

Thursday 29 December 2022

Message from Tom Power, Director of People and Culture Predictably, given the year we've had, there is a lot of pressure across our health and social care system right now. This is felt intensely by our colleagues in our hospitals, in community and social care and in general practice/primary care. Along with paying attention to our public messaging, the twice daily 'system connect' meetings help us get the wider view of where the pressures are and how different parts of the system can try and help move the flow along. Some days are easier than others, but please be assured those manoeuvres and tweaks from across the system to how we do things can make a big difference. Thank you very much for your ongoing strength and flexibility in these very challenging times.

Tom

Vaccination centres are open! A number of flu and Covid-19 vaccination centres across Grampian are open today and tomorrow for walk-ins or you can book an appointment. Centres will re-open after tomorrow on Wednesday 4 January. Find out more: <https://www.grampianvax.com/flu-and-covid-19-vaccinations/vaccination-centres/>

Aroma restaurant to close early The Aroma Cairngorm restaurant at ARI will have to close early at 4.30pm tomorrow instead of 6pm due to staff absence. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Update to BASRiS form for disability assistance under special rules for terminal illness in Scotland Thank you for your assistance to date in delivering the new Scottish Government approach to disability assistance for individuals who are terminally ill. To ensure all clients are able to access their award from the earliest opportunity the BASRiS form has been amended to explicitly request that the date entered is the date of clinical judgement of terminal illness. This is to make it clear that, if different, the date the form is completed does not need to be entered.

The date which should be included on the BASRiS form is: the date on which a clinical judgment was made that the individual meets the definition of terminal illness. Importantly: the salient information is the date it is diagnosed that a person's condition is terminal, not the date the condition itself is diagnosed.

If Social Security Scotland have any uncertainty as to the date on which the clinical judgement was made, they may contact the clinician or their practice/organisation to confirm. It would be much appreciated if you could continue to assist the Agency to make payments to terminally ill individuals as quickly and fairly as possible by responding to any such queries.

Social Security Scotland previously sent BASRiS forms to GP Practices, Hospices, private practices, and NHS boards. These forms should now be destroyed. You can find out how to request new paper BASRiS forms on [the Social Security Scotland website](#). Digital copies are available via SWAN.

Risk assessment must be in place for bladed fans Colleagues are reminded that if bladed fans are in use within a clinical area then a risk assessment must be in place. Information can be found on the Infection Prevention & Control Intranet page: [PatientCareEquipment \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

NHS staff discounts Don't forget to check out the staff offers on Your Space, which currently includes an exclusive offer for [NHS staff for Hogmanay](#).

Advanced brain imaging a first for Scotland NHS Grampian's John Mallard PET Centre has introduced a methionine PET CT imaging service in Aberdeen which will be of huge benefit to brain tumour patients across Scotland. PET-CT stands for Positron Emission Tomography and Computerised Tomography, a scanning method which measures tissue function rather than anatomy.

Clinical Scientist Professor Roger Staff explained: "We are pleased to be able to offer this service to people across Scotland. The Methionine PET CT service is unique in Scotland and only available at a handful of sites in the UK."

Mae Donald (63), whose pituitary tumour was removed thanks to the technology says she's been given a second chance in life and in her work as a home carer. Mae explained: "I am very impressed by the NHS. I am now free from medication, free from injections, free from everything and I'm a different person now. It is amazing what they can do and I forever grateful to the doctors and nurses who have helped me. I want to give a big thank you to the teams at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Fyvie Oldmeldrum Medical Group. The journey with them has been amazing." [Read the full story](#).

Breast cancer trials recruitment leader Huge congratulations to our breast cancer trials research team who have become the second highest UK recruiter to the ANTEC trial. ANTEC investigates whether less surgery in the armpit after neoadjuvant chemotherapy can be beneficial for those who have no remaining cancer cells in the armpit lymph glands. Here's a reminder of a story from one of the first patients to benefit from this trial: [NHS Grampian - Our Breast Team at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary](#).

Our research colleagues pictured are: Dr Ehab Husain, Consultant Pathologist; Farah Muir, Breast Research Nurse; Nicola Charles, Data Manager; Sue Rodwell, Oncology Research Nurse; Miss Beatrix Elsberger, Consultant Breast Surgeon; and Dr Senthil Ragupathy, Consultant Radiologist.



Tune of the day Thanks to Martin Urquhart for today's request, to mark Yvonne Hendry's departure from NHS Grampian. Yvonne, who is medical secretary supervisor, is leaving after eight years to move to 'bonnie Fife'. The Med Sec Management team and all her teams in Combined Child Health all wish her well, and would like to dedicate [Don't You Forget About Me](#) by Simple Minds to her.

Last few days of 2022! If you're finding things tough at this time of year, it's worth revisiting yesterday's brief which included a [new staff wellbeing resource to help with supporting staff in distress and crisis](#). Take care of yourselves (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