

Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Over-ordering of patient catering** As you may recall, we have previously shared information on behalf of the catering team with regards to patient catering. Unfortunately, they are still seeing over-ordering, and this is having a major impact, not only on their budget, but on the amount of food wasted. Around two-thirds of department's food waste comes from food returned by clinical areas. Aside from the financial cost, it is irresponsible to waste that much food. Food waste has a damaging effect on the environment; releasing methane into the atmosphere and leachate which contributes to groundwater pollution. Please remember the following:

- Patients should be ordering from the main menu unless there is a clinical or dietary need as agreed by a dietitian, speech & language therapist, or Senior Charge Nurse.
- Orders placed in ARI and DGH should not exceed bed occupancy. In all other service areas, there may be a requirement for an additional meal or two to allow for admissions/choice however missed meal provision is available.
- Daily menu items are available for collection from ARI, RCH and DGH production kitchens from 11am - 1.30pm and 4 - 6.30pm. From 11am - 7pm soup, salad, sandwiches and fresh fruit are also available for collection for patients who have missed a mealtime.
- Sandwiches should not be ordered in addition to a meal, and they should only be requested where there is a clinical need.
- Patient meals, snacks, and provisions are solely supplied for patient use.
- If any area has specific requirements due to the patient population, this should be discussed with the relevant Catering Manager for that area so that suitable processes can be agreed/adopted.

**Linen services – lost property** The picture below shows a selection of the items found in uniform and other items of linen sent to the laundry at Foresterhill. These items have the potential to lead to fires in the machines or cause serious damage which takes them out of service. Please help your colleagues in Linen Services and check laundry whenever practical. All lost property has been passed to the security team.



**Datix details – clarification** Thanks to colleagues who have pointed out that names can – and should – be added to the ‘Contacts’ section of a Datix report. However, you should not include any names or other identifying information in the ‘Description’ or ‘Action Taken’ fields.

**Staff Equalities Network** A reminder the Staff Equalities Network holds its next meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) between 2-3pm on Teams. The topic this time is ‘How to speak to children about race and antiracism’. All welcome; to get the link to the meeting just email [gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot)

**Healthcare chaplaincy - what's it all about?** If you have ever wondered what is involved in healthcare chaplaincy, we have the answer for you. Ian Pallet, chaplain at Dr Gray's Hospital, has written an [account of a typical day](#) for him. If you prefer to watch rather than read, [this short film features Lesley](#), one of the chaplaincy volunteers, explaining her role. If you want to know more, the Spiritual Care committee are hosting a drop-in event at the Dugald Baird conference centre (AMH) this Thursday (18 May) between 10.30am-2.30pm. Everyone is welcome, even if you can only manage a few minutes.

**Royal College of Pathologists** Congratulations to our own Dr Bernie Croal, who has been elected the new President of the Royal College of Pathologists. Dr Croal is a consultant chemical pathologist at ARI, with over 25 years’ experience specialising in intravenous nutritional support, demand optimisation strategies, and the development of new biomarkers. He will formally take up his role at the end of this year.

**National Smile month** National Smile Month starts today and runs until Friday 16 June, so our colleagues in the Dental and Oral Health Team are offering these top tips for a great smile:

- Cut out fizzy drinks and eat healthier snacks
- Brush twice a day and replace toothbrush regularly
- Use a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste
- Use a circular brushing motion
- Brush for 2 minutes
- Spit don’t rinse
- Visit your dentist regularly

Did you know Mouth Cancer is the 6<sup>th</sup> most common cancer worldwide with case numbers continuing to rise? Click here to find out how to do an easy [Mouth Inspection](#) at home. If you don’t have a dentist, please visit [Dental Practice Registration Availability \(nhsgrampian.org\)](http://nhsgrampian.org) or call NHS Grampian DIAL helpline on 0345 45 65 990. They can give you details of NHS dentists close to you, give you dental advice and arrange an emergency appointment. **If you have an acute dental emergency at night or the weekend, call NHS 24 on 111.**

**Touch Rugby - Corporate Games** Due to withdrawals, we are looking for 2 people (1 male/1 female) to join NHS Grampian's touch rugby team for the Corporate Games tournament **this Thursday evening** (18 May), 6-10pm, at Aberdeen Sports Village. Please email [gram.sports@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.sports@nhs.scot) if you are interested in taking part; previous experience of touch rugby is desirable but not necessary.

**Tune of the day** My morning coffee stop at Aroma was a little different today, because it’s the first time I’ve been in any hospital without a mask on in quite some time. It’s rather nice to see the bottom half of people's faces, so, as suggested by Fiona McKenzie, [Smile by McFly](#) is our tune of the day (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)