

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive (31 May 2021, 4.35pm)

As part of the Scotland-wide move to the Right Care, Right Place model of unscheduled care, from tomorrow (Tuesday 1 June), paediatric services across NHSGGC will integrate with the adult service model. This means if a child aged five or older requires urgent medical attention in a non-life threatening capacity they will have the option to be referred through our Flow Navigation Centre. Staff at the centre will then provide triage and clinical assessment virtually, over the phone, or if required, provide them with a time slot to attend one of our EDs or MIUs.

This wider Right Care Right Place model helps us to provide a better service to our patients. It enables us to ensure that our EDs and MIUs are used in the most effective way and gives the public efficient access to our urgent care services so that if they do need to attend physically, they have an allocated time slot to do so.

In addition, the expansion of the virtual assessment service to include children over five years old, alongside the adult service will enable NHSGGC to deliver the Right Care in the Right Place programme whilst also ensuring better access for patients who need urgent care at our EDs. I'm really pleased to note that from December last year to date, our Flow Navigation Centre has carried out almost 7,000 virtual assessments with 32% of patients being seen, treated and discharged without the need for an ED or MIU attendance and a further 4.7% referred onto their GP following the consultation.

Today is World No Tobacco Day, which is the launch of the WHO's year-long global campaign with a target of encouraging 100 million smokers to quit. We know that smoking remains the biggest single preventable cause of ill-health and premature death in Scotland.

Quitting may not be easy, but it does have immediate and long-term health and financial benefits. So, if you are thinking about taking this opportunity to quit, please remember our Quit Your Way service is there to help and support you, giving access to specially trained stop smoking advisors as well as free Nicotine Replacement Therapy and other stop smoking medications. If you have been thinking about quitting, your time may be now and to anyone who is going to try, or those who may be in the process of doing so, I wish you every success.

We are also commemorating Dementia Awareness week, which started today with the theme of 'Hidden voices, Hidden impact, Hidden cost - let's talk about dementia' NHSGGC is supporting some key initiatives to help us understand and support those living with dementia and their families, including a series of learning sessions presented by Alzheimer Scotland National Dementia Nurse Consultants. All of the details are available on StaffNet and I would encourage staff to take part where possible.

Finally, I would like to thank our Public Health staff who have continued to go the extra mile and set-up the mobile and drop-in vaccination clinics that we have running throughout NHSGGC and which have already received a fantastic response from members of the public.

At this stage, the drop in clinics will offer AstraZeneca vaccine only and be for those people aged 40 years and over who missed or initially chose not to receive their vaccination when invited to do so. The clinics are also available for anyone who is due to receive their second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine in the next couple of weeks, which includes people aged under 40 years who fall into the category of unpaid carer or are classified as higher risk. All of the drop in clinic information is available on our website, so please do share with friends and loved ones who may qualify. If we continue to encourage people to be vaccinated as well as follow the guidelines, we can, I hope continue to move in the right direction and towards getting back to normal. Thank you to every one of our staff for your ongoing commitment and support.

Are your contact details up-to-date? Click here to check