

Daily Brief...



Tuesday 9 December 2025

Drop-in 'flu vaccination clinic – today! 'Flu season is well and truly underway. If you haven't had your vaccination yet, there's a drop-in clinic underway at Aberdeen Health Village until 1pm today. This is open to staff and eligible members of the public alike, so please spread the word.

All Grampian vaccination clinics are open for drop-ins by health and social care staff. They're also starting to offer public drop-in sessions as well; [check out our dedicated vaccination website for more](#). Getting the jab protects you, your family, and the people we care for. If you do get 'flu - and no vaccination is 100% effective – immunisation means milder symptoms, faster recovery time, and a reduced risk of serious illness. If you've not taken up the offer yet, please give it serious consideration.

Unscheduled Care update Improving our unscheduled care performance is another of our organisational priorities (check out yesterday's brief for the latest on planned care performance). Current compliance with the 4-hour ED standard is below national expectations, and ambulance turnaround times are challenged by factors including poor flow because delays in discharging patients persist, despite targeted improvement work within wards.

This pressure is compounded by rising winter demand, such as the most recent cold snap which saw almost 160 people attend our emergency departments, following slips, trips and falls resulting from the snow and ice.

Immediate actions taken to stabilise the system include more frequent meetings of the Whole System Tactical Group to support operational oversight and forward planning. Acute and community capacity is being prioritised and a request for funding to support further social care has been made to the Scottish Government. This is alongside improved discharge processes and new rapid escalation processes for urgent operational issues. Medium-term improvement projects remain on track, including Frailty at Front Door, an Integrated Discharge Hub and Flow Navigation Centre enhancements. Recruitment for a further 114.5 WTE posts is also progressing to bolster existing teams.

Foresterhill CDU shutdown The latest update on the temporary closure of the Foresterhill CDU – and work to bring it back into use – [is available to read on the intranet via this link](#).

Band 5 nursing review - progress report It's been a while since we shared an update on the Band 5 nursing review. As a reminder, this is part of the 2023/24 Agenda for Change pay agreement and it allows nurses currently working at Band 5 to request a re-evaluation of their post, with a possible regrade to Band 6. There is further information and [a link to the application portal available at this link](#). A few things we wanted to remind you of:

- This is open to all Band 5 nurses currently employed by the NHS in Scotland. You have the complete support of the organisation to request a review of your position.
- There is currently no closing date for this review.
- Applications are worked through in order of the date received. We have had significant interest in this review and ask for your patience. We are currently processing applications submitted in March 2025.
- We hope to move to a more streamlined process for dealing with applications in the new year, which should reduce your waiting time significantly.

Questions? We're here to help. Please contact gram.band5JE@nhs.scot with your query.

Reminder - TrakCare server maintenance - tomorrow Essential maintenance will be performed on the live TrakCare servers tomorrow (Wednesday) between 12-12.10pm. All active users will be automatically logged out at 12pm. Any unsaved data will be lost and must be re-entered once the system is back online, so please make sure entries are saved prior to 12pm. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Festive closures Information about service closures or adjusted opening hours over the festive period is [available on the intranet by following this link](#). Services listed to date include infection prevention and control, retail catering outlets, and the IT drop-in service. If you want to get your service added, please email us with the details via gram.communications@nhs.scot

NHS Grampian Charity Did you know more than 1,700 patients in hospitals across Grampian will receive gifts on Christmas Day? Almost 90 wards at 17 different hospitals applied to NHS Grampian Charity this year to purchase gifts for patients who will be in hospital on Christmas Day. These gifts are funded through generous donations made by the public, and we are very grateful for their support. The charity is continuing to encourage people to take part in National 'Elf Service Week' next week to help raise money to bring festive cheer to our hospitals – [follow this link to find out more about the campaign](#).

Thank you to all the staff who have applied for funding and bought and wrapped gifts for their patients. We would love to see pictures of your Christmas gifts, trees and decorations. You can tag us in posts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).

Tune of the day For me, it's not really Christmas until Emily Christie (speech and language therapist in Aberdeen City) requests [White Wine In The Sun](#) by Tim Minchin. I first heard this song in the run up to Christmas 2020, when I crowdsourced a playlist to get us through a very strange festive season. Tim is, of course, a comedian and this song is funny but also (for me, at any rate) slightly melancholy, making me think of those who won't be here. I take comfort in knowing they are somewhere, drinking white wine in the sun. Tim lets slip a couple of swears in the above version, for info.

Audrey Christie, admin in the Moray Discharge to Assess team, has a big birthday coming up next week. Colleagues say, cheesy as it sounds, she is [The Best](#). (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