

Daily Brief...



Tuesday 7 October 2025

Foresterhill CDU Huge thanks to our Central Decontamination Unit (CDU) colleagues who have been working round-the-clock to re-process a significant volume of instruments affected by the shutdown of the facility at Mile End. This is likely to take several weeks to fully address but their herculean efforts and the support of other health boards mean we'll be able to gradually increase the number of procedures which can go ahead. A full update will be added to the website later today.

CAR-T arrive in North of Scotland A revolutionary cancer treatment that uses the immune system to kill cancer cells has been introduced at NHS Grampian. Aberdeen Royal Infirmary has been named as a regional CAR-T (Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell) treatment centre for the North of Scotland. Patients previously had to travel hundreds of miles, including to the North of England, for treatment.

The therapy works by taking T-cells – blood cells which protect people from disease and infection – from a patient. These are then genetically modified in a laboratory to allow them to find and kill cancer cells before being returned to the patient. Consultant haematologist, Gavin Preston said: “We’re delighted to announce we’ve gained this status after a long process and a lot of hard work by our Haematology team.

“CAR-T therapy is a revolutionary new cellular therapy using a product developed for each individual patient, which involves re-programming cells from the patient’s own immune system cells, to target their cancer. This treatment is specifically for certain types of lymphoma and leukaemia. It cements ARI as a centre of excellence in haematology.”

STV covered the launch of CAR-T at ARI last week, you can watch the piece on our YouTube channel by [clicking here](#).

Aberdeen City joins national suicide surveillance initiative Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is proud to announce its participation in the national rollout of the QES Suicide Surveillance System, a pioneering initiative aimed at reducing suicides through enhanced multi-agency collaboration.

The system is now available to all local authority areas. Aberdeen City, alongside Renfrewshire, Scottish Borders, and Aberdeenshire, is among the first regions to be fully trained and actively using the system. The three Ayrshire local authorities are expected to join us shortly. Aberdeen City HSCP began its pilot in October 2024, and local partners may soon receive requests to complete forms with background information about individuals who have suspectedly died by suicide. This data is vital for identifying local trends and improving preventative strategies. We understand the sensitivity of this work and encourage staff to seek support from their managers if needed. For more information about the QES Suicide Surveillance System, please visit: [QES | Suicide Surveillance](#). For any queries regarding this, please email gram.citymh@nhs.scot

PhD opportunity University of Edinburgh Clinical Academic Track (inclusive) is a full time PhD studentship opportunity open to NMAHPs, pharmacy professionals and healthcare scientists. Funding is

provided for a preparatory period (typically three months full-time) when selection of supervisors and planning of the PhD project are optimised with the support of the ECAT directors before beginning the three-year PhD project. Following the PhD, salary funding may be available for up to two years of postdoctoral research. [Further information is available on the intranet here](#); applications must be submitted by 22 October.

Reproductive Health and Childbirth Newsletter The latest instalment of the NHS Research Scotland [Reproductive Health and Childbirth Newsletter](#) is now available to view online.

Draft Noise at Work Policy A new NHS Grampian [Control of Noise at Work Policy](#) is now ready for formal consultation. The final closing date for return of feedback is Tuesday 11 November. All feedback should be identified using either 'track changes' or by clearly highlighting feedback within the document using a different coloured font. All feedback should be returned to gram.policieessubgroup@nhs.scot

Community Empowerment Toolkit and Training A new introductory training course 'Foundations of community engagement' is being offered to community engagement practitioners across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, and Moray. This course is for anyone who wants to learn the basics of community engagement and apply these skills as part of their job role. Further information, including course dates and details of how to book your place can be found here: [Community Engagement Training - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

NHS Grampian Charity Did you know an incomplete application form is the most common reason for delays when applying to NHS Grampian Charity? The charity funds projects using charitable donations very generously made by the people of Grampian and is required to gather all the information asked for on the application form to ensure these donations are spent in line with charity law and the donor's wishes. Please make sure you read the guidance provided for each question when applying.

If you are unsure about a question on the form, you can speak to one of our team at our weekly virtual drop-in session before applying. It takes place on Teams every Thursday between 10am and 11am and there's no need to book, [just click the link on our Intranet page on the day](#).

Tune of the day It's Pharmacy Technicians Day! These healthcare superstars work in different areas such as in acute, mental health, primary care, and community. They provide vital services such as dispensing medications, medication supply, supporting patient care and manufacturing of medications. In celebration of them, Cady Mathieson, principal pharmacy technician, requests [Float On](#) by Modest Mouse.

We also have a big birthday in the house today, for Ann Mercer, speech and language therapist at the Len Ironside Centre. Congratulations on turning 50, Ann! Here's the best birthday song for you – [Happy Birthday](#) by Stevie Wonder (KJ).

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