

Thursday 15 June 2023

---

**Industrial action – what next?** We know you will be keen to understand the practical impact of forthcoming industrial action. As highlighted on Tuesday, planning has been going on for some time; now we have confirmed dates, the pace of this work has picked up considerably. The Industrial Action Short Life Working Group is now meeting twice a week, with representation from a range of clinical services and locations across Grampian, alongside HR, finance, and staffside colleagues. Strike action is also a high priority item on the agenda for the Chief Executive's Team. We will continue to share updates via this brief as we have them.

As a reminder, any **new** requests for annual leave on the strike dates – 12-15 July – should not be processed at present. This is a temporary pause, which applies to all staff groups. To be clear, this should only cover **new** requests for leave, not leave already booked.

**Referring for Blood Tests at Secondary Care Hubs** During May almost 3000 patients had blood tests performed at the Secondary Care hubs throughout Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. 750 of the 3000 patients seen did not have a referral for blood tests on Trak. This equates to 25% of all the patients and meant staff in the hubs spent around 85 hours chasing requests to be put onto Trak prior to the patient's appointment, thus ensuring that the tests could be safely performed.

Please can you ensure, encourage and remind your teams (Both Medical and Nurse Specialists) that requests must be on Trak before the patient has been asked to call and make an appointment. Following the correct process will ensure the patient does not have their appointment cancelled which could result in a delayed diagnosis or treatment. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

**Gloves – to use or not to use?** We launched a survey on the use of non-sterile disposable gloves last week and we are delighted to say we've had well over 300 responses already! A huge thank you to everyone who has taken a few minutes to share their experience. The survey remains open until 24 June and we would encourage as many people as possible to take part by clicking this link: [5937 Glove use survey \(snapsurveys.com\)](https://snapsurveys.com/5937)

**MedWatch newsletter – June edition** The latest edition of the MedWatch newsletter - focussing on medicines management issues identified as part of HIS hospital inspections in other health boards is available here: [MedWatch June 2023](#). It and all previous editions can be found here [Pages - MedWatch Newsletters \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

**Take up of non-medical clinical academic research fellowships** A national group is exploring the perceived low take-up of research fellowships by non-medical staff. If you are a nurse, midwife, AHP, pharmacist, psychologist, or clinical scientist and have applied – or considered applying for – any of the following, the group want to hear from you:

- CSO Clinical Academic Fellowship
- CSO Early Postdoctoral Fellowship

- NRS Career Researcher Fellowship
- NHS Scotland Innovation Fellowship
- Scottish Pharmacist Clinical Academic Fellowship

The conversation will take place online (via Microsoft Teams) on Thursday 29 June from 9-10am and you will be asked to contribute to an online Jamboard (an online flip chart where you can anonymously respond to questions) during the meeting. [You can register via this Eventbrite link](#) or by scanning the QR code below if you are reading a printed version of the brief:



**Evaluation Clinics** New appointment slots are available this month and next for the Evaluation Clinic. If you are planning a service change or project, and you are looking for advice on any aspect of planning, implementing, writing up, or disseminating an evaluation, [then you can book via this link](#). If you have any queries or if the clinic date is not convenient, please contact: [CLEask@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:CLEask@aberdeencity.gov.uk) / [niki.couper2@phs.scot](mailto:niki.couper2@phs.scot)

**Clean Air Day** Road transport emissions are now the largest source of air pollution in urban areas in the UK, causing serious health risks to the public. Long-term exposure increases incidence of respiratory problems, heart disease, and cognitive impairment. Unless air quality improves, the associated costs of ill-health and social care from air pollution is projected to cost tens of billions by 2035, while placing considerable strain on our healthcare system. The Clean Air Day campaign has specific [resources for healthcare teams, available here](#).

**Tune of the day** He wowed the crowds at TECA on Tuesday, and he's expected to do the same tonight; Elton John is in town on his farewell tour and Babs de Bruijn in the Medical Genetics team is one of many asking for a tune from him. What else, but [Goodbye Yellow Brick Road](#)?

Speaking of farewells (although for a much shorter time), Zoe Knight-Rowe has got in touch on behalf of the team at the Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre to request a tune for Jo Bates, who's off on a well-deserved holiday. Since she's Greece-bound, and a huge ABBA fan, here's Meryl, Christine, and Julie giving their all to [Dancing Queen](#) in the 2008 film (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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)