

Thursday 6 April 2023

Microbiology postal kits reminder The mailing envelopes for sample kits have been phased out. These kits will not be suitable for returning samples via Royal Mail; samples must be returned to the GP practice or clinic to enable transport to the laboratory with the routine courier collection. Use of the mailing envelopes via Royal Mail may result in the sample not being received by the laboratory.

Where appropriate, please encourage samples to be collected at time of GP or clinic appointment. These can be returned via the standard laboratory courier service. Where this is not deemed appropriate or possible, then encourage the patient to return the sample to their GP practice for collection via the standard laboratory courier service.

Ask Caroline Updates The next “Ask Caroline” Staff Q&A is due to be published in the Daily Brief in two weeks’ time, so if you’d like to ask a question please submit them to gram.communications@nhs.scot

ASK CAROLINE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE STAFF QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION



Updates following the [last session](#):

Paul Allen, Director of Infrastructure and Sustainability, and his team have provided the following updates:

- Motorbike Parking at Foresterhill – this will be included in the upcoming car parking review.
- Bike lockers utilisation – The teams are investigating the extent to which lockers are allocated but not used and will update via the Daily Brief in the next few weeks. They have confirmed that there is currently no waiting list for these lockers.
- Request for more bike sheds – This suggestion will be considered for action at a future NHSG Transportation Oversight Group. As always, this will be subject to funding availability.

Sign up for Msc Research Methods Edinburgh Napier University is offering a new part-time, fully online MSc in Research Methods for Health and Social Care Practice (starting January 2024). The programme focusses on the development of knowledge and skills in the application of research methods to evaluate issues in health and/or social care practice. More: <https://www.napier.ac.uk/courses/msc-research-methods-in-health--social-care-practice-postgraduate-parttime>

ARI Pink Zone lifts Staff who work on level -1 delivering equipment to wards in the Pink Zone have been left waiting for over an hour due to lifts coming down with staff on them who wish to go up. If you work in this area and have been travelling down when you need to go up, please wait for a lift going up to ensure colleagues trying to deliver essential equipment are not left stranded. If you are able to use the stairs, especially if you are only going up one level, please do.

Transport for patients [THInC](#) is a transport advice service jointly funded by NHS Grampian, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City councils and Nestrans. THInC advises patients about transport options for their appointments, if they are unable to make their own way there, and in some cases THInC can organise transport at the patient's cost.

You, or any patient, can contact THInC by calling 01467 536111 or by emailing travel@thinc-hub.org Phone lines are open Monday to Friday from 09am to 4.30pm. [THInC – Travel advice for Health and Social Care appointments \(thinc-hub.org\)](#)

RVS Trolley Update RVS trollies in our hospitals are manned by volunteers, offering a range of snacks, soft drinks and confectionary. Their dedication delivers a valuable service to patients and staff alike, providing a friendly face and contact to patients who otherwise may not have an opportunity for conversation throughout the day, or may not be able to leave the ward.

At present, trollies operate:

- At Dr Gray's Hospital, Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 11am. This covers wards 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, along with the Day Ward, Stay Ward, Stroke Ward, Reno and AMAU. Contact Manager is Coral.Millns@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
- In ARI, Monday to Friday from 10am till 12noon. This covers the Green Zone. Additional volunteers are currently being trained so hopefully RVS will soon be in a position to offer the service in the Pink Zone. Contact Manager is Andrea.Davidson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



Tune of the day Here we are on another 'Maundy' or 'Holy Thursday', ahead of Good Friday. Here's [Sir Duke](#) by Stevie Wonder for all to enjoy. All the best to everyone celebrating Easter weekend, whatever that means for you (KJ).

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