

Here is the brief for Thursday 21 October 2021.

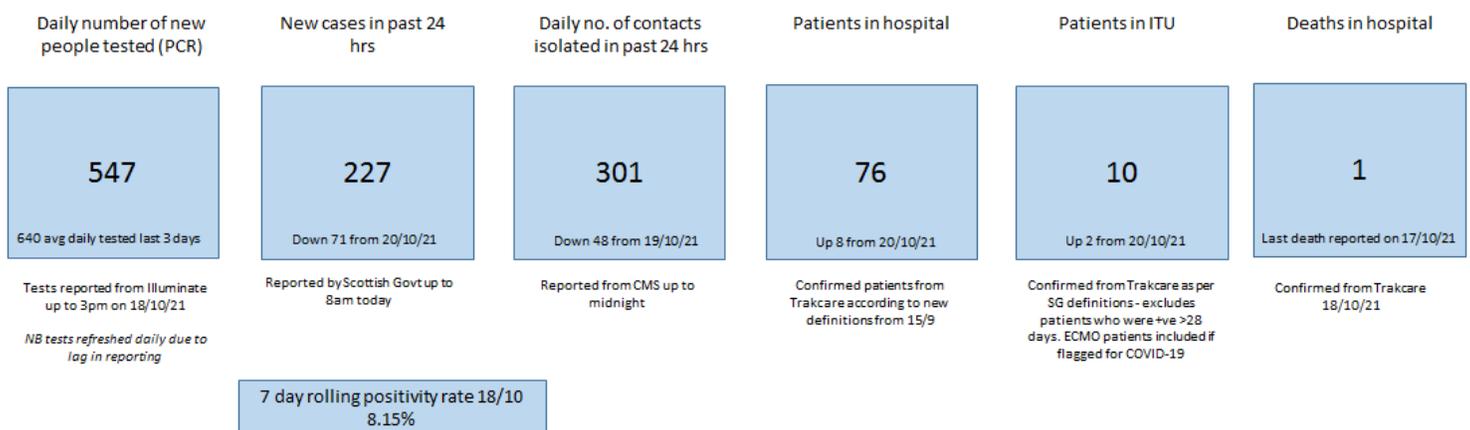
**COVID vaccine certification – what about boosters?** Some of you have been in touch to ask why the COVID Status app (or indeed the paper certificate) only records the first and second dose of vaccine, and not boosters. We've been advised that, as boosters are not required for international travel or domestic use, they are not currently included in the certification process. This may be subject to change in the coming months, and further discussions are expected at both a UK and EU level about what is required.

**Vaccine effectiveness – new study** Vaccination is over 90% effective at preventing deaths from the Delta variant of COVID-19, according to new research published today. A study, involving the Universities of Strathclyde and Edinburgh has found the Pfizer vaccine is 90% effective, and the AstraZeneca vaccine 91% effective, in preventing deaths in people who have been double vaccinated, but who have tested positive for coronavirus in the community. The Moderna vaccine is also available in Scotland; no deaths have been recorded in those who have been double vaccinated with it. As such, researchers say it has not been possible to estimate its effectiveness in preventing death.

The study, using data from the Scotland-wide EAVE II Covid-19 surveillance platform, is the first to show across an entire country how effective vaccines are at preventing death from the Delta variant, which is now the dominant form of COVID-19 in the UK and many other countries. Researchers analysed data from 5.4 million people in Scotland between 1 April and 27 September 2021. Further information on the study [is available on the University of Strathclyde website](#).

**International Stammering Awareness Day** We want to apologise for the use of the word 'suffer' in the item on this in yesterday's brief. Speech & Language Therapy teams have been in touch (quite rightly) to point out that individuals with a stammer do not 'suffer from' it – they stammer, and they live with it. [They have also shared useful guidance from Stamma \(British Stammering Association\)](#) on how to describe stammering and how to behave with someone who has a stammer.

**Grampian data** The local update for today is shown below.



[The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)

**Return to Practice Information Session – 16 November** We welcome all SCNs, Team Leads, Nurse Managers and/or Practice Educators to an information session about the Nursing and Midwifery Return to Practice programme, run in collaboration with RGU. The session will be held by members of the NHS Grampian Return to Practice team and Dr Kate Goodhand from RGU. There will be a short presentation and time for questions if you would like to join any time within the hour. We will discuss the recruitment process, the course specifics, responsibilities of having a return to practice nurse/midwife and the benefits of the programme. The session will be via MS Teams on **Tuesday 16 November at 3 pm**. For more information, please visit the [Practice Education intranet page](#) or email [gram.rtp@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.rtp@nhs.scot) to book your space.

