

Tuesday 15 July 2025

Use of non-standard patient areas Given the sustained demand for healthcare services, we continue to use non-standard patient areas at ARI and DGH to provide patient care. The use of these areas is carefully risk assessed, and the risk assessment document is kept under regular review by a monitoring group. This group comprises nursing, infection prevention & control, fire safety, AHP, and staffside colleagues and meets monthly.

We recognise using Non-Standard Patient Areas is not how you wish to deliver care. However, the ongoing pressure on bed capacity across our acute hospitals has made this necessary. Despite these challenges, you continue to work tirelessly to uphold patient safety and minimise risk. Your dedication to providing compassionate, person-centred care in such demanding circumstances is truly commendable, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment to supporting patients and their families.

Car parking at Foresterhill – what's our approach? Last week we announced a car parking registration process will open on Monday 4 August. We want to clarify this scheme applies **to the whole Foresterhill site**, not just the Lady Helen Parking Centre, and we apologise for any confusion. Foresterhill is a busy site, shared with several organisations, most notably the University of Aberdeen (UoA). This week, we want to highlight our approach to university parking:

- There are areas of parking at Foresterhill, specifically managed by UoA, for the use of university employees only.
- A free bus service, funded by UoA, runs between Kings College and Foresterhill for university staff and students. We encourage use of that service.
- There is **no** parking on site for students who are attending lectures, tutorials, etc. They must make their own arrangements, for example using the free bus service if they are UoA students.
- Students on placement in wards/clinics/services at Foresterhill are treated as staff for the duration of their placement. They can register to park on site, remembering spaces are not guaranteed. We know students on placement do not have NHS pay numbers; the application form will take account of this.
- Students who also work for us, e.g., in portering or domestic services can also use this registration process, remembering spaces are not guaranteed. They should apply as staff and only use staff parking when coming to Foresterhill for work.

We'll have another update next week, as we countdown to the opening of the registration process.

Changes to second class postage Royal Mail have been given permission to change their second-class delivery schedule, ending Saturday deliveries and introducing delivery on alternate weekdays e.g., Mon/Wed/Fri one week and Tues/Thurs the next. Royal Mail have permission to introduce these changes from 28 July. However, we understand it will take 12-18 months to implement across their network. We expect more information on this in the coming months. As a reminder all our outgoing post should be sent second class only.

New style Sharps bins The 22 litre clinical waste bins supplied by NDS – for orange, blue, and purple stream waste – have changed to slightly larger 24 litre bins. Lids for 22 litre bins will **not** fit the 24 litre bins; you must use the new lids supplied. Several of the new bins have appeared in the Transfer Station with older lids just sitting on top, meaning they are not securely sealed, posing an obvious risk.

The 24 litre lids are very easy to fit onto the new bins, and do not require the same pressure applied to seal them that the 22 litre bins did. However, there is only one way to fit these lids properly - with the tab on the rim of the lid facing the front of the bin. There is an obvious indent on the top of the bins where this tab needs to be for secure closure. Please ensure you follow these instructions as failure to line up the indent and the lid tab- results in the lids being easily removed.

REACH Award – summer winner The Mental Health & Learning Disability Practice Education and Development Team is thrilled to announce Jennifer Harrower is the winner of the summer REACH award. Jennifer was nominated by her assessor and supervisor for demonstrating outstanding practice throughout her placement. Well done, Jennifer!

The REACH Award will open again for nominations in the winter and will be rolled out in all portfolios prior to the nominations reopening. REACH stands for **R**ecognising **E**xcellence, **A**chievement, **C**ontribution, and **H**ard work, with the inspiring tagline, 'Reaching for Excellence'. This award reflects the MH&LD portfolio's exciting journey toward achieving Pathway to Excellence accreditation in 2026—a milestone we're all working towards together.

NHS Grampian Charity Did you know the NHS Grampian Charity is **not** a department of the health board, but actually an independent charity, registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator? The charity is independently audited and produces its own annual accounts each year. You can read the charity's latest accounts [for the 2024-25 financial year on its intranet site](#) (networked devices only).

Pause for thought What do you need to help you flourish? Where might you find that?

Tune of the day The Aboyne district nursing team kick us off for another week, with a request for their colleague Gloria, who I am told will need a lift after the long weekend (I suspect she won't be the only one). They've asked for the entirely apt [GLORIA](#) by Them (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