

Wednesday 15 July 2026

Unscheduled Care Improvement Director update – message from Laura Skaife-Knight *Rick Strang's time at NHS Grampian is being extended to January 2028, so we can together continue our work to improve the timeliness and quality of care for patients requiring urgent and emergency care.*

Rick's role was initially a year-long post as Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Site Director, funded by Scottish Government as part of our escalation support arrangements. I have taken the decision, supported by Scottish Government, to extend Rick's time with us through to January 2028 so we have continuity of support recognising that whilst we are making progress, we still have much to do, and to ensure we continue to benefit from Rick's leadership, extensive experience and track record of delivery.

Rick's role will change to Unscheduled Care Improvement Director with immediate effect, so he has a leadership and improvement role spanning the Grampian system, including Dr Gray's Hospital. He will continue to report to me directly and his role will be funded by Scottish Government through to early 2028 as part of our tapered down escalation funding arrangements.

Thank you to Rick for his leadership and support to date. I look forward to continuing to work with Rick and to seeing further improvements to unscheduled care performance, building on progress to date, that I know we all want for our patients and the communities we serve.

Laura Skaife-Knight, chief executive

Updates to transmission based precautions (TBPs) - coming soon Updates to the Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs) guidance within the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) will come into effect on Monday 3 August. The updated guidance will introduce changes to both the terminology used to describe transmission routes and the approach to selecting masks (either Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks or Respiratory Protective Equipment) when caring for individuals with suspected or confirmed respiratory infection.

TBPs remain an essential component of infection prevention and control, helping to protect you, your patients, visitors, and the wider healthcare environment from the transmission of infection. Information sessions will start from tomorrow; [you can find the dates and Teams invites by following this link](#). In addition, a toolbox talk is available via the same link.

BadgerNet upgrade – Thursday BadgerNet will be upgraded to Client Version 3.0.6 on all powered-on desktop PCs and Computers on Wheels (COWs) from 5.15pm tomorrow (Thursday). During the upgrade, the application will automatically close and restart. A service interruption of approximately 10–15 minutes is expected. Laptops, iPads, and devices already running Version 3.0.6 will not be affected and can be used to complete documentations as normal during upgrade. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Updated Parkinson's prescribing in hospital guideline Please check Grampian Guidance, under Neurology and Old age medicine, for updated guidance on prescribing Parkinson's Disease medication in hospital. These are time critical drugs which should be administered within 30 minutes of prescribed time to keep the person with Parkinson's mobile, speaking, and swallowing. We must ensure correct drug, correct dose and correct time specifically asking the patient or their relative/carer and replicating what happens at home. The guideline, [which can also be read via this link](#), contains an updated rotigotine patch calculator; the Optimal calculator is no longer supported.

For inpatient staff further educational material and helpful advice is available on Turas, please use the relevant links below:

- [A 10-minute toolbox talk on time critical medicines is available via this link.](#)
- [A 15-minute educational video may be viewed by following this link.](#)

Grampian diabetes MCN professional conference This year's event will take place on Wednesday 16 September at the Aberdeen Altens Hotel. As always, there will be a focus on networking, sharing challenges and successes, and a broad range of educational talks and interactive workshops. To check out [the full programme and register, simply follow this link](#). If you have any queries, please email gram.mcn@nhs.scot

Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday

- **Understanding Your Resilience** This 90-minute session offers a supportive space to pause, reflect and connect as you explore your own resilience. Full participation is key, so please ensure you can join with a working camera and microphone. [Bookings can be made via this Turas link.](#)
- **Coaching Skills for Managers - August Session now live** Join this highly rated programme to improve communication and strengthen your coaching- focused leadership style. You can apply for the cohort starting on 19 August [by completing the form available at this link](#).
- **Courageous Conversations** New Courageous Conversations session dates are available, [booking via this link \(log-in required\)](#).
- **Retirement Financial Sessions** We are now booking both the [NHS Partial Retirement](#) for 1995 Scheme members, and [Retirement Planning for a Positive Future](#) for anyone considering their future options. Please follow the link in each course title to book your place.

For more information on any of these items or to raise any queries, please contact the team via gram.wcd@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Primary care accountant Jacqui Gall marks FORTY years with the NHS today. Truly impressive service so the very least we can do is dedicate a tune to her. My spies tell me Jacqui is partial to First Aid Kit, so here's [King Of The World](#).

Tracey Shanks, a staff nurse in RACH theatres, hit that big 4-0 anniversary last week. Colleague Lizzie Smith has requested Foo Fighters and [My Hero](#) to mark the occasion (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