**Realistic Medicine in Grampian** You may have already seen the image on the scrolling intranet banner recently regarding “It’s OK to Ask”. This emphasises two of the six principles of Realistic Medicine - shared decision making and building a personalised approach to care. One of the key elements of shared decision making is that the patient feels empowered to ask **any** questions of their healthcare provider. This opens up a meaningful conversation around what matters most to the individual and supports them to make an informed choice and this being the best decision for them.

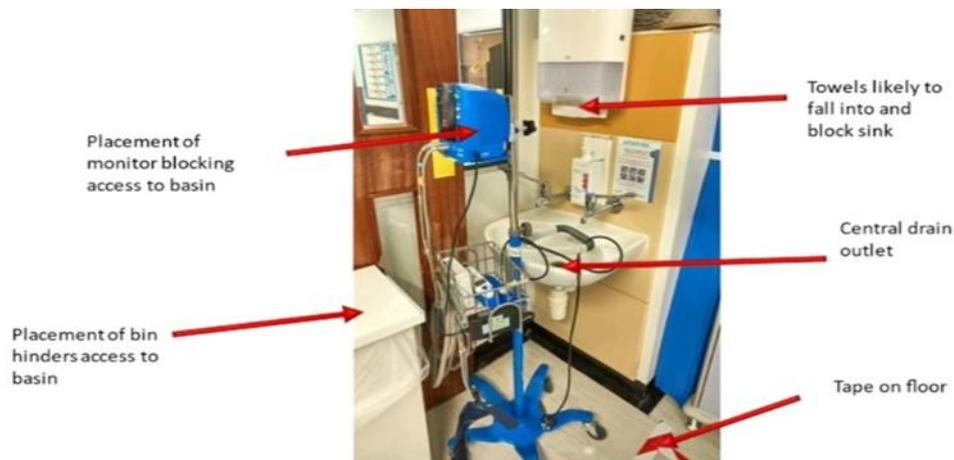
We are about to embark on a public media campaign focussed around encouraging people to use structured questions, which you may be familiar with in either of the formats below.



You may want to refresh your shared decision-making skills (or take a first look at them) if so, we would point you towards an excellent resource that can be found on Turas. Follow the link or scan the QR code below [Realistic conversations : shared decision making in practice | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#). Carrying on from our comment last week regarding the values and behaviours that underpin a good experience: one of the benefits of a good experience for patients **and** staff is that when the patient has made the right decision for them, it makes it more likely they'll adhere to their plan.



**International Infection Prevention Week** In healthcare settings, we need to protect vulnerable patients from non-sterile tap water. Patients with a weakened immune system are high risk for healthcare associated infections. The risk does not stop at the tap - even hospital sink drains and toilets can pose a risk for harbouring antibiotic resistant pathogens that can spread to patients and cause harm. This makes storage of equipment really important – is this (photo below) a good storage space?



One of the reasons not to store equipment near sinks is that microbes from sinks can splash onto equipment. [There's more information on this in this talk, prepared by the Infection Prevention & Control team.](#)

**Digital Ward Update** Last month, we included an introduction of the Inpatient EPR and what to expect so this time, we thought we'd provide an update on progress and some feedback we've received. To date the Inpatient EPR is live in 15 areas or wards – that might not sound like much but for those areas, more than 700 staff members have received one to one training and an estimated 4500 patients with an electronic inpatient record. We understand a project like this, changing familiar ways of working, can be daunting, so we wanted to provide some feedback to reassure you:

- *One Senior Charge Nurse said there had been excellent feedback from the Nursing Staff who have adapted well to this and are excited to see it develop*
- *Another Senior Charge Nurse said staff who weren't so sure of computers were loving it and that was echoed by a Senior Staff Nurse who said she usually wasn't sure of using computers but finds it very straight forward and easy to use*
- *A staff nurse told us how it was good to see everything laid out clearly in one place and not to have to try to understand someone's handwriting*
- *And finally, a patient, who has been in and out of hospital a lot recently, said she had been very impressed and noticed in particular that she was asked to confirm information that staff already had, rather than be asked the same information multiple times over*

With another 10 wards planned to go live before the end of the year, we encourage you to make sure you have access to Trakcare. Please log a call with the helpdesk to reset passwords, or if you don't already have access, apply [here](#).

**Tune of the day** Maria-Elena Christodoulou steps up to our virtual jukebox today, suggesting the brilliant [Dancing in the Dark by Bruce Springsteen](#). The video for this, of course, features a young Courteney Cox, who would go on to find global fame in Friends. She was also the first person to say 'periods' on US television (you can tuck that away for a pub quiz someday!)

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, 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)