

Thursday 14 May 2026

ICYMI – iMatter information sessions iMatter 2026 runs from 18 May - 8 June with everyone working in NHS Scotland given the opportunity to take part. If you are new to the NHS, are unsure or sceptical about iMatter, or just want to understand it better, why not attend one of our information sessions? These 30-minute online events focus on how to use iMatter to make a difference and what the feedback generated is used for. Dates and times are below, booking is via Turas, [simply follow this link \(log-in required\)](#).

- Monday 18 May, 2pm
- Wednesday 20 May, 10am
- Friday 29 May, 10am

Mouth care for patients Maintaining and promoting good oral health is vital both at home and during any hospital stay. For most of the people we care for this means brushing their teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste. Patients who have dentures should ensure they are cleaned and stored overnight correctly.

A minority of patient will require additional support. 'Caring for Smiles' produced a product list, which is [available via this link](#). There is also Caring for Smiles training, with dates in May and June; booking is via [this Turas link \(log-in required\)](#). You can also consult their guidance, available here on Grampian Guidance under 'Nursing Documentation' (scroll down to Section 6B). In exceptional circumstance foam swabs might be essential. In these cases, the Foam Swab Decision Making Tool must be used (and documented) for each patient.

For dental problems, seek support from the person's dentist (or email gram.pcdreferralhub@nhs.scot to request a domiciliary visit via referral).

Planned full water shutdown - Yellow Zone Due to complications with the previous water shutdown over the weekend of 1 May, essential maintenance works will need to be repeated overnight from 8pm to 6am today (Thursday 14 May) and Monday (18 May). The hot and cold water supply in the Yellow Zone at ARI will be fully switched off with the exception of toilets which will remain unaffected.

Operating Department Practitioner Day – today The theme for this year's event is People, Planet and Progress, reflecting what matters most to ODPs:

- The people we care for and work alongside
- The responsibility we share for a sustainable future
- The progress we are determined to make together

The College of Operating Department Practitioners introduced National ODP Day in 2018 with the primary aim of raising awareness of the profession to healthcare colleagues and the public alike. Increased interest and understanding of the role helps grow applications to pre-registration ODP programmes. The event also recognises the vital commitment and contribution ODPs make within healthcare. In the coming weeks we will be recruiting to the Graduate Apprenticeship course in Operating Department Practice, cohort 2026; watch this space.

Coeliac Awareness Month Each May, charities and clinicians work to raise awareness of coeliac disease. It's an autoimmune condition which affects 1 in every 100 people in the UK and means the body's immune system attacks its own tissue when gluten is consumed. The only treatment is to remove gluten from your diet completely. There's more information and support available here: [About coeliac disease - Coeliac UK](#)

Did you know, our hospital kitchens at ARI/Royal Cornhill/Woodend are accredited by Coeliac UK to provide gluten-free meals? We are among only a handful of hospitals in the UK to achieve this and the team is working hard to have all our kitchens accredited later this year.

Return of Unused Bleeps/Pagers As part of ongoing work to make best use of existing equipment, all areas are asked to urgently return any bleeps/pagers that are no longer in use. Please return any unused bleeps/pagers as soon as possible to the Switchboard which is located in the Communications Centre (Yellow Zone Glass Corridor). Your support will help reduce unnecessary expenditure and ensure devices are available where still required.

Shared Learning Events 2026 The May Shared Learning Event is open to all health and social care staff and will take place virtually on Wednesday 20 May from 12noon to 1pm via MS Teams. We are pleased to welcome Emma Grzyb-Yung, Quality, Risk & Governance Midwife to present A Case Review of Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy Requiring Therapeutic Cooling After a Breech Birth. Access to past recordings can be found on the [Quality Improvement and Assurance Team website](#). If you would like to join the group, attend this session or discuss presenting at future events, please contact gram.qiat@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Today's song goes out to Angela Farquhar who marks her 50th birthday this weekend. Her colleagues got in touch to wish her a "massive happy birthday" and they've requested Abba's [Fernando](#), which was number one in the UK (and Australia and Germany) on the day Angela was born.

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