

Monday 18 March 2024

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**Removal of Temporary Covid-19 special leave as of Sunday 31 March 2024** From Monday 1 April 2024 the provision to class an absence under “Special Leave – Coronavirus Covid19 Positive” will be removed. Any absence due to Covid-19 will be treated in line with all other sickness absences. If a Covid-19 special leave absence straddles 31 March 2024, the absence up to and including 31 March can be recorded as Covid-19 special leave. From 1 April the absence should be recorded as sick leave, paid in line with an employee’s contracted sickness absence provisions.

**Patient Safety - PVC Bundles** If your role involves the insertion and maintenance of peripheral venous cannulas (PVC), you will be aware of the importance of completing a PVC ‘bundle’. The HIS inspections at ARI and DGH last October highlighted gaps in performance and assurance of PVC bundles. As part of the Improvement Action Plan, work is ongoing to facilitate provision of this. While this is ongoing, **everyone** who takes part in insertion and maintenance of PVCs is reminded to complete a PVC bundle for each PVC inserted. Education relevant to your role can be refreshed on Turas via this link: [Aseptic technique | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#)

**Arrangements for colleagues observing religious festivals** As highlighted last week, it is Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, and a period of prayer and fasting. All colleagues are reminded we have an Equality & Diversity policy, which includes the following statement:

*NHS Grampian will consult with relevant staff to understand the requirements of their religion or belief, such as religious observances, and make appropriate provision to support them in doing so, where reasonably practicable.*

Managers/supervisors are reminded of their responsibility to adhere to this policy for all team members.

**Safe Transfer of Patients (SToP) drop-in session** A reminder there will be another drop-in session focused on SToP, this Wednesday (20 March), between 9-10am. If you wish to attend the meeting, please email [gram.pipdirector@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pipdirector@nhs.scot) and a link will be provided.

**Climate Week North East** Climate change poses the greatest risk to human health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Rising temperatures contribute to heat-related illnesses, increase the spread of vector-borne diseases like Lyme disease, and worsen respiratory conditions due to air pollution. Extreme weather events, such as storms and wildfires, lead to injuries, mental health issues, and disruptions in healthcare services. Additionally, changes in precipitation patterns affect water quality and availability, leading to waterborne diseases and malnutrition. Addressing climate change is crucial for safeguarding public health and ensuring resilient healthcare systems.

For the past decade, Climate Week North East has raised awareness on climate change and empowered people to make a difference by reducing their carbon footprint, promoting more sustainable living, and increasing biodiversity. [For more details on CWNE events, click here.](#)

**Neurodiversity Celebration Week** [You might be interested in this series of webinars](#), taking place throughout the week, to mark Neurodiversity Celebration Week. All webinars will be recorded so be sure to register for the topics which interest you, even if you cannot attend.

**Evaluation Clinics** Clinic slots are now available for March and April. The evaluation clinics are designed for anyone planning a service change or project and looking for advice on any aspect of planning, implementing, writing up or issuing an evaluation. If you're interested, please book via the following link: [Grampian Evaluation Network- Evaluation Clinic's \(office365.com\)](#). If you have any queries or if the clinic date is not convenient, please contact [CLEask@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:CLEask@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or [niki.couper2@phs.scot](mailto:niki.couper2@phs.scot)

**Pause for thought** If you had a flying carpet, where would you go? Swooping across the sky, or on a gentler glide - how might what you notice just now differ from that perspective?

**Tune of the day** Our first tune today goes out to Paul McKay, a specialist analyst in the Acute sector. He's after a bit of [AC/DC and Thunderstruck](#) – who am I to say no?

It's a 'twofer' today, as we mark the passing of Steve Harley by playing [Make Me Smile \(Come up and see me\)](#) (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)