

Friday 26 September 2025

Stop Press – ‘flu clinic today Thanks to the very high level of interest in this year’s ‘flu vaccination, we are running a staff clinic at Woodend **today**. Simply head to Ward 17, anytime between 9.30am-4pm, to get your vaccination.

Speak Up week – starts Monday The annual ‘Speak Up’ week, led by the Independent National Whistleblowing Office (INWO), gets underway on Monday. We’ll have much more on this in the brief next week, meantime, INWO have organised a programme of events which you can sign up to here: [Speak Up Week | INWO](#)

Parliamentary praise What’s better than one motion of congratulations at the Scottish Parliament? Two! Colleagues at Royal Aberdeen Children’s Hospital got a special mention for their work improving the lives of teenagers with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) with a new home-based approach to treatment. Meanwhile a celebration of a healthcare first at Royal Cornhill Hospital also earned them parliamentary praise. RCH was home to the first qualified occupational therapist in the UK – Margaret Barr Fulton MBE – in 1925. For more on both these great stories, follow the relevant links below:

[Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital offers lifeline to teenage patients with innovative home treatment](#)

[100 years since UK's first qualified occupational therapist took up post in Aberdeen](#)

Health Literacy Month The headlines this week have again highlighted the importance of getting reliable health information. To mark Health Literacy Month in October, the NHS Scotland Library and Knowledge Service is hosting short education sessions. Topics include trusted sources, misinformation, and communicating health information. Open to all, with flexible registration, there’s more information here: [October is Health Literacy month | The Knowledge Network Scotland](#)

That was the week that was

Monday 22 – public holiday, no brief issued

Tuesday 23 – paracetamol in pregnancy, car parking behaviour, P&J Live ticket offer

Wednesday 24 – staff ‘flu vaccination, digital support drop-in sessions

Thursday 25 – winter preparations, reduced working week – phase two implementation

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 Well, this is a bit embarrassing. Turns out, the most recent STAR Award presentation is, er, to me (Emma Pettis). I was nominated for my work on this brief, and I am incredibly grateful for the very kind words in the nomination. You might be able to tell; I love writing this each day. It's a real privilege, especially when I get to play DJ, celebrating – or commiserating – with you via Tune of the Day. Ta ever so.

Nominating a colleague or team for a STAR award is super simple; all you need to do is complete this short form: [STAR Award nomination form](#).

Tune of the day We start with a request from Jane Gill, programme director for the Moray Maternity Collaborative. She wants to say a big thank-you to colleagues in anaesthetics, especially Andrej Andrasovsky, Raza Rathore, and Calum Macdonald, who generously gave their time to staff our recruitment stand at the recent Association of Anaesthetists conference in Aberdeen. The focus of the stand was on attracting colleagues to join the team at Dr Gray's Hospital, with a particular emphasis on supporting the maternity service and the wider hospital. Jane – and the whole team - is incredibly grateful to them for taking time out, often during breaks, to be present at the stall. Their presence and advocacy were instrumental, especially given the urgent need for anaesthetic recruitment at Dr Gray's. The song? What else could you play for anaesthetists but [Comfortably Numb](#)?

We are also recording our appreciation to Alison Hamilton, who retires this week after a truly impressive 44 years as a speech and language therapist. During her time in post, Alison has worked in acute, as a service lead, and most recently in the community in Aberdeenshire. It's safe to say she will be much missed by her many colleagues. For Alison, [Take It Easy](#) by Eagles.

Finally, it's a big thanks to all the team on ward 205 at ARI and the M&S concourse crew from chaplain Paul McKeown, for pulling together to make one patient's day very special. [With A Little Help From My Friends](#) rounds off our requests

If that little lot doesn't leave you with the warm fuzzies, I don't know what will. Take care of yourselves, and each other (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