

Tuesday 31 March 2026

Agenda for Change Reduced Working Week – update Finance are continuing to confirm Reduced Working Week (RWW) backfill allocations ahead of 1 April 2026 implementation. There is now a dedicated finance section on the RWW part of the intranet, [simply follow this link](#).

A point of clarification following yesterday's update: managers should not update eESS until further communications have been shared to confirm when they can do so. To avoid changes being overridden by upcoming bulk updates, **please wait to update eESS/submit these forms until further notice**. If you are contacted by the systems teams regarding any changes you have submitted, please respond quickly to avoid any possible pay impacts.

Enteric illness - advice from infection prevention & control team We are seeing increased cases of enteric illness which are affecting patients and staff. Please ensure:

1. appropriate testing is undertaken when symptoms present. This avoids delays in decision making regarding patient placement and ward closures/opening.
2. adhere to IPC practices e.g. water and soap not ABHR for enteric illness
3. appropriate use of PPE
4. thorough cleaning of environment and shared equipment.
5. Staff with symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting must not attend work. If this develops at work, you must leave immediately **and** remain off work until 48hrs symptom-free.

Please contact IP&C for further advice if required.

Retail catering – cash only update Further to the item in yesterday's brief; it is now unlikely our retail catering outlets will have card payments back online for Thursday. As such, please be advised all retail catering outlets (**except** Aroma ECC and Jubilee) will be **cash only until further notice**. We apologise again for any inconvenience and want to assure you we are doing our utmost to get cashless payments back as soon as possible.

Inadequate information on specimen requests - risk to laboratory staff Laboratory staff may be put at risk of infection because of missing or inadequate information on specimen requests. [The HSE have issued a safety notice, available via this link](#) highlighting the risks.

Appropriate clinical information such as (but not limited to) history of recent foreign travel, contact with imported animals, consumption of unpasteurised milk products, and association with an outbreak scenario will enable laboratory staff to handle samples using the correct safety controls. Please ensure this relevant clinical information is included in Microbiology laboratory requests.

[Further detail is available on the intranet via this link](#). If you need advice on the completion of request details and hazard group identification, call the Microbiology lab on Ext 52444. For clinical advice email gram.microbiologyclinical@nhs.scot

Laboratory newsletters The latest newsletters from the laboratory team are available to read via the links below (networked devices only):

[Primary Care newsletter](#)

[Secondary Care newsletter](#)

Big changes on the way for clinical trials On 28 April the UK adopts the ICH Guideline for Good Clinical Practice (GCP) E6 (R3). On the same day the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 becomes law and shall apply to all clinical trial activity in the UK.

Don't worry, your NHSG QA Team will ensure that the joint NHSG-UoA Quality Manual and SOPs are updated as appropriate on the big day. If you are involved in clinical trial activity in Grampian, you will also have to update your GCP certificate to the new version before 31 December 2026. This can be online or face-to-face and further details are available on the joint NHSG-UoA Grampian Research Office website [Grampian Research Office | The University of Aberdeen](#)

NHS Grampian Charity Did you know NHS Grampian Charity's beneficiaries are patients? Legally, this means every project or activity we fund must benefit patients, and any benefit to staff must be incidental to and/or necessary for the patient benefit. That's why it's so important to make sure you tell us about the benefit to patients in your application form – without a clear patient benefit we unfortunately can't consider funding your project. You can learn more in our charity's Charter, [which is available via this link](#).

Tune of the day Andrew Wood is retiring after 22 years with the organisation. All his colleagues and friends within the Corporate Health and Safety team and the wider organisation want to wish him all the very best with his future adventures. As Andrew is a proud Gordon Highlander, I've been asked to play their [Regimental March](#); delighted to do so!

Also bidding the NHS farewell is Fiona Shepherd, from our Public Protection Team at Summerfield House. Throughout her NHS journey, Fiona has been part of several teams, being a trusted colleague, a supportive teammate, and a friend to many. Colleagues wanted me to say her dedication and unwavering support have made a lasting impact, and she will be truly missed. For Fiona, the always splendid Del Amitri and [Kiss This Thing Goodbye](#). Take care, Fiona, and all the very best for your future.

P.S. It's April Fool's Day tomorrow, make sure your scepticism is turned up to 11 (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