

Friday 18 September 2026

Reducing use of Couch Roll The routine use of couch roll is not required in all settings, and a reduction where not required will lower environmental impact and reduce costs.

The proposal outlined in *Action for Adoption - Reducing Use of Couch Roll - Jun 26 (v1.0)* aligns with current IPC principles, where disposable couch roll should not be considered a primary infection prevention measure provided that examination couches and treatment surfaces are effectively cleaned and disinfected between every patient contact and remain in good repair.

Routine use of couch roll is not required in all settings; however, it remains appropriate where:

- There is an anticipated risk of contamination from blood or body fluids;
- Patients have draining wounds, skin conditions or excessive exudate;
- Examination or treatment involves exposure of large areas of bare skin;
- The patient is undressed from the waist down;
- The procedure being undertaken is likely to generate contamination;
- Local speciality guidance identifies a requirement;
- Patient comfort, dignity or privacy would be enhanced through its use.

Any reduction in couch roll use must be supported by robust decontamination practices, staff training, regular audit and governance arrangements. Couch and treatment surfaces must be intact, smooth and cleanable, as damaged surfaces cannot be effectively disinfected and should be repaired or replaced.

Clear communication with patients is also essential to maintain confidence by explaining that cleaning and disinfection standards remain unchanged and are undertaken between every patient contact.

Training – issuing overlabelled medication Pharmacy will be providing training in issuing overlabelled medication.

This training is for staff nurses, qualified for a minimum of 6 months, in areas which stock, or are going to stock, overlabelled medications only. Please check with your SCN if this applies to you.

The training will take place in the small teaching room, Level 5, ARI Green Zone as follows:

- Wednesday 23rd September 10 am and 10.30 am
- Thursday 24th September 11 am and 11.30 am

Each session will last approximately 20 minutes; no booking required, just come along.

That was the week that was

Monday 14 – All Staff Briefing and Invest to Save scheme

Tuesday 15 – Every Penny Counts and Rehabilitation Week 2026

Wednesday 16 – NHS public sector reform update and clinical waste bins

Thursday 17 – Interim chair announcement and executive update

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

STAR Award Congratulations to Siobhan Dewar, senior healthcare support worker on Dunottar Ward at Royal Cornhill, on her recent STAR Award presentation. Siobhan consistently demonstrates outstanding professionalism, leadership, compassion and a commitment to delivering exceptional patient-centred care. Through excellent therapeutic engagement, strong clinical judgement and unwavering support for patients and colleagues, Siobhan helps ensure individuals feel heard, respected and empowered while creating a positive impact across the team. Bravo! If you know a team, or individual, STAR, making a nomination couldn't be easier. All you need to do is complete the short form [available via this link](#).

Tune of the day Stuart Allan in finance hits the big 4-0 tomorrow; Calum and colleagues want to wish him all the best and have requested anything by The 1975, we've gone for [About 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.dailybrief@nhs.scot