

Monday 27 April 2026

Protected Learning Time (PLT) - update Thank you to everyone who has already engaged with the Once for Scotland (OfS) eLearning modules since their launch on 2 March. These modules form part of your terms and conditions of employment and help ensure we remain safe, skilled and aligned with national standards. Remember OfS Fraud Awareness is the only **new** requirement and must be completed by 2 September 2026. Other trainings should be completed as they come up for renewal.

PLT is not new. It has always included protected time for mandatory learning and development beyond eLearning, supporting staff competence and safe, high-quality care. We encourage staff and managers to continue discussing PLT needs and opportunities during annual appraisals.

Work is ongoing locally to review additional mandatory requirements, and profession specific guidance will follow. More information, including updated FAQs and the 5 PLT methods in NHS Grampian, is [available via this dedicated PLT intranet link](#).

Demystifying Death Week - next week It's not always easy to talk about death and dying. However, thinking ahead and talking can help us feel more prepared and more supported. You can take part in #DemystifyingDeathWeek in whatever way feels right for you. You may wish to review the webinars we organised last year; you can explore the [recordings in your own time by following this link](#).

Next week there will be a series of new, free, online sessions with a range of contributors. These are open to all and will run in the afternoon and in the evening, for your convenience. You can see the topics and [save the joining information via this link](#).

If you need a safe space to talk, [The Listening Service is available via this link](#). The digital factsheet [available via this link](#) and our own spiritual care team are also important sources of advice and support. You can contact the chaplains via gram.spiritualcare@nhs.scot

Scottish non-healing wounds data collection project – two weeks to go We are proud to be participating in Scotland's national data collection project on non-healing wounds, led by the National Association for Tissue Viability Nurse Specialists Scotland and the Scottish Wound Healing Strategy Working Group. Between 11–24 May, all clinicians who manage wounds aged 6 weeks or more will be asked to complete a short data submission. [Further information is available on the intranet via this link](#).

A training session explaining the project and the role of clinical colleagues will take place on 6 May, via Teams, starting at 2pm. The joining information can be found in the article linked to above.

Out of Hours Tube Replacement – new Standard Operating Procedure A new SOP has been uploaded to Grampian Guidance to support clinical teams in the management of dislodged enteral feeding tubes during out of hours. This SOP should be followed by GMED, community district nursing teams, and acute care to ensure consistent and appropriate patient care. It is available on Grampian Guidance or [can be accessed directly via this link](#).

XI Annual Grampian research conference Join us for two inspiring days of learning, collaboration and discovery as we work together towards 'Better Cancer Outcomes'. Last year's conference proudly received the Collaboration Award from Aberdeen Convention Bureau, and this year promises to be even more exceptional, with an outstanding line up of speakers at the forefront of research and care.

Day 1 will feature sessions on the role of NMAHPs in cancer research, innovation for better outcomes, and improving inclusion in cancer trials. The Aberdeen Breast Unit clinical trials evening dinner will highlight ongoing collaborative research across NHS boards and academic partners. Day 2 is centred on reproductive health and childbirth, alongside further contributions from cancer researchers across the region.

The evening of 14 May 2026 will be marked by an exclusive networking dinner hosted by the Aberdeen Breast Unit - a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues while hearing the very latest advances in clinical trials and research. [To register for the conference, simply follow this link](#).

Foundation Apprentices - call for support We are asking departments across the organisation to play an active role in supporting our Foundation Apprenticeship programme. As we continue to face increasing workforce demands, engaging young people early is essential to building a strong, sustainable talent pipeline for the future. How can you get involved?

- Host Foundation Apprentices
- Identify suitable activities or tasks
- Provide mentorship and guidance
- Champion the programme internally
- Work with the Learning & Development team

Foundation Apprenticeships introduce motivated young people to healthcare roles early, supporting long-term career pathways, and strengthening connections between local schools and NHS Grampian. Your involvement is crucial to continuing this progress. If your team can participate or would like to discuss how to get involved, please contact gram.apprenticeships@nhs.scot

Pause for thought Where will you find joy today?

As a reminder, these questions are drawn from the previous week's Guided Journaling session. These take place on Thursdays between 8-8.30am; [booking is via this Turas link](#) (log-in required).

Tune of the day Nedra Talley Ross, the last surviving member of The Ronettes, has died at the age of 80. Here's the girl group in their absolute pomp with [Be My Baby](#) (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