

Friday 21 July 2023

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) - what you need to know You may have seen stories in the press, in recent weeks, about something called Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete. Also known as RAAC, this lightweight form of concrete was widely used in construction from the 1950s well into the 1990s.

So why are we talking about it now? RAAC has been gaining attention because of concerns about its durability; it is not as long lasting as other forms of concrete. There is a risk it can fail, especially if it has been damaged by water, or wasn't formed correctly when initially made.

So what does this mean for us? RAAC was widely used, over a long period of time, so it is highly likely some of our buildings may contain it. We will only know for sure once specialist surveys are carried out. To assist this process we, along with all health boards, have been looking at our estate, assessing the date and type of construction. This desk top exercise is almost complete; the surveys that will follow will identify if these buildings contain RAAC. We will have more to share next week.

Do we need to take action at this stage? No. The next step will be to share information on which buildings require to be surveyed, and then to understand when those surveys can take place. Wherever you are working, we would always encourage you to report any building issues to Facilities & Estates, via the helpdesk.

High Protein Yogurt Distribution The dietetic and catering teams at ARI have asked us to highlight an ongoing issue with regards to inpatients receiving high protein yogurts. If there is a clinical need for a patient to receive a high protein yogurt this will be decided and advised by each ward dietitian and confirmed with catering. A high protein yogurt will be delivered to each ward every morning, with the patient's name and ward on each yogurt. It is the responsibility of ward staff to ensure those requiring a high protein yogurt do receive them. There have been several incidents where the yogurts are not being given to patients. While the dietetic department appreciates the busy nature of wards, there is a clinical need for a patient to receive their high protein yogurt and if they do not receive it, it is detrimental to their treatment plan.

That was the week that was It's time for our weekly run through of the key items shared this week:

Monday 17 – message to laundry staff, Realistic Medicine conference – save the date

Tuesday 18 – intranet migration update, Modern Apprenticeships and career development opportunities

Wednesday 19 – palliative care strategy – survey, Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Consultants National Learning & Sharing Network

Thursday 20 – water quality update from Scottish Water, staff car parking at Foresterhill

[All briefs are stored online, just click this link.](#)

STAR Award Our warmest congratulations to Karen Allan, pharmacy technician and most recent winner of a STAR award. Karen was nominated for her exemplary leadership skills and the support she shows to junior staff members. If you work with somebody – or somebodies – who you feel deserves a STAR Award, then you can [complete the online nomination form](#), or email the details to gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Our tune today goes out to Amanda Gotch. Amanda is returning to midwifery after a stint leading the Realistic Medicine programme; you will be much missed by your colleagues who wish you all the best. They've asked for [Pencil Full of Lead by Paulo Nutini](#).

In a twist (I love it when this happens) Amanda herself has been in touch to say she will miss working with the Realistic Medicine team, describing it as 'a joy'. She's requested [With a Little Help from my Friends](#) by The Beatles.

On that note of mutual respect and appreciation, we are wrapping up another working week. In the words of Bill & Ted, "Be excellent to each other". The brief will return on Monday. (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