

Tuesday 13 December 2022

Current weather and your safety While the snow and sub-zero temperatures persist, please take extreme care when travelling to and from work. If you are travelling into the city, you should be prepared for the possibility of being unable to travel home; for instance, bring a bag with a change of clothes and pack a blanket in your boot if travelling by car.

Acute staff unable to travel to work due to the weather are reminded they may be able to access the COTAG service by contacting Site & Capacity on Ext 54886. They are a voluntary service of specialist 4x4 drivers; however, they do support several agencies and are extremely busy at present. Therefore, they should only be approached once all other options are exhausted. If you are unable to travel home because of the weather, you should contact Site and Capacity on 54886 or the Duty Nurse via the switchboard, who will be able to help arrange accommodation.

If you are working in the community, please speak to your line manager about your local resilience arrangements.

New website & booklet to support Winter health We have today launched a Winter Wellness guide and Winter Support webpage, to help people across the north-east lead healthy lives throughout the coming months. Over 24 pages, the booklet – entitled ‘Keep Warm, Safe, and Well this Winter’ - covers everything from healthy eating to dealing with the cost-of-living crisis. The guide will be available to anyone via the NHS Grampian Winter Support website – www.nhsgrampian.org/wintersupport These pages hold even more helpful information and advice, designed to keep everyone in Grampian warm, safe, and well. Printed copies of the booklet will be distributed via Health & Social Care Partnerships and partner organisations. People can also request a printed copy by calling the Healthline on 08085 202030.

Christmas/New Year Pay Arrangements Pay day in December (for monthly paid staff) will be Thursday 22 December. National guidance has been received, advising the designated public holidays during Christmas and New Year are as follows:

- Monday 26 December 2022 and Tuesday 27 December 2022
- Monday 2 January 2023 and Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Where staff must work on 25 December and/or 1 January, different public holiday arrangements may apply. [This guide has been prepared](#) (intranet link, networked devices only) which sets out examples of working patterns over the Christmas period. These examples, which apply to staff employed under Agenda for Change terms and conditions, equally apply to the New Year period. Managers and staff are encouraged to look at the example which covers the shift pattern appropriate to the situation; there is no need to look at every example.

Management of C-Diff infection in NHS settings Please be advised the revised “NHS Grampian Staff Protocol for the Infection Prevention and Control Management of Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI) within NHS Healthcare Settings” is now live on the Infection Prevention & Control Intranet page and can be accessed via the following link: [Pages - PoliciesandProtocols \(scot.nhs.uk\)](http://Pages - PoliciesandProtocols (scot.nhs.uk)) (networked devices only).

Festive Service arrangements Volume One of our festive service arrangements guide is attached to the email used to send out this brief. If you want your service to be included, please send the details to gram.communications@nhs.scot and we will update accordingly.

Healthcare Support Worker development If you are a Healthcare Support Worker with less than one year's experience, the Practice Education team are running their final development day for 2022 at the Suttie Centre. Between 8.30am and 4pm on Tuesday 20 November you'll get the chance to meet other HCSWs and build on your existing skills. To take part, ask your line manager to contact gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot to reserve your spaces

Near Me – “what’s best for Bill?” Please take a couple of minutes to listen as Bill - one NHS Grampian’s patients – explains why for him "[Near Me is the way to go](#)" and listen as [Bill shares his experience of Near Me](#) to attend a healthcare appointment, and what the availability of this option means for him and his wife. [You may also be interested in this feedback](#), gathered during October; it highlights the benefits Near Me can bring.

By applying Value Based Health & Care principles, we can focus on what’s important to those we care for - what matters most to them. For Bill and his wife, and many of those who completed the Near Me post-call survey, having the choice of attending suitable healthcare appointments from the comfort of their own home using Near Me really does matter. If your service is yet to make best use of Near Me, ask yourself ‘What’s best for Bill?’, then contact gram.nearme@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Gillian McDonald makes today’s request; the DOME team at Woodend will soon bid farewell to medical secretary Wendy Jappy. Wendy has been with us for more than 30 years and is set to enjoy a well-earned retirement. Gillian has asked us to play [Thank You by Diana Ross](#) (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