

Daily Brief...



Friday 18 April 2025

Joint Message from Chief Executives of NHS Grampian and Scottish Ambulance Service

We recognise the pressures felt across the Grampian region and the potential for this to be compounded by the double Easter Bank Holiday. As such we have reached out to all partners across Acute, Community and Ambulance to ensure our projections, demand expectations, capacity and escalation arrangements are wherever possible aligned. It is our expectation that all parties work closely to enable flow through our system ensuring early patient discharges are prioritised across Easter, Ambulance delays are minimised and patients requiring admission to wards from A&E are expedited.

Community Services

Our community services have confirmed that NHS provision is operating as normal on Friday and Local Authorities will be operating a bank holiday service. Monday is a public holiday for NHS community services but Local Authorities will be operating as normal and on call arrangements are in place as per normal. The Partnerships will maintain system huddles across the four days with any delays, bed and staffing capacity reviewed. GMED will have cover for Monday, although not all GPs will be closed.

Scottish Ambulance Service

SAS have good cover over the four days with additional support at ARI focused on Hospital Liaison (HALO) and staff welfare. This is supported by Clinical Team Leads and on call arrangements, the SAS CEO will attend the ARI site over the weekend.

NHS Grampian

ARI is expecting a slightly higher than normal demand across its site with Monday predicting to be the busiest day. Wards 301 and 203 will remain open over Easter weekend and staffing has been reviewed over the weekend and early action taken on gaps identified.

Dr Gray's normal on-call arrangements will be in place over the period. Staffing has been reviewed in the A&E with additional staff in place to support prompt clinical decision making and no anticipated issues with support services e.g. radiology, labs etc. There is the MacMoray Festival on Sat/Sun in Elgin but they have private medical provision in place and the event has run smoothly for the past few years.

This information is being shared widely, and it is important that all responsible managers take action early to resolve issues, work collaboratively with our partners and escalate proactively once all actions open to them have been exhausted. It is essential we pull together to ensure we remain focused on patients receiving the right care in the right location. We will review how this weekend has played out to ensure we have maximised our efforts and would like to thank you for your commitment to supporting the best outcomes for patients.

NHS Scotland Armed Forces Ambassadors Recruitment is open for Armed Forces Ambassadors, a voluntary role for NHS staff who have previously served in the armed forces. If you are interested in promoting NHS careers to fellow service leavers and their families, [then complete this short form](#). Ambassadors will be expected to do things like attend online or in-person Q&A sessions, take part in job fairs, be interviewed for case study materials, or be on hand as a source of advice to potential NHS Scotland applicants.

That was the week that was

Monday 14 – update on the Reduced Working Week, fire safety training reminder

Tuesday 15 – superannuation contribution rate for practitioners, local finalists in RCN Scotland awards

Wednesday 16 – Disclosure Scotland act – changes to PVG scheme, chronic pain toolkit on Turas

Thursday 17 – TrakCare upgrade & downtime – final countdown, bowel cancer awareness resources

All briefs are stored online, [just click this link](#) or visit Working with Us>HR Portal>NHS Staff Daily Briefs on the NHS Grampian website.

STAR Award This week we say ‘well done’ to Louise Lavery, theatre practitioner at AMH, on her recent STAR Award presentation. Louise was nominated for being an inspiring mentor whose performance has been outstanding. We also tip our hat to Pam Leslie, a domestic supervisor, whose STAR Award recognises her work in training and supporting staff with additional needs, leading to permanent contracts for them. Bravo, Pam! If you want to nominate a colleague or team, please use this form: [STAR Award nomination form](#)

Football update The latest news is in from the staff football team at DGH; sadly, they lost 5-2 to Cove over 35s last Saturday. Their next match is against Moray Police on Wednesday 23 April. If you are interested in joining the team, get in touch with Greg Dempster (greg.dempster@nhs.scot)

Link to NMAHP clinical doctorate programme Apologies we missed the link to this in yesterday’s Daily Brief, now included below. Nurses, midwives, and AHPs are invited to apply for the University of Stirling clinical doctorate programme. There is one funded place available this year (fees only). [Information about the programme and how to apply can be found on the intranet here](#) (networked devices only). Kay Cooper (for AHPs) k.cooper@rgu.ac.uk and Debbie Baldie (for nurses & midwives) deborah.baldie@nhs.scot are happy to have informal discussions and can provide feedback on one draft of application forms. Please note the closing date is **Friday 13 June at 12 noon** with interviews week beginning 23 June.

Tune of the day Every so often, a tune request stops you in your tracks. This is one of them. Katy Kinnear, service manager in MH&LD inpatient and specialist services, got in touch with us earlier this week. Last year she was seriously, seriously ill, receiving expert care from our teams in AMIA, ITU and then Ward 214, all at ARI. While she’s thankfully recovered, Katy says it has taught her not to take anything for granted. She also says the teams at ARI saved her bacon, more than once, so for them, here’s the Bee Gees and [Stayin’ Alive](#), because she is!

Have a good Good Friday, and a better weekend. If you’re covering Monday’s public holiday for us across the NHS, thank you.

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