

Tuesday 30 January 2024

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**Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019 – learning resources** As previously highlighted, this legislation will come into effect on 1 April 2024. It aims to enable high quality care and improved outcomes for patients by helping to ensure appropriate staffing. The act places duties upon health boards, care service providers, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Ministers. Health boards, integration authorities, and local authorities will be expected to submit annual reports on their compliance with the act, high-cost agency use, and any severe and recurrent risks.

To help teams get ready for the introduction of the act, there are a host of learning resources available on Turas: [Health and Care Staffing in Scotland | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#). These are split into sections according to your learning needs, so you need only access the sections relevant to you.

The act applies across a range of roles; it is **not** limited to nursing & midwifery. To see all the jobs in scope, follow this link: [Roles in scope of the Act - Health and Care \(Staffing\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019: overview - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

**The week in review – vaccinations** We've come a long way with vaccinations. The HPV vaccine is a recent addition in a long line of immunisation programmes that prevent disease. In this case, a recent study showed there to be no new cervical cancer cases to date in those fully vaccinated, so we have the potential to make cervical cancer a rare disease. Since 1988, polio, an infectious illness that in its most severe form can cause paralysis, is now eradicated in almost all countries throughout the world, thanks to global vaccination efforts. Smallpox, eradicated in 1977 following the global vaccination programme, had been killing many thousands in Europe and worldwide for centuries, many of them children.

In 2017, measles was effectively 'eliminated' in the UK according to the WHO. However, a reduction in the number of children receiving full protection from the vaccine in the UK has changed this. There are areas of the world where measles is more common and because the disease is so infectious, and the period from exposure to showing symptoms can be up to 21 days, unprotected individuals encountering the disease outside the UK are able to infect others on their return. Measles is now circulating in areas of England, although not yet in Scotland. 15 minutes in a room with an infectious person puts an unprotected person at risk and the measles virus remains in the air and on surfaces for up to 2 hours after the infected person has left the room. Measles is a serious disease and before vaccines were widely available in 1980, 2.6 million children died annually across the world. We need to maintain about 95% of the child population to be vaccinated to stop the virus circulating. We work hard to make this possible in Grampian where rates for the first dose of the vaccine is 92.7% and 89.4% for 2 doses (just slightly below the Scottish average of 93.3% for first dose and 89.6% for second), yet there is variation in parts of our region which leaves many children at risk of becoming ill and passing the disease to others.

Then there is 'flu and COVID-19. Both serious illnesses, both with the potential to kill. If you haven't had the jabs you are eligible for as health & social care staff, it's not too late. All vaccination clinics in Grampian are offering walk-ins for staff, and we're arranging extra staff-only clinics where we can. Increasing our COVID-19 uptake among front line staff in Grampian (33% at 21 January) would mean better protection for you, those you care for, and those you live with. COVID and 'flu are still circulating so it is worth doing. If you are now off for your job – a huge thank you.

**Keeping data safe during your shift** There are small things we can all do during work to ensure our data, and patient data, is kept secure:

- Lock your computer when you are away from it (bum off the seat? Ctrl/Alt/Delete)
- Don't leave records unattended and secure them when not in use
- if you're moving from one place to another, make sure you don't leave information behind
- Dispose of confidential information in red bags
- Don't take information off-site if you don't need to (e.g. handover notes should never leave site)
- Make sure you select the right printer and use locked print
- Make sure anyone looking at information has an ID badge and has a genuine reason to view it (call security if you're worried)
- Never share or reuse your work passwords.

These simple steps may not sound like much on their own, but if we all do all of them, they make a big difference to how we protect our patients and each other.

**HEPMA weekly update** This week's update on the HEPMA rollout is attached to the email used to send this brief.

**Roll out of Laboratory Information Management System** The national LIMS implementation Programme is co-ordinating the development and roll out of a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) product across 12 NHS boards in Scotland. The product - Evolution vLab LIMS - will provide a modern laboratory software solution to be used by laboratory disciplines in hospital laboratories across Scotland. NHS Orkney and Shetland are currently operating successfully in the live environment, with the 'Go-Live' dates for the other boards scheduled incrementally over the next three years. [A national NHS internal SharePoint site](#) has been launched which provides information and resources such as the high-level programme plan, Information on Evolution (the product) and an FAQ section. Any questions relating to the LIMS Implementation Programme can be directed to the national LIMS programme mailbox: [ggc.nationallims@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:ggc.nationallims@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

**Team Shire newsletter - budget special** The latest edition of the Team Shire newsletter - produced for all colleagues working across Aberdeenshire HSCP - is now available and is attached to the email used to send this brief. This is a budget special, and we'd encourage everyone to give it a read.

**Reminder - ChemoCare Upgrade** Work to upgrade ChemoCare takes place this weekend. As such, the system will be offline from 5pm on Friday until 9am on Monday. In the lead up to the upgrade, all ChemoCare users are reminded to complete their mandatory Turas modules tailored to board-specific work activity, and then attend a short cascade training session. If you require login details for ChemoCare please speak to your line manager. For further queries please email Louise Bennett at [louise.bennett@nhs.scot](mailto:louise.bennett@nhs.scot) or Alex Greger at [alexander.greger@nhs.scot](mailto:alexander.greger@nhs.scot)

**Woodend Nursery inspection report** Huge congratulations to our colleagues at Woodend Nursery, following a recent glowing inspection report from the Care Inspectorate. All areas were rated 'Very Good', and inspectors confirmed all previous areas for improvement had been completed to their satisfaction. Well done to them!

**Tune of the day** The Tissue Viability department are very sad to be saying goodbye to Sandra Stringfellow, Nurse Consultant, who marks her final day with the team tomorrow. Sandra has worked in tissue viability for over 25 years and her colleagues wish her a very happy and healthy retirement. For Sandra, it's the very apt [Saying Goodbye](#) by The Muppets (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)