

Tuesday 11 August 2026

Every Penny Counts - first briefing today The Value and Sustainability team has started a 20-week plan to develop the 2027/28 savings plan, due to be submitted to Scottish Government by December 2026. As part of this, they are hosting a series of ideas sessions, both online and in-person, to get your ideas. The first session takes place TODAY, 11-11.30am. [No need to book, just use this link to join.](#)

There will be a further session on Thursday, during w/c 24 August, and in person at Dr Gray's, Summerfield House, and ARI. There is also an online form, available 24/7, for you to submit your ideas. [All the information you need is available via this intranet link.](#)

Removal of Orange lidded sharps bins The use of Orange lidded sharps bins across all sites in NHS Grampian should be phased out with immediate effect, **other than in dedicated blood clinics where there are no medicinal products in the department.**

Due to medicinal products and packaging being wrongly disposed of in these bins, they are all sent for incineration as Blue stream waste. To get Orange sharps bins treated as Orange stream waste we must be able to guarantee they are free of medicinal content. As such, they should **only** be used in phlebotomy or blood clinics.

All other areas should use up their current stocks of Orange bins and start to order replacement blue stream bins. All products currently disposed of in Orange bins should just be placed into Blue lidded yellow bodied bins instead. [Follow this link for a list of Pecos order codes for Blue stream bins.](#)

We appreciate this is a major change to disposal practices, so if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the waste manager at gram.scar@nhs.scot

iMatter action planning: less than one week to go Action plans following this year's iMatter survey must be submitted by 12noon on Monday 17 August. If you have already agreed the action your team will be taking over the next 12 months, make sure it is uploaded into the iMatter system by the deadline. If you haven't yet had a team discussion, do not delay. Reflecting on your results and choosing one action to improve the workplace experience is a vital part of the iMatter process. If you need any support with this, please email gram.imatter@nhs.scot.

VPN migration for remote working From Monday 17 August, the Digital Directorate will begin migrating colleagues who work remotely (home or hybrid) to a new VPN platform. This migration is being undertaken to improve the reliability and stability of our remote access services and to allow us to retire the infrastructure supporting the current VPN service. For most colleagues, **no action will be required.** The migration will take place in the background and there is **no planned downtime.** You should be able to continue working as normal throughout the migration period. Further information, and guidance on the steps to take if the new VPN doesn't appear, [can be found via this intranet link.](#)

'Seating Matters' study day The manual handling team are working with Seating Matters to offer a study day on Thursday 10 September, at the Suttie Centre in Aberdeen. This will be a showcase of their clinical seating to promote posture care, reduce falls risk, and promote tissue viability. This is a 2-hour session with morning and afternoon availability. [Booking is via this Turas link \(log-in required\)](#).

Clinical Sustainability Group – expressions of interest We are inviting colleagues from all clinical disciplines to join a new Clinical Sustainability Group. The group will support colleagues delivering sustainability projects in clinical settings, share good practice, and ensure initiatives follow the appropriate governance processes. Members will collaborate closely with Sustainability, Facilities, Estates, and Finance teams to help deliver successful green projects across the organisation.

If you have an interest in sustainable healthcare or involvement in related work, or just want to find out more, please contact gram.scar@nhs.scot

NoS Adult Major Trauma education session The next adult major trauma education session will take place on Thursday 20 August, 12-1pm, on MS Teams. The topic is 'What if I can't do it?', presented by Dr Sam Adamson. No need to book, [simply use this link to join the meeting](#). Previous education session recordings [can be found by following this link](#).

Scottish Improvement Leader programme Recruitment for Cohort 56 of the Scottish Improvement Leader (ScIL) programme, starting in November, is ongoing. [The application and guidance are available on the QI Zone via this link](#); this will include details of application requirements for the ScIL Programme. Applications will be accepted until 10am on Monday 31 August. To ensure applicants have foundational QI knowledge, you must complete the [QI Essentials e-learning](#) prior to applying to the ScIL Programme. Informal enquiries can be directed to Gillian Poskitt (gillian.poskitt@nhs.scot) or Karen Beaton (karen.beaton@nhs.scot).

NHS Grampian Charity The NHS Grampian Charity wants to hear from you! They are looking for feedback from staff across Grampian to better understand your views and ideas on fundraising, to help share the charity's future activities. The survey is very brief and shouldn't take more than a few minutes to complete, and we would really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts. You can find the survey [by following this link](#).

Tune of the day The fabulous Fiona McKenzie, retail catering manager, marks FORTY years with the NHS today. In celebration, she's asked for [Lady In Red](#) by Chris De Burgh, number one on the day she started (more recently used to great effect in the tv series 'Rivals' – love me some Jilly Cooper) (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