

Tuesday 19 July 2022

Autumn/Winter vaccination programme Planning is underway for the 2022 flu and COVID-19 booster programme. We expect the programme to start in early September. As in previous years, everyone working in health & social care (including contractors, such as GPs, dentists, community pharmacists, and optometrists) will be offered a 'flu jab. This will be offered at staff clinics, vaccination centres, or by peer-to-peer vaccination.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation published their recommendations for the COVID booster programme late on Friday. [You can read those in full here](#); they are recommending **frontline** health & social care staff be offered a COVID-19 booster. While we await further guidance on this group, we are planning on the basis of offering a COVID-19 booster to those who have face to face contact with patients/clients as part of their role.

Where staff are eligible for both jabs, they can be administered at the same appointment. Please note it must be a minimum of 12 weeks since a previous COVID-19 jab.

Much more information, including on appointment booking, will be available in the coming weeks. However, we can confirm vaccination centres will NOT be operating staff only queues, therefore we would encourage you to book into the dedicated staff clinics or arrange peer-to-peer vaccination as appropriate.

Smarter Working A Smarter Working Champions workshop was held on Wednesday. This included colleagues from across NHS Grampian, covering a wide range of departments, from corporate to clinical, so look out for Smarter Working Champion near you! The programme team are really pleased at the level of interest and engagement shown. If you are interested in finding out more about Smarter Working, or even becoming a Smarter Working Champion yourself, then please contact gram.smarterworking@nhs.scot.

Reminder - Staff Equalities Network We are delighted to be welcoming Caroline McDowell, Speak Up Ambassador from NHS Lothian to the next meeting of the network, taking place tomorrow (Wednesday) at 2 pm via Microsoft Teams. The Speak Up Service has been running for three years in NHS Lothian, and provides confidential, impartial support where employees can discuss concerns in a safe space or speak to someone in confidence. If you would like to join the meeting and learn more, simply drop us an email at gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot and we will send you the link to join.

Updated antimicrobial guidance The Antimicrobial Management Team are pleased to share the publication of two updated guidance documents. [Antimicrobial Documentation Guidance](#) and [Penicillin Allergy Guidance](#) are both now available in a 1 page poster format (intranet links, networked devices only). Please share these posters within your clinical teams, printing and displaying as appropriate.

In a local audit of documentation carried out in June, practice varied considerably and overall results for the areas participating was as follows:

Documentation on the prescription & administration chart for antibiotic prescriptions:

Indication = 49.1%

Duration or stop date for oral antibiotics = 65.1%

Review date or stop date for IV antibiotics = 33.3%

Past audits have shown better results and there is ample room for improvement. Better documentation of antibiotic prescriptions is a key for good antimicrobial stewardship so please encourage this good practice in your ward areas. We will look to repeat this audit at some point in the future following the publication of the updated guidance to ascertain if there has been any improvement. Please contact gram.antibioticpharmacists@nhs.scot with any questions or feedback.

Scottish Health Awards – have you nominated? Nominations are now open for the 2022 Scottish Health Awards. This event celebrates the very best people, teams, and services across health & social care. There are 16 categories; [information on who is eligible and how to nominate is available here](#). The awards ceremony will take place in Edinburgh in November.

Free Aerobics Sessions at the Suttie Centre are back! After a gap of 2.5 years due to COVID-19, the free Wednesday Aerobics session for staff are back, starting at 5.30pm on Wednesday 3 August 2022 in Suttie Room 217. We are very fortunate once again to have the services of popular instructor Nikki Duncan leading the sessions. No need to book, just turn up! The hour-long sessions will start off at a gentle pace to ease people back into the exercise groove. The Sports Committee are also working hard to restore the Monday Zumba class and hope to have a positive announcement to make soon.

Tune of the day We round off today with a new one on me – [Until I Found You, by Stephen Sanchez](#) – as requested by King Riddell in Recovery/MTS. They've dedicated it to everyone reading, hoping it puts a smile on your face (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