

Core brief

Daily update

(1 September 2021, 5.05pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Supply Disruption of BD Vacutainer Blood Specimen Collection Tubes
- Staff COVID-19 testing
- Your voice matters!
- Staff face 354 physical and verbal attacks each month
- Transport update – Clyde Tunnel

Supply Disruption of BD Vacutainer Blood Specimen Collection Tubes

As you will be aware, Becton Dickinson (BD) advised a global supply disruption to the supply of four blood collection products, including three types of blood collection tubes used extensively across NHS Scotland. NHSGGC is unlikely to be immediately impacted by this as we use Greiner blood tubes. Nevertheless, if BD users attempt to source alternative supplies in the form of Greiner tubes, then our supply chain could be challenged.

While current BD stock levels in the National Distribution Centre are continuing to meet business as usual demand from NHS Boards, to respond to this, Scottish Government professional leads, NHS Scotland clinical leads and National Services Scotland have been working rapidly to put in place measures to alleviate any possible disruption to supply.

The enclosed Guidance "[Recommended Actions to optimise diagnostic testing during blood tube shortages](#)" is for use by NHS Scotland Boards. The Guidance has been developed by the NHS Scotland Clinical and Technical Reference Group (CTAG) with input from Scottish services, laboratory professionals, diagnostics networks, the Scottish Demand Optimisation Group and the Academy of Royal Colleges.

Whilst there is no immediate risk to the supply of blood specimen collection tubes within NHSGGC, in keeping with the principles of Realistic Medicine, clinical users are being asked to consider demand optimisation measures as far as possible and below is an example of the Minimum Retesting Intervals advocated, should supply become more challenging:

Test/Profile	Situation	Re-testing Interval
Basic Biochemistry (U&E; LFTs)	In-patient monitoring	weekly if stable, otherwise every 3 days unless critically ill or critical result value/trend needs closer monitoring (K+/new AKI).
Basic haematology (FBC)	In-patient monitoring	
Thyroid Function Testing	In-patient or community monitoring	2 months minimum interval for repeat monitoring
Vitamin D testing	Investigation or management of metabolic bone disease	Annual check. Random screening or testing related to simple vit D supplements should be avoided.
Vitamin B12 and Folate	In-patient or community monitoring	6 months for B12 / 3 months for Folate

A four Nation response to this issue has also been initiated with direct engagement with BD both at UK level and with National Services Scotland. Support is being provided to NHS Scotland through the National Supply Disruption Response System (NSDR) and mutual aid considered as necessary

Any further developments will be communicated in due course.

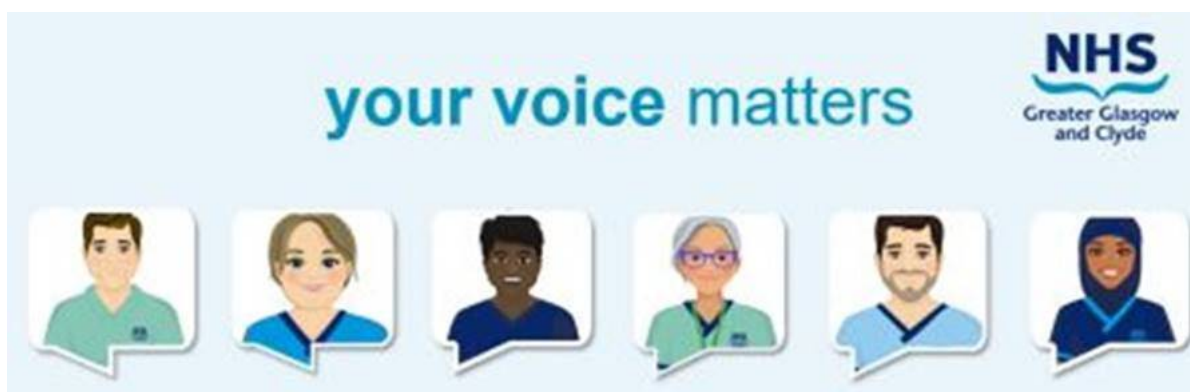
Staff COVID-19 testing

All staff are reminded that they can be seen quickly for a COVID-19 PCR test through our own testing centre at West Glasgow ACH.

Both symptomatic health and social care **staff** (including care home staff, GPs, dentists and community pharmacists) and symptomatic **household** contacts can now arrange to have a test using [the e-referral form](#). Anyone who is **asymptomatic** should **not** apply for a test unless you have had a positive lateral flow test. You can also book if you require a negative PCR test to return to your workplace if you are isolating due to being a COVID contact.

Referral will be by appointment, which are available seven days a week.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Would you like to influence the way we communicate and engage with our staff, right across our organisation?

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it enormous changes to the way we interact with one another, how we give and receive important work related information and how we engage with our colleagues, managers and teams.

We are looking for volunteers, to help review and enhance the effectiveness of communications and engagement throughout NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. We are keen to learn from your experience with regards to what works well, what could be better, and invite your ideas for continuous improvement.

A number of 40 minute workshops have been set up in coming weeks for you to feedback and share views, to support the development of NHSGGC's Internal Communications and Employee Engagement Strategy.

Thursday 9 September	Friday 10 September	Tuesday 14 September
12:00	07:00	09:00
13:00	15:00	10:00
		18:00
		19:00

Please click [here](#), to register for your preferred workshop time, we look forward to hearing your views.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Staff face 354 physical and verbal attacks each month

Today, we highlighted to the media the additional challenges frontline NHSGGC staff are facing in relation to violent and aggressive incidents and threats from the public each month.

Between January 2021 and July 2021 staff across our hospital sites were subjected to 2,479 assaults and threats, with almost 100 attacks following in the first eight days of August.

Our staff continue to work tirelessly to ensure patients and service users receive the best care, against the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Anne MacPherson said: "Our staff come to work to help people, support patients and their families, deliver vital care and save lives. All we ask is that visitors, patients and service users treat our staff with respect to allow us to continue to care for those needing medical attention in a safe and comfortable workspace."

Dr Scott Davidson, Deputy Medical Director – Acute services, said: "As we continue to battle the pandemic, manage Emergency Departments, continue care in other areas and prepare for winter, our staff should not have to come to work fearing that they will be subjected to violence and threats."

Transport update – Clyde Tunnel

Glasgow City Council have advised us of restrictions for essential works for the **Clyde Tunnel pedestrian/cycle route**. No cycling will be allowed in either bore during these periods, with all cycles needing to be walked through. When the northbound bore is closed, the southbound one will be open and vice versa.

The Northbound tunnel will be closed

Monday 6 - Friday 9 September 0800-1600

Monday 13 - Tuesday 14 September 0800-1600

The Southbound tunnel will be closed

Wednesday 15 - Friday 17 September 0800-1600

Monday 20 - Friday 24 September 0800-1600

Social distancing is everyone's responsibility

Don't encroach on your colleagues' desk area,
maintain social distancing when talking



Do it, encourage it. Don't spread the virus at work or home

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: HR.Support@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](#)