

Wednesday 7 October 2026

NHS reform – staff information sessions As highlighted in the most recent ‘Ask Laura’ video, in-person sessions to discuss proposed NHS reform are being planned. This is your opportunity to speak to Laura Skaife-Knight and Steven Lindsay. Initial dates and locations are below. Please note specific venues will be confirmed nearer the time; these sessions will run on a drop-in basis. We will continue to host online briefings and aim to attend as many of our sites in person as possible.

- Friday 30 October – Woodend, 1-2.30pm
- Friday 6 November – Summerfield House, 12.30-2pm
- Friday 20 November – Dr Gray’s Hospital, 12-1.30pm
- Friday 18 December – Royal Cornhill Hospital, 3.30-5pm
- Friday 8 January 2027 - Fraserburgh Community Hospital, 12.30-2pm
- Friday 22 January 2027 – ARI, 10.30am-12pm and AMH 13.30pm to 15.00pm
- Friday 5 February 2027 - Aberdeen Health Village, 10.30am-12pm
- Monday 8 February 2027 - Inverurie Hospital, 11.30am-1pm
- Friday 26 February 2027 – RACH, 12.00pm -13.30pm

Scottish COVID inquiry – Do Not Destroy Order The Scottish inquiry can call for a variety of evidence in support of its considerations. It is essential we retain all information that may be of relevance. This includes emails, Teams messages, text or other messages, etc around what we did, how we worked, and how we made or received decisions, as well as more formal information such as reports, reviews, briefings, minutes, papers, notes, correspondence etc. All medical records must be retained, even where they have moved beyond their normal retention periods, as we cannot know which cohorts of patients and their outcomes will be in scope. To be clear, you must not destroy any information that could be relevant to the inquiry. All medical records are to be retained and must not be destroyed, even where it would be normal to do so.

Patient care after death On behalf of the Mortuary Team, all clinical colleagues are reminded deceased patients must be wearing two identification wristbands when being transferred to the mortuary. This is in accordance with our local Standard Operating Procedure and Patient Care After Death SOP, and is an important measure to ensure the safe, respectful, and accurate identification of patients following death. Where a deceased patient arrives at the mortuary with no wristbands, or only one wristband in place, the transferring ward will be contacted and requested to attend the mortuary to provide wristbands and identify the patient. Please ensure two identification wristbands are in place prior to transfer to prevent delays and the need for ward staff to attend the mortuary.

The Deceased Patient Risks & Hazards Notification Form must also be completed for all deceased patients; this must be completed accurately. We appreciate your support in maintaining high standards of patient care, dignity, and identification throughout the patient care after death pathway.

Baby Loss Awareness Week This annual event begins on Friday, giving anyone touched by pregnancy and baby loss a safe and supportive space to share experiences, to commemorate babies' lives, and to raise awareness. Here are some of the opportunities to remember, in association with the Aberdeen and Moray SANDS groups and MISS Miscarriage Support:

- In the Dr Gray's Hospital chapel that week there will be a special "Memory tree" where families and friends can remember their precious babies with messages and names.
- There will be a Memorial Service of Remembrance and Reflection in the Elgin Counselling Centre (beside Tesco) on Monday 12 October at 6pm.
- On Thursday 15 October 6.30pm, there is a "Wave of Light" service at the Forget Me Not Garden at Aberdeen Hazlehead Crematorium.

Those affected by pregnancy or baby loss are also able to remember their babies in Memorial Books across our sites. [For more information, please follow this link.](#)

Medical appraiser - information session We are recruiting additional secondary care medical appraisers. If you are interested in supporting colleagues through appraisal, join our webinar on Wednesday 4 November at 2pm to learn more about the role. We welcome interest from both newly appointed and experienced Consultants and SAS doctors. The session will cover what the role involves, the training and support provided, and how to get started. [Follow this link to attend the event.](#)

Respiratory MCN Winter webinar Registration is now open for the Grampian Respiratory MCN Winter Webinar, which will take place online via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 11 November, from 9.15am to 12.30pm. This annual event provides an opportunity for healthcare professionals across Grampian to come together for updates, shared learning and discussion on key respiratory topics. The programme and speakers are currently being finalised but will feature a range of topical sessions relevant to respiratory care and winter preparedness. [Please follow this link to secure your place](#) and share the invitation with colleagues who may be interested. For enquiries contact gram.mcn@nhs.scot.

Research and Development Update Congratulations to consultant Shona Methven and the wider team for achieving 'first patient first visit within 30 days' for AstraZeneca's BalanceD-CKD study on 30 September. [Further information about this study is available via this link.](#)

Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday

- Improving staff experience, wellbeing and engagement is an organisation priority for 2026/27. We want colleagues to feel valued, supported and involved in decisions that affect them. To support this, the Everyone Matters Pulse Survey has been introduced and is currently live. This new survey complements the annual iMatter survey by providing more regular opportunities for you to share your views throughout the year. Regular feedback will help us better understand staff experience, track the impact of culture and wellbeing initiatives, identify emerging issues early, and measure progress against our People, Leadership and Governance objectives. The 2026/27 survey programme includes: iMatter Survey (May) and two Everyone Matters Pulse Surveys. Have you had your say? [Follow this link to see a short video from Laura Skaife-Knight.](#) For more information or to raise any queries, please contact the team via gram.wcd@nhs.scot

Tune of the day The happiest of birthdays to Tracy Riley, Procurement & Service Contract Officer in MEMS! Colleague Lyndsey has requested Diana Ross and [Chain Reaction](#) (written by the BeeGees, check Barry Gibb on backing vocals) (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.dailybrief@nhs.scot