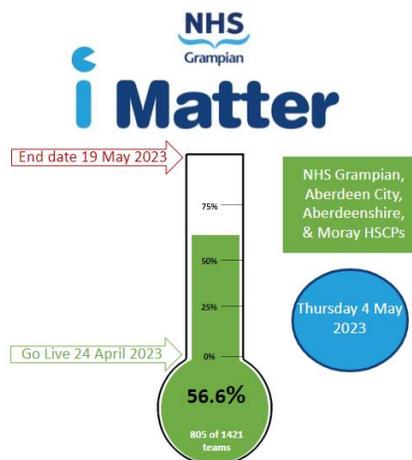


Thursday 4 May 2023

**Industrial Action update** A ballot on strike action by junior doctors in Scotland will close tomorrow. We anticipate results will be shared early next week. The Short Life Working Group on industrial action continues to meet regularly to discuss the potential impact of any action on our services, and to make plans to mitigate that impact. Please be assured we will continue to share updates and information on this with you via the brief.

**iMatter team confirmation – update** As you can see below, more than half of all managers across NHS Grampian and the health & social care partnerships have confirmed their teams in iMatter to date. This demonstrates a fantastic commitment to staff feedback; thank you to all the managers who have confirmed their team or sought help as required. Making sure your team is up to date and confirmed ensures they will have the chance to feedback and share their experiences. If you have any queries or need any help, contact us at [gram.imatter@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.imatter@nhs.scot) or book a time to talk to us via this link [Team Confirmation Booking](#). The questionnaire goes live for all staff on 22 May and takes only 5 minutes to complete.



**Safe and correct use of slipper socks** Slipper socks are routinely used in many in-patient areas to provide footwear, particularly if someone has been admitted without shoes, or if dressings etc. mean their footwear doesn't fit. Slipper socks are socks worn on the feet, with anti-slip gripping tread on the sole of the foot, to prevent falling on slippery surfaces. They may also be being used in the hope of preventing falls or slips, or simply to keep someone's feet warm.

The Acute Sector Falls group have asked us to share these important points with you all:

- There is little evidence these socks prevent hospital falls.
- They are not a suitable replacement for well-fitting footwear, and patients should wear their own shoes whenever possible, as soon as possible.
- The correct size should always be issued, to ensure skin integrity and circulation are not compromised.

- These are disposable items and **must not** be sent to the laundry. They are not items that can withstand the laundering process causing damage to laundry equipment and the slipper sock. Patients and families have been reusing this item and not realising the slipper part is no longer providing a nonslip grip.

**HEPMA Update** We are now live with HEPMA in both early adopter areas; Roxburghe House and ward 103 at ARI. As hoped, the early adopter wards have provided valuable learning ahead of a full implementation, as follows:

- 24/7 permanent user access support is essential. We are currently operating with a temporary solution this is not sustainable for additional wards
- Additional training and support to supplement eLearning is essential

In light of this, we are reviewing options for 24/7 support before implementing HEPMA in any additional wards; the current out of hours support will remain in place for existing wards. There are mandatory North of Scotland HEPMA eLearning courses: medicines administration and medicines prescribing as required which we encourage you to complete, these are mandatory for access. Links to details of any additional training events can be found here: [Pages - HEPMA-Training \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://pages.nhs.uk/HEPMA-Training). Additional events will be added to the training schedule and shared via this brief.

**Password policy** As today is World Password Day, we thought this was a good opportunity to remind you of the change to the password policy. The next time you are prompted to change your password please remember the following:

- Your password must be **at least** 12 characters long.
- Capitals, special characters (e.g., ! or ?), and numbers won't be enforced, but if you can include them, great! It is good practice.
- Your password should consist of three unique random words (e.g., Toast RiverTree)

When coming up with random words, remember, you don't have to limit yourself to the English language. If you are really struggling, why not use the What 3 Words website? Choose a place you have visited - **not** your current home or work address - and use the 3 words randomly assigned to it.

**National Conversation Week and Realistic Medicine** [National Conversation Week](#) takes place 22 - 29 May; to support this, the Realistic Medicine Team are co-hosting two events in collaboration with Aberdeen City Libraries. Dates, locations, and times below; these will be a mixture of drop-ins and bookable sessions:

- Monday 22 May, Central Library, 4 - 7pm
- Wednesday 24 May, Airyhall Library, 3.30 - 6.30pm

You are invited to join us to talk about Realistic Medicine tools and resources and how these together with the Aberdeen City Library Health Information Plus Service can help support health care conversations. [To register please click this link](#), or scan the relevant QR code below if you are reading a printed copy of the brief.



Airyhall Library



Central Library

We will also be speaking with people visiting hospital about conversations to help support shared decision making. If you would like us to visit your area or service, please contact [gram.realisticmedicine@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.realisticmedicine@nhs.scot).

**Tune of the day** Tomorrow is International Day of the Midwife, so who better to dedicate a tune to, than all midwives working across Grampian? Since with word midwife literally means 'with women' I've plumped for [I'll Stand By You](#) by The Pretenders. To our midwives, and the teams who support them, thank you (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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)