

Wednesday 6 September 2023

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**RAAC update** With concerns about RAAC in public buildings continuing to dominate the headlines, we wanted to give you an update on the local picture. We're pleased to say surveys have taken place more quickly than planned, thanks in no small part to your support of the inspection teams. With just a few areas still to be checked, the initial feedback is very positive and suggests in many cases RAAC is not present in our buildings. Where RAAC is found to be present it shouldn't be a cause for worry unless we discover its condition is of concern. Where RAAC has been found and further action **is** required, we are working directly with those teams or services affected. Formal inspection reports will follow, and we will keep you informed via this brief.

**Inpatient ECHO requests moving to Order comms** From next Wednesday (13 September) in-patient (IP) echo requests will be moving to Order comms on TrakCare for ARI, Cornhill, and Woodend patients. Colleagues in those hospitals should be aware of the following:

- Paper requests will not be accepted after Wednesday 13 September
- Order comms requests are for Aberdeen in-patients **only** - continue current process for DGH and all outpatient requests
- Results will be sent through order comms and the reports will be available in the patient EPR. No paper copies will be sent, please use "Not Signed Off Result" functionality
- If a patient is discharged prior to the requested ECHO being carried out, then the request will be completed and a result stating why ECHO has not been carried out will be sent - results for discharged patients can be seen in the Order Comms Not Signed Off Results submenu
- Requests for patients to receive ECHOs as an outpatient, post discharge, should be made on paper

**Safe swallowing & texture modified diets – free training** If you are involved in preparing or serving food to people with swallowing difficulties, then we have the course for you! We will be running two sessions alongside the Nutricia expert dysphagia chefs, who will provide practical examples of nutritious and appetising modified diets. These will take place on Tuesday 7 November, at Pittodrie stadium. You can either attend at 9.30 am – 12.30pm, or 1.30-4.30pm. This training is free, but it is very popular, so don't delay booking your place! Contact [johanne.smith@nhs.scot](mailto:johanne.smith@nhs.scot) for more information.

**Preceptorship** 'Best Practice' guidelines for preceptorship for all nurses, midwives, AHPs and HCSWs are now available. To access these guidelines please visit the intranet page- 'Practice Education' -> then either 'Nursing and Midwifery', 'AHP' or 'HCSW' button -> 'Preceptorship'. Practice Education & Development are delivering preparation sessions for all nurses, midwives, AHPs and HCSWs. This session will prepare and equip you to undertake the role of a preceptor. Sessions are bookable on TURAS; dates, times, [and further information are available via this link](#). For any queries please contact [gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot).

**Surgical & Critical Care Practice Education drop-ins** The Surgical (including Theatres) and Critical Care Practice Education Team are trialling a drop-in session at ARI for staff and students, offering advice and information regarding training, student PAD queries, or anything Practice Education related. Thanks to SCN Gillian Stephen we have the use of a small office in Ward 208 which will be available as a quiet space for you to keep up to date with learning, or for interviews or confidential chats. Each weekday between 1-3pm (excluding public holidays) there will be a representative of the Practice Education Team for on hand to answer questions. Why not pop in for a coffee and a chat and we can talk about how we can facilitate team learning and development in your ward?

**The Listening Service** We can all feel low, sad or be faced with challenges at some point in our lives where we need a safe place to talk. The Listening Service is available to people in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire and that includes us as health & social care staff. Clients can come with anything negatively impacting on their mental or emotional wellbeing, such as bereavement, relationship breakdowns, work stress. or just changes to life circumstances. You can listen to an interview with Jane Wells, volunteer coordinator, on shmuFM [via this Mixcloud link](#) and there's more information on The Listening Service available here: [The Listening Service \(nhsgrampian.org\)](http://TheListeningService(nhsgrampian.org))

### **We Care Wellbeing Wednesday**

**RACH Foodbank Now Open** Foodbank provision is now open to all at Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, in the form of an emergency food parcels store, supported by Kings Church and a local community food initiative. The cupboard is between the WRVS café and outpatients' area on the ground floor (opposite the toilets) and will be open from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week (locked overnight).



This a pilot project, set up by nurses who have recognised the challenges many people are experiencing and the impact this has on their health. It is intended to support staff, patients, families and carers, at RACH only in this pilot phase, in partnership with the We Care team. If any member of staff would like to donate food, there will be boxes in each ward area and on the 3rd floor. For more information, please email [gram.rachfoodbank@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.rachfoodbank@nhs.scot).

**Psychological Safety** Psychological Safety within teams is integral to ensure people feel safe to speak up, question openly and surface concerns without fear of negative repercussions or pressure to avoid these conversations entirely. We have a few spaces available on our upcoming Psychological Safety training sessions. Upcoming dates include Monday 11 September (1.45 - 4pm); Thursday 2 November (9.45am - 12noon); Tuesday 28 November (9.45am - 12noon). [Click here to book a space](#) (requires Turas log-in), or contact We Care via [gram.wecare@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.wecare@nhs.scot) if you have any questions or want to find out more.

**Staff Support** [The Staff in Distress Information Sheet](#) is your guide to the support available, both internally and through outside agencies, for you or any colleague experiencing distress or in crisis, including those experiencing mental health concerns. Please have a look, share with others, or print out for circulation/wellbeing boards. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact We Care via [gram.wecare@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.wecare@nhs.scot)

**Tune of the day** Ding-dong, we've got another wedding to celebrate! Dan Brown in the Learning & Development team is getting married on Friday, and Audrey and the team wanted to wish you all the very best. Bob Dylan and [Wedding Song](#) should set you up nicely! (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)