

Core Brief



Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive (8 September 2023, 1.30pm)

This week, our Autumn/Winter vaccination programme started in earnest. The team is currently focussed on providing flu vaccinations to people across our local communities aged between 50-64 years of age, NHSGGC staff, and individuals who belong to vulnerable groups. Invitations to book or attend an appointment have already been sent to eligible people via post, email or text. We also have a vaccination bus, which is attending all of our main sites to give staff the opportunity to receive their vaccination while at work. The schedule is available on [StaffNet](#), however, if you would prefer to attend a local community clinic, you can book an appointment via the NHS Scotland vaccination [portal](#). I would like to encourage all staff to come forward in the coming weeks and receive the vaccination you are eligible for so that you can help to protect yourself through the winter months.

I am pleased to inform staff that, following a successful recruitment campaign, we expect to welcome around 800 Newly Qualified Nurses to NHSGGC in October. I would like to thank the Recruitment Team who have done a great job in signing up our new recruits and I very much look forward to seeing them start across our services in the coming weeks.

As staff will be aware, there has been a significant amount of media coverage concerning the use of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in older buildings across the UK. While currently much of the attention concerns schools, I would like to reassure staff that we are actively assessing our estate to ascertain if RAAC exists in any of our buildings, and if so, to determine its condition. Along with all other Health Boards in Scotland, we are working with NHS Scotland Assure, as part of a national review of NHS Scotland Estates, which will ascertain the level of RAAC usage within NHS buildings across the country. During this time, our Estates and Facilities team will continue to undertake any required repairs and maintenance work to ensure our buildings remain fully operational.

I was very pleased to hear that the Rapid Access Syncope Clinic (RASCL) operated by the Medicine for the Elderly team at the QEUH has been recognised as a global Centre of Excellence for Syncope, which is a condition that causes unexplained loss of consciousness. The condition is often mis-diagnosed, but the work of the team at the QEUH is proving vital in ensuring patients are put on the correct treatment pathway at the earliest possible time. The clinic, which is run by Dr Lara Mitchell and Dr Lesley Anderton, has been recognised by STARS, the

Syncope Trust and Reflex anoxic Seizures, as part of their annual Healthcare Pioneers Report, which showcases best practice. Congratulations to Dr Mitchell and Dr Anderton along with the whole team who have contributed to the care of our patients attending the clinic.

Following last year's successful campaign about how to access to our services, which we delivered to support students starting or returning to study at universities and colleges across NHS GGC, we are, once again, running a series of awareness raising activities. We will, continue to work in partnership with higher education institutions as well as use subway advertising and social media to connect with students and provide guidance about the types of care and support available to them, along with how to register with our primary care services and other important information. The campaign is really important as it provides young people, many of whom are living away from home for the first time, access to essential information and helps provide guidance about how to receive the right care in the right place.

This week, our feedback comes from the parent of one of our patients who has been receiving treatment in Ward 3C, Respiratory Medicine at the Royal Hospital for Children. Our patient's parent writes; "Our daughter has been under the care of Dr Thompson and Dr Weir for around five years, when she had an acute admission of two weeks due to pneumonia and a collapsed lung. This was a concerning time for us. She had three further hospital admissions of shorter length, and since then, has been receiving fantastic ongoing review and continuous care from Dr Weir and Dr Thompson, in person and post COVID via Near Me consultations. She was recently discharged from their care, which was a milestone moment in terms of how far she has come. We just want to highlight the tremendous care she has received, truly person-centred, from Dr Weir and Dr Thompson during this entire period, especially during the pandemic when her respiratory issues were of great concern to us. Thanks also to the Paediatric Respiratory Physio Team who have also been involved in her care. As an NHS employee myself, I know how challenging the last few years have been for everyone in the NHS, but the level of care our daughter has received has been amazing and something we are truly grateful to have received. Thanks again and we'll miss you."

My thanks also to Dr Weir, Dr Thompson and the team in Ward 3C for the support shown to this family.

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