

Core brief

Daily update
(23 December 2020, 4.55pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- COVID vaccination programme
- Hospital visiting arrangements
- Update of Visiting Guidance for EoL
- Guidance on RIDDOR and COVID-19
- Health and Safety Support – COVID-19

DAILY REMINDER: Social Distancing is Everyone's Responsibility
Revisit your Social Distancing risk assessment if changes are required, and as a general reminder of the controls that are in place in your area of work.

COVID vaccination programme

As we move into the new year we will be continuing our COVID vaccination programme.

Those staff who have received their first dose will be contacted via the email address / mobile phone number given when they booked so that they can book their second appointment.

If you do not get a notification it may be because the email or mobile phone number that you have entered is incorrect. Contact the following email address (staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) include the date and location of your first vaccination and this will be followed up.

If appointments were made by your line manager then you should contact them to make arrangements.

More sessions will also be made available for first vaccination appointments shortly and details for this will be shared next week.

Hospital visiting arrangements

You will be aware that over the weekend the First Minister announced further measures to combat the spread of the new strain of COVID-19, and the majority of Scotland will move into Level Four of the strategic framework from 0001 on December 26.

To ensure our visiting arrangements are in accordance with the move to Level Four the following outlines visiting arrangements from Wednesday 23 December onwards.

Wednesday 23 December – Thursday 24 December

Inverclyde Royal Hospital	One Designated Visitor and Essential Visits
All Other Hospitals	Essential Visits Only

Friday 25 December, only

Inverclyde Royal Hospital	One Designated Visitor and Essential Visits
All Other Hospitals	Essential Visits Only – see guidance below

Saturday 26 December until further notice

All Hospitals	Essential Visits Only
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Additional guidance:

Over Christmas in particular, where it is safe to do so, decisions for essential visits should be applied with as much flexibility and compassion as possible to ensure that no one is isolated if this can be avoided. Consideration should be taken to assess each patient's needs on an individual basis. We should also be mindful that carers, those providing essential care, emotional support or spiritual care are not considered visitors for the purposes of this guidance so should continue to be permitted to attend a patient in hospital.

Examples of essential visits include but are not limited to:

- A birth partner supporting a woman during hospital visits
- For a person receiving end-of-life care – we expect this to be defined as flexibly and compassionately as possible, to support patients at the end of life spending meaningful time with their loved ones in their final days and weeks
- To support someone with a mental health issue such as dementia, a learning disability or autism where not being present would cause the patient to be distressed
- To accompany a child in hospital.

These include any other situation where clinical staff assess that it is essential to involve family or carers for ethical or patient safety reasons.

It is important to note that these examples of essential visiting are intended to be illustrative and not exhaustive.

For all patients on a daily basis virtual visits should be offered as a minimum to ensure patients not able to receive a visitor are able to see and talk to those people who matter most to them. For all patients requiring virtual visit, support should be co-ordinated at ward level.

Update of Visiting Guidance for EoL

Following updated guidance from Scottish Government the 'Guidance to support compassionate visiting arrangements for those receiving care at the end of life during the COVID-19 pandemic' has been amended.

The amendments are as follows:

- All patients who are considered by the MDT, Consultant or most senior informed decision makers available at the time, to be dying and are within days or weeks of the end of life are entitled to receive essential visits from family and friends.
- When patients are in the last days or weeks of life the number of people, visiting (although the number at any given time will be in line with local guidelines) and the frequency of visits should not be limited as long as this is in accordance with the requirements described from the same/extended household. If visitors not from the same household or not part of an extended household, they should visit the bedside separately and maintain distance when they are outside of the clinical area.

- The Health Protection Coronavirus International Travel (Scotland) Regulations 2020 have been amended to include a specific defence of visiting someone at the end of life from 0400 on Saturday 12 December. This means loved ones who have travelled from other countries will now lawfully be able to visit people at the end of their lives, even if that is within their quarantine period. People in these circumstances will be able to travel for an essential visit from any local authority area in Scotland, regardless of where that local authority is placed in the [national strategic framework](#). As always, people are permitted to travel for essential visits from any local authority in Scotland.

Guidance on RIDDOR and COVID-19

In line with the organisation's Incident Management & Recording Policy, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is committed to the delivery of effective, safe, and person centred care ensuring there will be no avoidable injury or harm to people or adverse impact on the organisation resulting from the delivery of healthcare or other work related activity.

The policy includes the requirement to report certain serious workplace accidents, occupational diseases and specified dangerous occurrences (near misses) in line with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) to the Health and Safety Executive. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has led to an update from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on these regulations.

A guidance document to support Managers has been developed and is available here – [Guidance on RIDDOR and COVID-19](#).

To assist with DATIX reporting please refer to the following document: [Datix Reporting –COVID 19](#).

Please contact the Health and Safety department for any further information.

Health and Safety Support – COVID-19

The Health and Safety team will be undertaking a programme of spot checks in areas across the Board over the coming weeks. The aim of the programme is to provide internal independent observation and support to services to identify opportunities for improvement, share good practice and support local services and staff in complying with the [Guidance on Social Distancing](#).

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19. If you have any questions about the current situation please check the [FAQs](#) first. If you have any further questions, please email: staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

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 [StaffNet](#)**