

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(5 August 2022, 10.40am)**

This week, I would like to make staff aware that our vaccination teams are currently preparing themselves for the up and coming winter vaccination programme. As with last year, flu and COVID vaccinations will be offered to eligible staff and the wider general public across NHSGGC in the coming weeks and months. The COVID vaccination will be made available to people based on a similar eligibility criteria as last year, with front line, patient facing staff being offered immunisation and our other staff members being vaccinated in line with national guidelines, on the basis of age and priority group. With regard to flu immunisation, we will, once again, offer all NHS staff the opportunity to receive a free vaccination. We anticipate that later this month, the national online booking portal will open for you to schedule an appointment in the first half of September and I would like to encourage all staff to please come forward and take up the immunisation you are eligible for. More information will be made available in the coming weeks through the usual communication channels.

I am pleased to inform you that we continue to see a decline in COVID patient numbers across NHSGGC. While it is really important that we do not become complacent, I am hopeful that the extent of the COVID challenge our health and social teams are faced with is, once again, starting to subside. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely and, where necessary, take appropriate steps to alleviate pressures on staff and services. We also continue to see a rise in the number of our colleagues returning to work after a period of COVID-related absence and while I appreciate that the current staffing situation is not where we would like it to be in some areas, I expect that as more people come back from their well-deserved summer leave and absence rates continue to fall, we will return to a more comfortable status quo.

I am pleased to share the news that NHSGGC has been revalidated with Armed Forces Covenant silver status this week. The Covenant is an employer recognition scheme award, which is achieved by organisations that employ and support Reservists, service leavers, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and their families. By signing up to the Covenant, NHSGGC is showing our commitment to supporting our Armed Forces communities, in particular our staff who are current or former serving personnel, as well as those who are members of Forces families. I would like to thank all staff who have supported NHSGGC to achieve silver status and I look forward to continuing our journey to gold next year.

I would like to officially welcome our team of newly qualified pharmacists who have joined our Acute teams this week. All of our 23 new recruits have undertaken five years of study and training before being able to join the GPhC register as a qualified pharmacist and they will now move forward to the Post-Registration Foundation Pharmacist programme, leading them to complete their Independent Prescribing qualification. I would like to thank our new pharmacists for choosing NHSGGC as your next career step. We look forward to working with you, I hope, for many years to come.

This week, I would like to highlight some patient feedback we have received about the Neurology team at the QEUH. The patient writes; "I was airlifted to QE hospital neurology department in July and underwent a procedure the following morning for a ruptured aneurysm and coiling of three more. I can hardly find the words to express my gratitude for the expertise and care I received. It definitely saved my life. Dr Izzath performed the procedure and I was so glad to be alive when I came out of anaesthetic. What wonderful work and subsequent care I received. James was wonderful. He patiently answered all my questions and

was very thorough in his checks for limb neurology. My diplopia had gone by the third day and my appetite had returned with a vengeance. All of the staff were wonderful and I am eternally grateful for the care I was given. Annabel was a ray of sunshine administering my four hourly meds and checking my blood pressure and reactions. Wonderful people one and all in this amazing department. A huge thank you from myself and my family.” I would like to add my thanks to Dr Izzath, James and Annabel as well as the wider neurology team at the QEUH for the great care you gave this patient. Thank you.

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