

Daily Brief...



Thursday 2 October 2025

Staff 'flu vaccination – message from occupational health service (OHS) We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all staff for the outstanding uptake of flu vaccinations recent weeks. While it's not a competition, we are currently the third best performing health board in the country, well above the national average. If you haven't got your jab yet, it's not too late! Appointments can be booked in any of the Grampian vaccination clinics. Where possible, the teams may arrange more staff-only clinics, however, with adult and pre-school/school vaccinations now underway, their capacity is limited. Booking is via the national website, available here: [vaccination booking portal](#).

Your proactive engagement plays a vital role in protecting not only yourselves, but also your colleagues, patients, and the wider community. From an OHS perspective, flu vaccination is a key preventative measure. It helps reduce the risk of illness, minimises staff absence during peak winter pressures, and safeguards vulnerable patients who may be at higher risk of complications. By getting vaccinated, you contribute to a healthier, more resilient workforce and help maintain continuity of care across our services. Your commitment to health and wellbeing is deeply appreciated. Let's continue to lead by example and keep NHS Grampian safe and strong this flu season. Thank you once again.

Speak Up week For day 4 of Speak Up week, our new chief executive Laura Skaife-Knight has recorded a short video message, available here: ['Leading a Speak Up Culture' - NHS Grampian Chief Executive, Laura Skaife-Knight](#)

Storm Amy This storm is forecast to bring heavy rain and strong winds tomorrow and into Saturday. Yellow warnings are in place, with a risk of flooding, power cuts, and other disruption. Please keep up to date with the forecast and plan accordingly.

Windows 11 update The optional upgrade window closed yesterday, with over 90% of compatible devices now running Windows 11. Well done to all! Any remaining compatible devices will now be subject to forced updates. However, we would still encourage those colleagues who have not upgraded to follow the pop-up application window, Windows Update, or the Software Center. Completing the upgrade at a time of your choosing will minimise disruption. If you have team members on long term leave, please power up their devices and carry out this update. If their devices are no longer required, please contact IT to arrange collection and redistribution elsewhere.

Any eligible devices not upgraded by Wednesday 15 October will be disabled and removed from the network. These devices will lose access to clinical systems, user data, email, and the internet. Please don't leave upgrades to the last minute! For any help or if you need assistance, please contact the IT Service Desk via the shortcut on desktops or on Ext 54444.

Baby loss bereavement care – Aberdeen and Elgin dates In collaboration with SANDS charity, workshops on baby loss bereavement care are on offer as follows:

- Aberdeen - Thursday 9 October, 9am-12.30pm OR 1.30-5pm, please email gram.ifpeducators@nhs.scot to book
- Elgin - Friday 10 October, 9.30am-4.30pm (full day workshop), please email gram.bereavementsupportmaternity@nhs.scot to book

These workshops provide a valuable learning opportunity to explore baby loss bereavement care in more detail and within a multidisciplinary group setting. Locally, SANDS support both bereaved families and the healthcare professionals who look after them. If you, or someone you know, has experiences with baby loss, you can find the details of the local support groups here: [Baby Loss Awareness Week | Sands - Saving babies' lives. Supporting bereaved families.](#)

2024-25 Discretionary Points – applications opening We are progressing the 2024-25 Discretionary Points round for all eligible Consultants. Eligible Consultants should have received an email invite. Applications must be checked for factual accuracy by your medical line manager and returned by email to gram.discretionarypoints@nhs.scot by the closing date of 7 November 2025. More information can be found on the intranet page: [Pages - Discretionary Points](#)

Breast screening – raising your awareness October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. A key part of this campaign is the promotion of breast screening. If you want to learn more about breast screening you can access modules on Turas (log-in required): [NHS Scotland National Screening Programmes | Turas | Learn.](#) Alternatively, local face-to-face, or virtual, sessions can be arranged. Please contact chidibere.ogwo@nhs.scot if interested. Additional resources on all the screening programmes are available via the following links:

[Key Messages – NHS Grampian Adult Screening Programmes – Hi-Net Grampian](#)

[Campaign assets | Public Health Scotland News.](#)

Other free promotional resources (including videos, postcards & posters) are available to order here: [Order Request From - Screening Materials \(2\)](#) or via [HPAC](#)

P&J Live ticket offer A 15% discount is on offer for The Getaway Show this weekend, focused on caravans, motorhomes, and outdoor leisure. The event runs 3-5 October, to snap up your tickets, simply follow this link: [The Getaway Show discount tickets](#). As a reminder, due to the ticket provider used by this venue, you may find accessing this link on a personal device a smoother experience.

Tune of the day I have more tales of success from the recent World Rowing Masters. Nikki Carr, a physiotherapist at Woodend, picked up not one, but two, gold medals. In honour of her sporting prowess, here's Macklemore and [Can't Hold Us](#)

I also have some poems to share, to mark National Poetry Day. Thanks must go to Judy Taylor in the DAIM team, who gave me a rich selection to choose from. I had to go for something in Doric, so here's [The Whistle, by Charles Murray, read by Willie Waugh.](#) Theresa Higgins, a secretary in the liver service, has requested Liz Lochhead's [Poem For My Sister](#). Finally, we mark the passing yesterday of Liverpool poet Brian Patten with a reading of [Sometimes It Happens](#) (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