

Thursday 21 September 2023

**Pension updates** A detailed updated on changes to the pension programme from 1 October was issued via email this morning and [is also available to view here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only). There is very important information contained in this update, covering contribution rates, partial retirement, and return to the NHS following retirement. Please read the information carefully; we will share further updates and an FAQ next week.

**Weekly pay for bank workers – survey closes soon!** This is a final call for all bank workers – and the managers of areas who use bank workers – to give their views on weekly pay. We've had a great response so far, but we know there are many bank workers who haven't yet shared their views. Please click the relevant link below:

[I am a bank worker and want to share my views](#)

[I am a manager who uses bank workers and want to share my views](#)

**Public Holiday reminder** Monday 25 September has been designated a Public Holiday for NHS Grampian. As such many services will either be closed or operating reduced hours. You can find all the public holiday dates on the intranet via [Your Space>Staff Scrapbook>Public Holidays](#).

**Laundry & linen services – help them to help you!** We've got two important updates from our laundry and linen services team to share:

- Alginate bags – also known as 'red bags' these are used to bag up contaminated linen and, because they dissolve, can be put directly into the washing machine. Unfortunately, some areas have ordered in the wrong type of bag. These don't dissolve and are causing blockages and damage to the laundry machines. Please ensure you **only** order and use the following:

Supplier: National Distribution Centre

Product Code: 200320

Manufacturer: ACEDAG LTD3

Description: LAUNDRY BAG RED HWS D60-660-840-R-P 4 X 25,NP712/17

Cost: £24.90 for 4 x rolls of 25 sacks

- Uniform collections – there are more than 100 items of uniform awaiting collection from the sewing room. If you have ordered new uniforms for members of your team, you must collect it in a timely fashion. Around 400 new graduate nurses will join us next month, all requiring uniform, and the sewing room urgently need to clear space. The sewing room is open Mon-Thurs, 7.30am-3pm, and Friday 7.30am-12noon. Please note, they close on public holidays, so will not be open on Monday 25 September.

**Staff vaccination – extra clinics at ARI** Additional staff vaccine clinics have been arranged at ARI (eye outpatients department, level 3, Yellow Zone - please enter via the stairwell opposite Marks & Spencer) for Tuesday 26 & Thursday 28 September. [These are bookable through the online booking portal](#). Please remember to click Employment Related when booking on the portal or the staff clinics will not come up as an option. NHS Inform have updated the 'how to' online booking portal videos, as follows:

- [How to book your vaccine appointment online](#)
- [How to reschedule your vaccine appointment online](#)
- [How to recover your username and password](#)
- [How to update your personal details and communication preferences](#)

**Culture Collaborative** Colleagues from across NHS Grampian and the HSCPs are warmly invited to attend the next edition of the Culture Collaborative, next Wednesday (27 September), 9.40 - 11am. The focus of this meeting will be a spotlight session from the PIP Team, entitled 'PIPs Culture Journey'. We will also spend some time reviewing iMatter results at Board level and have a discussion as a collaborative on what this means for what we choose to focus on next. This is a forum which is open to everyone, irrespective of your role. If you are interested in attending, please contact [gram.culturematters@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.culturematters@nhs.scot). We look forward to seeing you there!

**Leading an Empowered Organisation (LEO) programme** Calling all Nurses, Midwives, AHP's, Healthcare Scientists and Psychologists; there are still some spaces remaining for the October sessions of 'Leading an Empowered Organisation' a leadership programme used worldwide. These take place 5-7 October; if you would be interested in taking part, please see attached flyer for further details and contact [gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot) to secure your space.

**Waste reduction survey – deadline extended** The closing date for [Sustainability Waste Survey 2023](#) has been extended until midnight on Sunday. To take part, just click the link above.

**Race for Recipients – still time to get involved!** We maybe more than halfway through Organ Donation Week, but you can still be part of the Race for Recipients. This activity challenge aims to raise awareness of organ donation; all you need to do is input runs/walks/cycles/swims to add to the distance travelled. You don't need sponsors; you can sign up for free at [Race for Recipients](#) and add the activity you've already undertaken this week. If you signed up and haven't been adding in your activities, please take this as a gentle prompt to do so!

**Tune of the day** A little bit of happy news with a thank you from Deeside Location Manager, Kimberley Forsyth to the whole from Morven Ward at Glen O Dee Hospital, Banchory. She is keen to highlight their incredible efforts during a recent incident which has been covered by the local media this week: [Ambulance worker thanks patient and nurse who helped save his life - BBC News You're a Superstar](#) by Love Inc is for the Morven Ward team (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)