

Tuesday 5 December 2023

The week in review Yesterday we highlighted a particularly busy weekend across our health care system – perhaps to be expected during the recent cold snap when winter weather typically means increased illness and accidents. Taking a closer look at the figures, we had 30 fewer admissions from ED into the rest of ARI than the previous week. This suggests other factors are contributing to the pressures experience.

The sustained and significant levels of bed occupancy in acute hospitals continues to cause strain for patients, staff and other services – with ambulance waiting time at ED particularly high during certain periods over the weekend. We know periodic bed crises occur when we are operating so close to maximum levels. Delayed discharges have been showing an increasing trend since April – the likely impact of reduced intermediate care beds and the longer-term decline in care home places. Delayed discharges, our ageing population, and increasing acuity all add to time spent in hospital. Over the past 8 years, the average length of stay for ARI patients has been increasing and is now half a day higher in 2023 than in 2015.

Reducing waiting times for planned care is a key objective and we know the challenges of doing so when both elective waiting lists and the demand for emergency care is so high. With emergency care accounting for 55% of ARI admissions, (10% higher than 8 years ago), returning to a better balance between elective and non-elective care is crucial for population health and sustainability. This is the ambition behind our Plan for the Future, acknowledging that this may be cold comfort during these times of intense and prolonged pressure.

Adult and Child Public Protection Supervision and Support: Supporting you to address public protection in supervision sessions What if we could give you the knowledge you need to support and protect those in your care and help you confidently navigate Adult & Child Protection scenarios in just a few minutes? Would you do it or say you're too busy?

Please don't wait, this is vital information **everyone** in a 'patient-facing' role needs to know. Find out exactly what's expected of you, and it could help you change a life for the better.

Watch the video FAQ here: [Adult & Child Public Protection Supervision & Support Policy - YouTube](#) Find out more & read the policy [HERE](#)

Festive Period Salary Submission Deadlines Due to earlier payroll deadlines in December and January and the public holidays during the festive period the deadlines for submission of all e-ESS Manager Self Service changes and paper claim travel documentation require to be earlier than normal.

[The full details are available here.](#)

Data security – it's everyone's business Last week we touched on the things we all need to do to keep the buildings we work in secure; in the coming days we are going to share some top tips from the Information Commissioner on keeping data secure. If patient, or other internal, confidential, data is lost, stolen, or simply sent to the wrong place in error, it can do real damage to those we care for and work with. If you have any concerns or questions about data protection, please contact Information Governance via gram.infogovernance@nhs.scot

First up, if you experience any kind of data incident, report it via Datix immediately. There is a direct link to Datix in the Favourites bar of Microsoft Edge on every NHS Grampian device; select Breach of Information/IT Security as the incident type. It's essential you report incidents immediately as the chance of recovery decreases with time. There are also statutory reporting requirements that must be considered within 72 hours. Please don't delay reporting and pick it up as administrative task hours or even days after identifying a potential issue.

Christmas meals for staff – new arrangements For several years, the catering team have provided sandwich platters or extra hot meals for staff on wards on Christmas Day/New Year's Day. Typically, 80-90% of these are returned to the kitchen untouched, presenting us with a huge food waste issue.

We realise lots of you who work on Christmas Day or New Year's Day organise your own snacks and celebrations or have your special meal at another time. To give you flexibility, and to allow the catering team to only produce what is needed, if you are working on Christmas Day/New Year's Day, you are now able to order a hot meal, at a reduced price, from the catering team. All you need to do is pop along to your nearest retail catering outlet, or kitchen in the community hospitals, and speak to the catering team to place your order. These will be delivered along with patient meals on 25 December/1 January. If you are based at Foresterhill, but not working on a ward, you will be able to collect your meal, by arrangement from the ARI kitchen.

[The full menu and ordering details are available here](#) and attached to the email used to send this brief.

Paediatric MTC education session The next paediatric MTC education session will take place on Friday 8 December, on Teams, between 12 – 1pm. This session will focus on thoracic injuries. All welcome, please get in touch via gram.nosmtc@nhs.scot

Secret Santa draw returns for 2023 Are you in need of a break? Make sure you enter the Secret Santa draw; we have 38 vouchers for an overnight stay for two at Gleneagles, including a full Scottish breakfast, up for grabs. The draw will run until 11.45pm on Wednesday 20 December [Read the terms and enter here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only) or scan the QR code below if you are reading a printed copy of the brief. One entry per employee. If you manage people who do not have an active email address or easy access to a computer, please contact us at gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot



Fancy a coffee? Working with NHS Charities Together, Starbucks are offering NHS staff a free Tall drink of their choice tomorrow (6 December). Simply show your ID badge when you make your order. Please note, this is a UK-wide offer, arranged between NHS Charities Together & Starbucks; NHS Grampian is not responsible for this offer.

Grampian Hospitals Christmas Carol Concert It's firm fixture in the festive calendar; the Grampian Hospitals Christmas Carol Concert takes place this Sunday at 2.30pm, in the Music Hall in Aberdeen. Tickets are £20 for adults, £15 for children, under 12s are free if accompanied by an adult. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Young Lives vs Cancer. Tickets are available from the Music Hall box office and online: [Grampian Hospital's Christmas Carol Concert - Young Lives vs Cancer | Aberdeen Performing Arts](#)

Tune of the day Emily Christie was the one who introduced me to [White Wine in the Sun](#) by Tim Minchin when we put together a Christmas playlist together in 2020 and it became an immediate favourite, so I'm thrilled she's requested it again. Content warning – Tim does let slip a swear word at the first chorus

That playlist we created three years ago remains available on Spotify, just search 'NHS Grampian Christmas playlist' (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