

Daily Brief...



Wednesday 8 October 2025

All-staff call with our new Chief Executive, Laura Skaife-Knight You are invited to attend an all-staff call with Laura Skaife-Knight today at 12.30pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the external review of the organisation, to be published shortly. Information will also be circulated via email for those unable to attend. Booking not required, simply [follow this joining link](#).

Operational Improvement Plan We are pleased to let you know the Scottish Government has awarded us new funding of £6M to be spent in the current financial year, following submission of our plan to make improvements in flow, frailty services, and Discharge without Delay. What's different about this plan is it truly system wide. The chief officers in the three health and social care partnerships (HSCPs) developed the plan jointly with Geraldine Fraser, chief officer for acute, along with support from the Scottish Government assurance board. It comes with a focus on improving capacity in the community in line with 'shifting the balance of care'. The unscheduled care programme board is increasing its frequency of meetings, with Leigh Jolly, Chief Officer Aberdeenshire HSCP chairing these.

We're also excited to share we will be receiving some board-to-board peer support from NHS Lothian, who are further along in delivering a similar programme. There will be lots more to share in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on these briefs or visit the dedicated intranet page: [GRAM-RethinkingUnscheduledCare - Home](#) (this page is being regularly updated, for information).

Routine ED blood-borne virus testing In a Scottish first, NHS Grampian is aiming to save lives by diagnosing blood-borne viruses (BBVs) earlier. The launch of a new initiative will see patients who have a blood test performed, as part of their care at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary's Emergency Department, tested for BBVs, unless they chose to opt out.

Early detection of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV can be lifesaving, as they are treatable - but if left undiagnosed can lead to serious illness and, in some cases, death. The launch comes following a successful pilot last year.

Gareth Patton, consultant in emergency medicine, said: "We found around one-in-180 patients tested had a previously undiagnosed BBV and it allowed us to link that patient to specialist care - in many cases before they were showing any symptoms. Patients with BBV infections are often asymptomatic in the early stages, so there are people living with them who aren't aware. The only way to find out if someone has a BBV is to carry out a test." [Read the full news release](#).

EPMA password update The EPMA Fallback Terminal (HEPMA back up computer) password will be updated tomorrow (Thursday 9 October) at 8am. When the EPMA Fallback Terminal password update is complete, further instructions – including the new password – will be emailed to all affected parties.

Introduction to sexual health course Grampian Sexual and Reproductive Health Service are holding their twice-yearly Introduction to Sexual Health course on 7 November 2025. It's an online training session, running from 9am-12pm. The event is aimed at health care professionals working in both primary and secondary care settings, and would interest general practitioners, practice nurses, advance nurse partitioners, midwives, paramedics, pharmacists, physician associates and trainees.

The content includes contraceptive counselling, introduction to contraceptive methods, emergency contraception, sexual health assessment, young person's assessment and abortion care. The course costs £15; information on booking and payment is available on Turas here (log-in required): [Sexual Health : Introduction to Sexual Health | Turas | Learn](#) For general enquiries, please contact gram.srhttraining@nhs.scot

Paediatric MTC Education Session Initial Reception of Trauma is the topic of the next Paediatric MTC Education Session, due to take place tomorrow (9 October) from 11.45am to 12.30pm via Teams. This will be presented by Gareth Patton and you can [use this joining link](#).

Happy International Podiatry Day! We're celebrating the amazing work of our podiatry teams and sharing two fun foot facts videos that'll surprise you and make you smile—check them out and step into the world of foot health: [International Podiatry Day 2025 - YouTube](#)

Remember CPR For Feet - Check, Protect, Refer. Let's make a concerted effort to prevent hospital acquired pressure ulceration. Want to know more about CPR for Feet? Check out this short video: [CPR for Feet](#)

Introduction to the wheelchair service Are you a student, new staff member, or simply curious about the wheelchair service? Join us for an online tutorial via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 5 November at 2.30pm to learn more about what we do and how we support individuals across Grampian. You'll learn:

- The remit of the wheelchair service
- How to complete a referral
- Eligibility criteria
- Types of equipment we can provide

To register, please email gram.wheelchairs@nhs.scot and you will receive the Teams link.

Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday This week sees [World Mental Health Day](#) and [International Happiness Awareness at Work Week](#) come together. WCD promote both emotional wellbeing and positive mental health across NHS Grampian. Some information, useful signposting links and ideas to help you promote connection in your area:

World Mental Health Day (10 October)

- [Mind- the mental health charity](#)
- [National Wellbeing Hub](#)
- [Useful Contacts - Mental Health](#)
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

Happiness Awareness Week (6-10 October)

- Gratitude walls or digital boards for staff to share what brings them joy.
- Random acts of kindness challenges.

- Celebration of team achievements and personal wins, celebrating excellence.
- [Rewards and Recognition](#)
- [Happier Kinder Together | Action for Happiness](#)

New dates for the **Spaces for Listening Sessions** are now live for the last quarter of 2025, October through to December. Find out more and [book a session](#). For more information or to raise any queries, please contact the team via gram.wcd@nhs.scot

Tune of the day In honour of World Podiatry Day, it can only be [Knocks Me Off My Feet](#) by Stevie Wonder. I hope you've got someone to sway alongside you today, whether it's via Teams or in person, as we also consider the personal impact we can have on colleagues and mark Happiness Awareness Week. Keep grooving together! (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