

Wednesday 19 August 2026

Multi Factor Authentication – move to Microsoft Authenticator To improve security, Microsoft is retiring support for text message (SMS) and phone call (voice) Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). If you currently receive security codes by text message or phone when signing in to Microsoft 365 services such as Outlook or Teams, you will need to register and use the Microsoft Authenticator app instead. Microsoft Authenticator provides stronger protection against phishing and account compromise, while offering a faster and more secure sign-in experience.

- From **1 September 2026**, users who have SMS or voice set as their default MFA method will begin receiving prompts to register Microsoft Authenticator whenever they are asked to complete MFA.
- From **1 February 2027**, SMS and voice authentication will be retired. Users who have not moved to Microsoft Authenticator will be unable to access Microsoft 365 services, including Outlook email and Teams.

[Please follow this link to read a step-by-step guide](#) to completing the change as soon as possible.

iMatter action planning We're pleased to say a whopping 72% of teams submitted their iMatter action plan by Monday's 12noon deadline - well done! If you didn't get your plan completed in time, don't panic, they can still be submitted. We'd encourage every team to meet, discuss their results, and agree on one action for the coming year to improve their workplace experience.

Fit Testing – important reminders:

- **Turas reminders:** Turas sends reminders for older fit test passes even when a newer valid pass exists. Please check your Turas records before booking a retest or enquiring why your Turas Records have not been updated.
- **Missed appointments (DNAs):** 80 DNAs in Q2 2026 have resulted in the loss of approximately 6.5 working days of fit testing time. Please cancel appointments no longer required by emailing the fit testing hub email address gram.face-fit-appointment-hub@nhs.scot or use the update option in your booking confirmation email rather than creating a new booking. This helps prevent duplicate bookings and unnecessary lost appointment time.
- **Facial Hair:** FFP3 masks rely on a good seal against the face so that, when you breathe air in, it is drawn into the filter material where the air is cleaned. Facial hair makes it impossible to get a good seal of the mask to the face. You must shave on the day of your fit test and have no stubble when you arrive. Anyone arriving with facial hair for a fit test will not be seen. To ensure the FFP3 mask provides an effective seal, you must also be clean shaven whenever you wear the mask.

Agenda for Change Reduced Working Week – business systems update Thank you to managers who have reviewed and corrected staff records. Some staff contracted hours have been identified as mismatching and as part of the ongoing Systems Reconciliation, affected managers will be contacted to check individual staff. You may receive multiple emails over the coming weeks. Please action any requests promptly – thank you.

NTM (Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria) referral mailbox This mailbox will be discontinued with immediate effect due to consultant sabbatical leave. Until further notice, any patients requiring specialist review for suspected or confirmed NTM infection should be referred via Trakcare to one of the following routes, based on your clinical assessment of the patient's primary need:

- **General Respiratory Track Referral Mailbox** for patients where respiratory assessment or management is the predominant requirement.
- **Infectious Diseases Track Referral Mailbox** for patients where infectious diseases input is considered most appropriate.

Please use your clinical judgement to determine the most suitable referral destination. Referrals received by the discontinued NTM mailbox will not be monitored. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation.

Tribute to Abha Maheshwari It is with great sadness we share the news that Professor Abha Maheshwari sadly passed away earlier this month following a long battle with breast cancer. Abha was the Person Responsible and Lead Consultant at Aberdeen Fertility Centre for many years. Not only did she contribute to the overall success of Aberdeen Fertility Centres service, but she was also involved in numerous research trials which have contributed to better understanding and developments within reproductive medicine. She will be sorely missed. Her absence is undoubtedly noticed not only from colleagues at Aberdeen Fertility Centre, but by those that she has collaborated with from all other disciplines over the years. Abha will be laid to rest today and our thoughts are with Abha's family and friends at this time.

Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday

- **Getting back into the swing of things** Summer holidays are a chance to recharge, but returning to a busy inbox, full diary, and competing priorities can feel overwhelming. Good time management can help you regain focus, prioritise what matters most and settle back into your work routine. Our Time Management session offers practical techniques to help you organise your workload, manage competing demands, and make the most of your working day. [Use this link to](#) book your place and start the season with a clear plan and renewed focus. Looking for more support? [This link to the We Care website](#) has tips and resources to support your wellbeing, as well as a link to an informative podcast from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

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 Speech & language therapist Emily Christie is marking 30 years with the NHS today; riding high in the charts when she joined, none other than Los Del Rio and [Macarena](#).

The colour tunes keep coming, today's first one courtesy of Pamela Fernie, administrator in aseptic services. They've asked for [Blue Monday](#), but this version is by HEALTH and is really rather good!

On a similar 'cover version you didn't know existed' theme, Janine Legge (service manager, NMAHP bank) puts forward Ciara's take on [Paint It Black](#) (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