

Tuesday 7 November 2023



[In a special edition of 'Ask Caroline'](#), Chief Executive Caroline Hiscox takes on the role of question master to grill Scotland's National Clinical Director Jason Leitch with your submitted questions. Jason and Caroline cover topics ranging from GP access, balancing finance and staff resources, next year's vaccination plans as well as covid special leave and the launch of NHS Grampian's anti-racism plan.

[01:21](#) Jason's role and remit

[02:21](#) Jason's reflections on his visit to RACH/ARI/RCH

[07:36](#) Sandy Reid - Can you tell us yet if there's going to be a large spring booster programme in 24 + whether the single COVID/flu vaccination will be here by Autumn 24?

[11:20](#) Sarah Simpson - Why are NHS staff being told not to test for COVID anymore if symptomatic? Also how can staff claim for special COVID leave if off sick without a test?

[17:03](#) What does Jason think of GP surgeries 'turning off' e-Consult system in the evening at weekends?

[21:50](#) Would Jason be supportive of the NHS introducing "staff GP" appointments delivered on site to improve access for staff who have medical issues?

[26:09](#) Liz Howarth - Will Jason use his position to encourage other Scottish boards to introduce similar measures to the new NHS Grampian Anti-Racism strategy?

[30:05](#) What is Jason's stance on getting the balance right between financial savings and having the right number of staff?

[38:30](#) Is there any update on the National Treatment Centre in Aberdeen? Is the project still a priority for NHS Scotland/NHS Grampian?

Caroline and Steven Lindsay, NHS Grampian Employee Director, filmed another Q&A session yesterday to address your more general questions which will be published in the daily brief and via global email shortly.

The December 'Ask Caroline' is scheduled for Thursday 8th December. To put your question to Caroline or give feedback, email: [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot) (please indicate if you would like your question to be anonymous).

**CPR for Feet** This is a national campaign, highlighting a safe and simple system to ensure all patients have their feet checked for pressure damage, are protected from potential pressure damage, and are then appropriately referred onwards. Want to know more? [Just watch this short video!](#)

**Guts UK campaign features one of our nurses** Thanks to community nurse Emma Hamilton for sharing her story as part of Guts UK’s campaign to raise awareness of pancreatitis. Read [Emma’s story](#)

**ICYMI - nurses, midwives & AHPs – new graduate welcome event** A welcome event will be held for new graduate nurses, midwives, and AHPs joining NHS Grampian on Wednesday 15 November. This will take place at Kings Community Church (old AECC), Bridge of Don, between 9am-2pm. All new graduate recruits are required to attend one of these events, which give you the opportunity to meet the senior leadership team and learn about initiatives like Flying Start. Please discuss attending with your line manager and [then book your place via Turas using this link](#) or searching ‘NMAHP Welcome’.

**Uniform provision** The sewing room is experiencing a high level of uniform requests from staff who are estimating their sizing. This is very time consuming for the team when the uniform requires to be changed over, remarked and sewn, along with background administration around stock. Polo shirts, for example, are sized differently from tunics and this is causing a particular issue.

- All new staff and staff who are changing type of uniform must attend a fitting
- Opening hours have been extended at the sewing room to allow staff from nightshift to attend
  - 7.30am – 3pm Monday to Thursday
  - 7.30am – 12pm Friday
- Sizing kits for fitting are also available at community hospitals, Dr Gray’s, Woodend and Cornhill

**Patient catering provisions** Provisions such as milk, teabags, coffee, bread, biscuits, portions of butter, jam and cheese are provided by the Catering Department to ward pantries for the use of patients only. These items are not for staff use and should not be removed from ward pantries to staff rooms or used for anything apart from patient use.

**Culture Matters Roadshows** aim to increase awareness, across NHS Grampian and the Health and Social Care Partnerships, in developing values-based cultures that are supportive, inclusive and empowering. Information will be shared across varied sites on the Commitment to Culture resource pack, which has evolved from initial discussions and work at the Culture Collaborative. The pack has been developed for colleagues to use locally, recognising this is where culture is – and needs to be – owned, shaped and experienced. Roadshow dates:

Wednesday 15th November	12:30pm - 1pm	Room 1 Learning Suite - Health Village
Wednesday 15th November	1pm - 2:30pm	Room 4/5 Learning Suite - Health Village
Monday 20th November	11am - 1pm	Peterhead Community Hospital Foyer
Thursday 30th November	12.30pm - 1:15pm (virtual)	Facilities and Estates. Lunch and Learn
Wednesday 13th December	1pm - 4pm	ARI Concourse
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	10am - 12 noon	Recovery Resource Alcove. Royal Cornhill Hospital

If you have any questions about the roadshows, please email [gram.culturematters@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.culturematters@nhs.scot)

**#MedSafetyWeek** It's a good time to remind everyone of the Parkinson's UK Get It On Time campaign which NHS Grampian has pledged to support. Our aim is that missed or late doses of medicines should not happen and that we are committed to ensuring patients receive their medicines on time.

Patients with Parkinson's Disease often take medicines out with the usual drug round times. Parkinson's UK Medication Clocks can be used as a reminder for staff when patients' medicines are next due. They are available to order via the [NHS Grampian Health Information Resources Service](#) searching for 'Parkinson's Medication Clock' or item code: L44001. If you do not already have an HIRS account, you will need to register first (see website for details). In addition, all staff are encouraged to watch this three-minute video [Time Matters: It's Critical](#) which explains why it is so important for Parkinson's patients to receive their medicine on time. Clinical staff are also asked to watch this 15-minute video, available in Turas, [Parkinson's - Get It On Time, Saving You Time](#).

**Tune of the day** The sewing room team tell us they like a good tune on the radio and have requested [Moving On Up](#) by M People. Thanks for the request and keep up the great work, folks. I challenge you to listen without bopping your head along to those '90s beats (KJ).

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)