



Daily update
(26 October 2026, 3.25pm)

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Influenza: Important staff information

We are entering a period of increased flu and covid activity. Please familiarise yourself with the key guidance and resources below to help keep yourself, our patients, visitors and colleagues safe. Below are some of the key documents that might help including how to access vaccinations for you and your patients, who may benefit from antiviral treatments and guidance on how to decide if we need to consider additional actions to try and reduce the impact on patients, staff and visitors.

Respiratory illness and attendance

- As during previous periods of peak covid activity staff should continue to follow guidance as laid out in [Covid 19 Clinical Guidelines | Right Decisions](#)
- If you do not feel well enough to come to work, or have a temperature, please stay at home and avoid close contact with others. You can return when you feel well enough and no longer have a fever.
- If you feel well enough to be at work but have mild respiratory symptoms (without a fever), please consider wearing a Type IIR surgical mask when providing direct patient care or working closely with colleagues.
- If you remove your mask (e.g. for a break), please apply a new mask afterwards following hand hygiene.
- A single mask may be worn for a continuous task across multiple patients (e.g. observations or ward rounds).
- Masks should be changed when moving between clinical areas or between clinical and non-clinical areas.
- Dispose of used masks in orange clinical waste bags.

Cough and Hand Hygiene

All staff should continue to follow good respiratory and hand hygiene:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Dispose of tissues and used masks promptly in the appropriate waste bin.
- Replace masks that become damp or contaminated.
- Wash hands with liquid soap and warm water after coughing, sneezing, or contact with respiratory secretions or contaminated items.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Other seasonal infections

As seasonal infections rise, please remember: if you have symptoms, avoid close contact with others and follow return-to-work guidance.

If you're experiencing symptoms like vomiting and/or diarrhoea, stay home until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. Norovirus spreads quickly in care settings – your decision to stay home protects patients, residents, visitors and colleagues.

Reminder: Report illness to your line manager.

Useful links

- [Illnesses and conditions | NHS inform](#)
- [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Home](#)

Message from Angela Wallace Nurse Director, and Fiona Smith, AHP Director

Updated procedures for assessing and ordering Bed Safety Rails and Bed Grab Handles

For staff in health and social care who assess for and prescribe Bed Safety Rails and Grab Handles.

As of today (Monday 26 October 2026) the process for ordering Bed Safety Rails and Bed Grab Handles via Equipu is changing. These changes are needed to meet the requirements following the MHRA alert:

[National Patient Safety Alert: Medical beds, trolleys, bed rails, bed grab handles and lateral turning devices: risk of death from entrapment or falls \(NatPSA/2023/010/MHRA\) - GOV.UK](#)



Pre and Post Delivery assessment forms

The main change is the new mandatory requirement to complete PRE-delivery assessment forms for Bed Safety Rails and Bed Grab Handles. These forms will be generated automatically when you place an order.

There is also a requirement to complete POST-delivery assessment forms for relevant items. The process for creating these forms is shown in the link below. This will also be available via the Links page on ELMS.

[ELMS User Guidance - Pre and Post Assessment](#)

Beds with and without bed safety rails

Historically, beds have been provided with safety rails included. However, due to the recognised risks associated with bed safety rail use, partners have agreed that these rails should now be supplied only where an assessment identifies them as necessary for the individual.

As a result, Equipu will be implementing the following changes on ELMS:

- Profiling beds ordered from 26 Oct 2026 will be supplied without bed safety rails as standard
- Bed safety rails must be specifically ordered as an accessory Option where required
- Four bed types will be available to order with bed safety rails as an accessory Option
 - H2BSO / H2BSO_RECYC Bed profile Solite pro (safety rails ordered separately) Drive
 - H2BSOL_RECYC Bed profile Solite pro low (safety rails ordered separately) Drive
 - H2BLO / H2BLO_RECYC Bed profile floorbed1 (safety rails ordered separately) Accora
 - H2BAL2 / H2BAL2_RECYC Bed profile (Bariatric) Allura 2 (safety rails ordered separately) Lisclare

Please note: Any recycled beds, that are not shown in the list above, will not have side rails available as an accessory Option.

The new process for ordering profiling beds is shown in the link below, which will also be available via the Links page on ELMS.

[MHRA Alert Ordering Process](#)

These alterations represent significant changes to long-established practice. Therefore, **extra care** must be taken when ordering beds to ensure that all required accessories are included in the order. Bed safety rails will **NOT** be automatically supplied and must be ordered separately as an additional accessory option where a risk assessment has identified a need.

We appreciate your support in ensuring the safe and effective implementation of these developments. An FAQ document has been created (link below) to try and address most queries. This FAQ will also be available via the Links page on ELMS. However, should you have any further questions, please contact: equipu@glasgow.gov.uk;

[FAQ Document](#)

We would also like to remind prescribers that there is an easily accessible online tool created for NHSGGC and HSCPs that can assist you in your decision making [About this toolkit | Right Decisions](#) this does not replace the requirement for a risk assessment to be completed.

Please note, if you are unable to open the links embedded in this briefing you can access these on the ELMS homepage.

For any queries please contact your local MHRA Bed Rails Transition Group representative or Samantha.Flower@nhs.scot.

Launch of Positive Engaging Conversations (PECs)

The Safety Health and Wellbeing (SHaW) team are introducing a new initiative aimed at improving the health and safety culture in NHSGGC through improving the health and safety engagement with staff. This is aligned to the Growing safe behaviours strand of the SHaW Roadmap.

Positive Engaging Conversations (PECs) is now live and can be accessed from the [PECs Tool](#) link. This allows Directors, Chief Officers, Health Safety Representatives and all other levels of Managers to record a monthly conversation with staff while they are out visiting departments or while walking from one area to another.

The ambition is for safe/unsafe acts and conditions to be identified in the workplace then recorded into the [PECs Tool](#) which will be displayed on the [SHaW Digital Online Storyboard](#) dedicated PECs page. Additionally, there is an opportunity to record the action taken to address what has been observed and what engagement took place with the employees who were present. The actions include stopping the unsafe act, correcting the unsafe condition or saying "well done" to staff for being safe.

PECs also supports NHSGGC's wider Culture Programme by encouraging open conversations, visible leadership and positive engagement with staff to identify concerns, recognise good practice and support continuous improvement. It is supported with a joint statement from our Interim Deputy Chief Executive Russell Coulthard and Employee Director Ann Cameron Burns and can be found within the SHaW [Positive Engaging Conversations](#) SharePoint page.

If you need support, please contact your local health professional aligned to your area. These can be found at: [Master Team Alignment Slides 14.01.2026.pptx](#)

Remember, for all your latest news stories, visit the Staffnet Hub:

[GGC-Staffnet Hub - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)



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](#)