



**Daily update**  
**(12 March 2026, 3.25pm)**

Topics in this Core Brief include:

- [Message from the Scottish Government in relation to the recent developments in the Middle East](#)
- [Get your flu vaccine before the winter programme ends](#)
- [Reduced Working Week - 20 days to go!](#)
- [Publication of Polypharmacy Guidance: appropriate prescribing, making medicines safe, effective and sustainable 2026–2029](#)
- [Once for Scotland Phase 2.2 Awareness Sessions - Follow up](#)

### **Message from the Scottish Government in relation to the recent developments in the Middle East**

The Scottish Government is aware that recent developments in the Middle East will be affecting a number of our colleagues, either personally or through concern for friends, family and communities in the region, or here in Scotland.

The Scottish Government is monitoring the situation and remains in close contact with the UK Government, which continues to prioritise the safety of British nationals.

NHS Scotland employees are reminded that wellbeing support is available through [The National Wellbeing Hub](#) and local Board employee assistance programmes. Managers are encouraged apply a person centred approach to apply the provisions in the [NHS Scotland Special Leave Policy](#) where required.

For the latest travel and security information, please refer to [Foreign Office travel advice updates - GOV.UK](#) and follow [@FCDOGovUK](#) for alerts and travel advice.

As well as the national support in place, we encourage any staff affected by international events to seek support through our [psychological support services](#), our [peer support network](#), or, to access our range of wellbeing webinars.

You may also find support from our [Spiritual Care Service](#), which is there to offer a listening ear for any member of staff who comes to us with a need to be heard, to be supported, to sometimes be signposted to other appropriate services with consent. They provide confidential, compassionate care that helps staff, students and volunteers to cope when life is particularly challenging and bereavement support may be the focused need for those personally affected by international events.

Our NHS GGC sanctuaries are not religious spaces, they are neutral places open to

everyone to use and respect, for whatever reason you may need to 'take time out' to sit in the peace and quiet they provide.

We recognise that during times of conflict, feelings can run high among staff and many of the people we treat and care for. We appreciate your understanding and continued professionalism at such a challenging time.

### **Get your flu vaccine before the winter programme ends**

We're offering the flu vaccination to NHSGGC and HSCP staff at the following locations next week. No appointment is necessary.

If you are an NHSGGC employee, clinical or non-clinical, you are eligible so please come along.

For those attending drop-ins, there is understanding that, when suitable, you can go during work hours to receive the vaccine. Please talk to your team lead to ensure you can be released at a time that suits.

### **Clinic Schedule**

- **Monday 16 March – Stobhill**  
Main Atrium beside Aroma Café  
08:00–17:00
- **Tuesday 17 March – Eastwood Health Centre**  
Oak Room  
08:00–16:00
- **Wednesday 18 March – Clydebank Health Centre**  
Clinic Room 13  
08:00–16:00
- **Thursday 19 March – QEUH**  
Main Atrium, Bute side  
08:00–20:00

Please note, on rare occasions, clinics times can change due to events outside of our control. We recommend that you check the NHSGGC website on the day of the scheduled clinic for any live updates and confirm the clinic date, time, and location.

<https://www.nhsggc.scot/your-health/seasonal-flu>

### **Reduced Working Week - 20 days to go!**

As we approach the implementation of the 36 hour Reduced Working Week (RWW) for Agenda for Change staff on 1 April, we are asking all managers to continue prioritising engagement with their teams and staff-side colleagues.

### **Team Discussions on Working Patterns and Rotas**

Managers must ensure that all staff have the opportunity to discuss:

- Proposed new working patterns
- Any changes to existing rotas

- Local service arrangements required to support safe and effective delivery under the Reduced Working Week.

These conversations should take place in partnership with staff side, ensuring openness, consistency, and clarity for all colleagues.

### **Part-Time Staff**

As part of the transition to RWW, please ensure that all part-time staff are aware that they can apply to:

- increase their contracted hours, or
- retain their current contracted hours.

This is subject to service needs and funding; further details can be found on the [RWW Sharepoint Page](#).

### **Updating eESS**

Managers must not make any eEES changes dated on or after 1 April 2026 until 2 April 2026. This temporary pause is required to support a bulk upload being undertaken by the eEES National Team to update records for affected staff, effective 1 April 2026.

This restriction applies to all future-dated transactions, including (but not limited to):

- Part-time staff retaining or increasing their existing hours
- Annualised hours arrangements.

Avoiding future-dated changes during this period will prevent the creation of records that could block the automatic application of the reduced working hours.

Please ensure this message is shared proactively and that staff know how to explore the options available to them.

This update will continue to be issued weekly in the lead-up to the go-live date of 1 April, to support consistent communication across all services.

Thank you for your continued leadership and engagement as we work towards implementation.

### **Publication of Polypharmacy Guidance: appropriate prescribing, making medicines safe, effective and sustainable 2026–2029**

The Scottish Government has published [Polypharmacy Guidance: appropriate prescribing, making medicines safe, effective and sustainable 2026–2029](#). The guidance is available on the [Scottish Government website](#) and will also be released as an interactive version on the [Right Decision Service \(RDS\) app and website](#) in the spring.

Developed with experts from NHS Scotland and in collaboration with SIGN, it is endorsed by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the National Centre for Sustainable

Delivery.

Polypharmacy is an increasing global challenge due to ageing populations and rising multimorbidity. Care for people with multiple conditions can become complex and poorly coordinated, leading to poorer outcomes, higher costs and environmental impact. The updated guidance continues to place individuals at the centre of care, with greater emphasis on shared decision-making.

Practical support for multidisciplinary teams implementing the 7-Steps medication review, including updated toxicity and anticholinergic burden guidance, revised drug efficacy (NNT) tables, expanded clinical hot topics for specific patient groups, improved case-finding indicators and revised Medication Sick Day Guidance.

A new [Polypharmacy dashboard](#) has also been developed to complement National Therapeutic Indicators, providing additional context such as demographics and prevalence. [Scottish Therapeutics Utility](#) searches are available to primary care practices to help identify patients for review.

To support implementation, an [implementation toolkit](#) has been created to help clinicians adopt the guidance within their practice. A free accredited training package on conducting comprehensive 7-Steps polypharmacy reviews is also [available on Turas](#).

For further information visit [Staffnet](#).

### **Once for Scotland Phase 2.2 Awareness Sessions - Follow up**

Following the recent awareness sessions on the Once for Scotland Phase 2.2 Workforce Policies, anyone who was unable to attend or would like a refresher can access the [recording of the session](#), the [slide deck](#), and a link to further [supporting information on HR Connect](#).

Phase 2.2, introduced in August 2025, includes a number of important updates and new policies covering areas such as gender-based violence, racism, reasonable adjustments, and sexual harassment, alongside updates to existing workforce policies.

Staff are encouraged to take some time to review the recorded session and supporting materials to strengthen their understanding of the policies and the support available.

\*\*\*Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).\*\*\*

**It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.  
A full archive of printable PDFs are available on [website](#)**