

Thursday 26 May 2022

Monkeypox – latest update Two further cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in Scotland, bringing the total here to three. The risk to the public remains extremely low and anyone looking for more information [should visit the NHS Inform website](#). Anyone who is concerned about possible signs or symptoms of monkeypox should contact their GP or NHS24 by phone, not in person. We have prepared some guidance to support hospital staff, in the event an in-person assessment or admission is required. [This is available to view on the Infection Prevention & Control intranet pages](#) (networked devices only).

CAROLINE: IN CONVERSATION WITH...



This week, Dr Fergus Cooper, Specialist Trainee (ST5) in ENT Surgery, joins Chief Executive Caroline Hiscox for episode 9 of her employee spotlight series, "In Conversation."

[The video is available to watch now via this link](#). In it, Fergus discusses what attracted him to ENT and surgical ENT in particular, his future with NHS Grampian, how COVID-19 has affected his training, and his pursuits outside of medicine (including

playing for "ARI Un-Atlético" who are always on the lookout for players to join their league! Drop Fergus an email (fergus.cooper2@nhs.scot) if you'd like to know more).

[The video with Fergus - as well as all prior episodes - can be seen on our YouTube playlist.](#)

Once again, Caroline and Fergus switch sides of the screen throughout this video which is a Microsoft bug introduced in a recent update and outwith our control unfortunately. Hopefully it will be resolved soon.

Single use plastic ban In yesterday's brief we shared information on the alternative stock which can be ordered as the ban on single use plastic comes into effect on 1 June. We can now advise the wooden cutlery listed **should not be ordered**, as it cannot be recycled.

For patient meals, wards should only provide the standard re-useable metal cutlery as available in ward areas, no other cutlery should be purchased.

In retail units, the standard re-useable metal cutlery, which is also recyclable, will be available for customers purchasing a meal/food and sitting in. For customers purchasing meals/food to takeaway, they will require to either bring their own cutlery or they can purchase re-useable knives, forks, and spoons for 10p each. During the transition, for the first couple of weeks, a small stock of the wooden cutlery will be available for customers to use for takeaway meals/food. This will not be available long term as it is unable to be recycled and therefore, it is not a sustainable option.

Security is everyone's business Our various healthcare sites are now busier than they have been at any point over the last two years. More clinics are returning, and visiting is becoming easier. This, combined with the removal of door staff at hospital entrances, means we all need to be thinking about site security. Here are a few top tips:

- Make sure your staff ID badge is visible.
- Don't be afraid to ask why someone is in your ward/clinic/office if you don't recognise them.
- Don't be offended if someone asks you to identify yourself.
- Make sure security doors are properly closed. If there is a fault with a lock (of any kind) log a repair request with Facilities & Estates.
- Make sure all confidential information is appropriately stored - whether it's notes or electronic records. Keep desks clear and lock PCs/other devices when not in use.
- Do not share any confidential information (either in-person or over the phone/by email) if you are not sure who you are speaking to. It is ok to pause and check someone's identity; genuine callers will not object to you taking the time to confirm.
- Make sure confidential waste is properly disposed of. Do not leave confidential waste bags in public areas.
- Only take confidential information (whether paper copies or electronic documents) off-site if you are authorised to do so.

Think cyber security too! As a large public organisation we are potentially vulnerable to phishing attacks; there are helpful tips, quizzes, and signposting to Turas training [in this guide from IT security](#).

Car parking – Foresterhill site If you are based on the Foresterhill site, please bear in mind parking controls have returned. If bringing your vehicle to the site, you should only use allocated staff spaces. Please keep spaces designated for patients, Blue Badge holders, or emergency vehicles free for them to use. It is still possible for staff to use the multi-storey car park; please use Level 6 and above to ensure spaces on the lower floors are kept free for patients.

Dementia Awareness week This annual campaign gets underway on Monday (30 May) with a theme of 'Let's Prevent, Care, Cure dementia together'. On Tuesday, Alzheimer's Scotland national post-diagnostic team are hosting a webinar between 11am-12.15pm on delivering the 5-Pillar model of post diagnostic support. This webinar will be delivered via MS Teams, [you can use this link to join the event](#). In the run up to the awareness week, [you may be interested in reading this blog from Alzheimer's Scotland](#).

Wellbeing and Enablement Practitioners We are recruiting to these exciting new training positions where the focus is on helping people to maintain their health, wellbeing and quality of life. As part of the role, you will register for a fully funded two-year Diploma of Higher Education with RGU. This education will provide you with the knowledge and confidence to work at a higher level as a HCSW (Level 4).

Applications are most welcome from suitable HCSWs across Grampian. For more information please click [here](#) and to apply please click [here](#) (intranet links, networked devices only). Closing date for applications is Friday 3 June. For any queries, please contact gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot

Obstetric Antimicrobial Guidelines Updated Following a review process led by Dr Peter Danielian and the Antimicrobial Management Team, the following antimicrobial guidelines for obstetric patients in the acute sector have been approved and [are now available to access via this link](#).

- [Antibiotic Therapy Prescribing Guidance for Obstetric Patients Version 3](#)
- [Adult Antibiotic Intravenous to Oral Switch Therapy \(IVOST\) Guidance for Obstetric Patients Version 1](#)
- [Obstetric Surgical Prophylaxis guidance Version 4](#)

Clinical Researchers – GCP During the pandemic the required frequency of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and Good Research Practice (GRP) refresher training, detailed in SOP-QA-34, was extended from two years to three years. This was for the duration of the declared COVID-19 pandemic only.

This temporary situation has now been revoked and the required frequency of refresher training has returned to two years from 17 May 2022. All staff involved in the conduct of clinical trials are expected to attend approved training if the time since their last refresher is more than two years. Please note that if the duration since the last Good Clinical Practice (GCP) introduction or refresher training exceeds three years, a researcher must complete the Introduction to Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training, rather than the refresher training. If you are unsure when you last completed GCP/GRP training or need to book onto a course, please contact the R&D training team: gram.randdtraining@nhs.scot

Digital learning in health & social care The Digitally Enabled Workforce team within NHS Education for Scotland (NES) are working to support the development of digital skills and confidence across Scotland's health and social care workforce. We want to make it easier to find and use online learning materials that will help build digital skills and improve confidence with technology.

Please help by completing the survey yourself, and by sharing the link below as appropriate. This survey is for everyone working in health & social care in Scotland, whether you are very confident with digital technology, or completely new to it. The information you provide will help shape how we support the digital and technology learning needs of the health and care workforce, so it is important we gather as wide a range of views as possible.

[The survey is completely anonymous and will take about 10 minutes to complete.](#)

Tune of the day ABBA return to the stage, in a manner of speaking, from tomorrow with a series of virtual concerts featuring their avatars (or should that be abba-tars??) I never need much of an excuse to feature them, but since I'm feeling reflective today, I've gone for [When All Is Said And Done](#) (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