read the statement](#) and keep the [easy read version](#) handy too.

**Festive bus travel/free weekend buses in January** Whether you use the bus regularly or are an occasional commuter, please bear in mind both First Aberdeen and Stagecoach will be running adjusted timetables over the festive period; please check their webpages for more details.

Both bus companies have announced they will be providing FREE weekend bus travel across Aberdeen throughout January; [for further information and the terms & conditions, click here](#).

**New Year's Day meal for staff – deadline approaching** If you are working on New Year's Day, you are now able to order a hot meal, at a reduced price, from the catering team. 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 meals on 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](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

Meals for New Year's Day must be ordered by **2pm, Friday 21 December** (please note the deadline for ordering a meal for Christmas Day has now passed)

**NHS Grampian's staff step count challenge - 'Step Forth for 2024'** The step count challenge returns! As before it is for teams of 5 people, and it starts early on Monday 15 January. For more information check the webpage: [My Healthy Workplace – 2024 Step Count Challenge](#) or team captains can apply directly for a team by emailing [gram.activetravel@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.activetravel@nhs.scot)

**Reminder - reindeers at ARI** Organised by Fiona Mitchell and Nicola Taylor, and kindly funded by the NHS Grampian Charity, some of the gang from Cairngorm Reindeers will be at the grassy area outside ARI, opposite the Suttie Centre (turn left leaving the Rotunda entrance and walk past the garden and car park) tomorrow, between 10am-2pm. This is a wellbeing opportunity for staff and patients alike, with free hot chocolate & mince pies (while stocks last) and a very famous gentleman, all dressed in red, visiting between 12-1pm.

**Tune of the day** The team at Woodend have already had the pleasure of some reindeer company, with Spider, Olympic, LX, and baby Orinoco stopping by yesterday. Deputy service manager Gillian McDonald wants to pass her thanks to the NHS Grampian Charity for funding the visit, and requests – what else – but [Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer](#)

Theresa Higgins (secretary in the liver service) requests [Closing of the Year by Bentley Jones](#) to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. If the song sounds familiar, it featured in the Robin Williams movie Toys (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)