

Tuesday 24 January 2023

System pressures – what we are doing to manage them As promised in yesterday's brief, we're going to share more information through the week about the ways we are trying to meet the current pressures. First up, interim care beds. Several participants in last week's meeting raised questions about these and how we are using them to help increase flow through our hospital. Across Grampian each of the HSCPs has already commissioned interim care beds and they are working to open further beds. While the recent announcement from the Scottish Government around an increase in funding for interim care placements is welcome and will be accessed, the key issue is around availability of these beds.

Capacity in the care home sector is extremely limited. Occupancy levels of between 97-99% are not unusual. Capacity can be further limited by outbreaks (not just COVID-19, but also enteric illnesses) or other circumstances we have no control over. While these interim care beds are designed to be used for a brief period – typically 6 weeks – and for patients with a lower level of care needs, interim care beds are not suitable for people with complex discharge needs. Circumstances can, of course, change and can lead to much longer stays. This is far from ideal for the people involved, and means a bed we had hoped to have available, is not.

As with every part of our system we must ensure doing more of something does not mean less of something else, such as fewer long-term Care Home placements - which would in turn lead to further delays and poorer patient outcomes. With all that said, interim beds can make a difference, albeit a small one. Across Grampian – predominantly in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire - there are now 63 interim care beds currently available, with a further 22 due to come on stream shortly. All HSCPs continue to work with all care homes in terms of vacancy management and ensuring flow through the system.

We hope this gives added helpful context for those of you not directly working in this sector.

Finally, we wanted to thank social care colleagues for their feedback on last night's piece; they are correct to highlight Delayed Discharge is not the only factor contributing to the pressure felt at the minute. We also want to acknowledge the significant work carried out by primary care teams, care management teams, and care at home teams.

Managing Adverse Events The updated 'Managing Adverse Events in NHS Grampian' policy and Turas e-Learning training modules are now available. You should undertake the training if you likely to be involved in Adverse Event Reviews. If you:

- are involved in Level 3 Adverse Events Reviews then you only need to complete Modules 1 and 3.
- are involved in Level 2 and 1 Adverse Event Reviews then you'll need to complete Modules 1, 2 and 3 (complete the most relevant Module 2 depending on if you are conducting clinical or non-clinical Adverse Event Reviews). Completing module 2 meets the requirements of Root Cause Analysis training stipulated in the Policy.

- If you don't know what level of adverse events you are involved in reviewing, then complete Module 1 to find out more.

[The policy is available to view here.](#)

[The e-learning modules are available here.](#) (Requires Turas log-in).

Staff IT Training Support in ARI Healthpoint The eHealth Applications Training and Facilitation Team are delighted to bring face to face support on a drop-in basis to the Healthpoint located on the main concourse in ARI. We will be offering support and guidance on all things TrakCare and other eHealth applications. This includes:

- Applying for access/access issues
- On the spot training
- Setting preferences
- Sign posting to further support resources

We look forward to seeing you from Wednesday 1 February. One open, our hours will be Monday – Friday 8.30am – 1pm and 1.30 - 4pm. This service is available for a 3-month pilot period. For all technical issues (including password resets) please continue to log calls with the IT Service Desk.

NHS Grampian Healthpoints and Healthline offer free and confidential advice from trained staff on a wide range of topics. Visit the Healthpoint at ARI Concourse or call the free Healthline 08085 20 20 30

The Ethics Process This course is run through North of Scotland Research Ethics Service (NoSRES), with the Scientific Officer leading the sessions. It offers practical help to those finding their way around the ethics process for either the first time, or who have questions about the process. It gives hints and tips on applying for ethical approval and gives details of the Integrated Research Application System (IRAS). All researchers are welcome to attend, but especially those who are required to prepare and submit ethical applications. Course dates for 2023 (held via Microsoft Teams):

- 28 February 10am - 12.30pm
- 16 May 10am - 12.30pm
- 21 November 10am - 12.30pm

Please contact the NoSRES team via gram.nosres@nhs.scot to book a place or for further details. For other courses see [here](#).

Tune of the day It's Burns Night tomorrow, so we must include something by the man himself. The possibilities are endless, I've opted for [My Love is like a Red, Red Rose](#) sung here by Eddi Reader.

Thanks to Thomas Duncan, a Clinic Administrator in ARI, for reminding me of Max Ehrmann's poem [Desiderata](#). We haven't got space to reproduce it in full here, but I wanted to share these lines at the end (or possibly start) of your working day:

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.

Your contributions to this bit of the brief are always welcome. It doesn't have to be a tune; poems, photos, art of any kind is welcomed (EP).

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot