

Monday 11 September 2023

**Reducing harm from opioids - what are we doing?** We are launching a new programme, aimed at reducing drug related deaths and opioid overdose across the region. It will see us become a corporate provider of naloxone kits to the public. This means at every appropriate opportunity we will all seek to reduce harm and provide people at risk, or their family, with a kit to temporarily reverse an opioid overdose whilst an ambulance is called. [You can find out more in this short video.](#)

There is more information about overdose, risk reduction, and naloxone on our public website: [Overdose \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#) If you, or someone you care about, is worried about overdose, you can confidentially [order a naloxone kit from Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs.](#)

**Candida auris – action required for acute clinical teams** *Candida auris* is an emerging multi-drug resistant yeast that can cause outbreaks in healthcare facilities and presents a serious global health threat. *C. auris* can colonise/infect patients and persist in the healthcare environment. Following identification of the first cases of *Candida auris* in Scotland, ARHAI Scotland published guidance on targeted *C. auris* screening. Acute care clinical teams must identify, and isolate patients directly repatriated from any country outside the UK and send a groin, axilla (armpit), and nasal swab clearly labelled “*C. auris* screening”.

This new requirement **is in addition** to existing MRSA and MDRO admission screening. Patients must remain isolated until all admission screening results are available. A new TrakCare order set for *C. auris* screening will be available in due course. Other patients requiring screening for *C. auris* will be advised by the IPCT e.g., patients newly positive for Carbapenemase Producing Organisms (CPOs). Further information is available from the IPC team. [You can read the full ARHAI Scotland guidance here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

**Unscheduled Care Update Session** The next Unscheduled Care Update session will take place **this** Wednesday (13 September), 12-1pm, on Microsoft Teams. This session will feature updates on Primary Care sustainability, the Bed Base Review project, and the system-wide approach to winter planning for 2023/24. If you would like to be sent the invite for these sessions, please contact the team on [gram.uucteam@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.uucteam@nhs.scot). The session will be recorded so those with the invite will be able to watch the session back in their own time.

**Nationally funded Genetic tests/results in Scotland** The Clinical Genetics service frequently receive requests for genetic tests or for copies of test results. Many of these tests can be requested directly; a detailed list of funded genetic tests in Scotland, including which specialities can request each test, and the criteria for test eligibility, [is now available on the National Service Scotland website.](#)

A completed genetic test request form should accompany the blood to the lab; these forms are available online here: [North of Scotland Medical Genetics \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#). It is not currently possible to request genetic tests via TrakCare. If you believe there is stored DNA, you can simply email the form to the lab:

[gram.molgen@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.molgen@nhs.scot). Some of our test results are available on SciStore. The same email should be used when checking if DNA is stored, or when looking for genetic results that are not on SciStore. If someone is being tested for a family variant, the name and CHI number of the affected individual must be quoted on the request form. The local pedigree number, the name of variant and/or a copy of the original report are extremely useful.

**Nursing opportunities** Interested in a career in nursing? Here is information on two alternative routes into training:

**1.Return to Practice** Has your NMC registration lapsed, and you want to return to work as a nurse or midwife? The return to practice course is suitable for those who have previously been registered with the NMC, including nurses (of all branches), midwives and those previously on the SCPHN register. We run cohorts in February and September, which begin with a 7-week theory block before commencing clinical placement hours. If you want to find out more then come along to our information session, which will be held via Teams on **Monday 2 October at 6pm**. Contact [gram.rtp@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.rtp@nhs.scot) to receive the link to the meeting or get in touch if you have any further queries.

**2.Become a Registered Nurse with the Open University** They offer a four year, part-time, programme blending online and practice-based learning, leading to a qualification in adult, mental health, learning disability, or children and young people nursing. To be eligible, you must have a permanent post with NHS Grampian, working a minimum of 26 hours/week, have numeracy and communications skills at SCQF Level 5 or equivalent, and have your line manager's support. Information sessions are taking place as follows:

- **Tomorrow - Tuesday 12 September, 2.30-3.30pm**
- Thursday 12 October, 6.30-7.30pm
- Tuesday 7 November, 2.30-3.30pm

[All sessions will take on Teams, using this link.](#) You can scan the QR code below if viewing a printed copy of the brief:



**Pause for thought** What in your horizons might benefit from a recharge or clearance? With resources optimised and clearing done, what could potentially emerge?

**Tune of the day** Yesterday was World Suicide Prevention Day. The Samaritans are there, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to listen. You can call them on 116 123. If you are worried about someone, and aren't sure how to start the conversation, remember SHUSH: Show you care, Have patience, Use open questions, Say it back, Have courage. [There's more information on the Samaritans website.](#) Our tune today is Carole King and [You've got a Friend](#) (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)