

Monday 15 August 2022

Safer Workplaces round up The Safer Workplaces programme began in January 2021, recognising the need for a dedicated team to support the implementation of rapidly changing workplace guidance. With 5 dedicated Safer Workplaces/PPE facilitators, and support from the IPC team and almost 200 Safer Workplaces champions, the group focused on carrying out assurance visits, to support colleagues in keeping our workplaces as safe as possible. In total, the team have carried out 1109 visits – 785 in Aberdeen, 173 in Moray, and 151 in Aberdeenshire – with a further 306 visits to specifically support on PPE usage. Although they visited a diverse range of services, the team have found consistent themes in their visits:

- Missed opportunities for hand hygiene, or non-compliance with the proper technique
- Overuse of gloves
- Incorrect use of face masks
- Incorrect donning & doffing of PPE
- Non-compliance with the dress policy e.g., wearing wristwatches, hair not tied back

As we continue to move back to ‘business as usual’ the Safer Workplaces team has been working on building in sustainability within teams, supporting the local Safer Workplaces Champions to continue to keep our teams safe. Now we have more stable guidance the team will disband, with their work concluding at the end of September. A huge thank you to them, and to all our Safer Workplace champions for their hard work.

Reminder – Staff Equalities Network/LGBTQ+ event The Staff Equalities Network is delighted to invite colleagues to join our next meeting taking place via Teams this Wednesday (17 August) at 2pm. The speaker at this session will be Christopher Morrison, a public health registrar and new to NHS Grampian. Christopher was the Chair of GLADD (The Association of LGBTQ+ Doctors and Dentists) for 5 years and is a researcher in LGBTQ+ health inequalities at Anglia Ruskin University.

During the session, the Network will be invited to take part in discussions about LGBTQ+ wellbeing, considering the contexts in which LGBTQ+ people experience discrimination, the impact discrimination can have on the LGBTQ+ workforce, and the ways in which activists try to influence change. If you would like to join this session, please email gram.staffequalities@nhs.scot for the Teams link and further information. Everyone is welcome.

Rail disruption Industrial action by Network Rail staff this week means there will be further disruption to the train service. Strikes will take place on Thursday 18 and Saturday 20 August; on those days there will be no services into or out of Aberdeen. Scotrail have advised on the day before, day in between, and day after the strikes special timetables will be running. [Further details are available on their website.](#)

Disposable Curtains and Scrub Suits/Theatre Greens Linen Services are currently working on an exit strategy around disposable Curtains and non-theatre use of hospital-supplied scrub suits/greens. The increased use of disposable curtains is being directly linked to Linen Services managing the additional demand around scrubs. Whilst this strategy is being worked through, please see the reminder about the use of disposable curtains. Please note and adhere to the following on the use of disposable curtains:

- They should be disposed of in household waste unless removed from an isolation bedspace or soiled with blood or body fluids
- They can and should be hung for the same length of time as the cloth curtains as guided by the NSS Domestic Services Cleaning Specification
- They can be wiped down and have panels removed

Please note that National Guidance must also be adhered to, however NHS Grampian cannot sustain the rising costs of disposable curtains if the above is not followed. Colleagues have been asked to escalate concerns where unnecessary frequencies of changes are being asked for. For further information about when curtains in your ward are changed, please contact your Domestic Supervisor or for infection prevention questions, please contact your ICPN.

Quality Improvement Practitioner Course This course, highlighted in last Wednesday's brief, is now full, and a waiting list has opened. Further dates will follow in due course.

Are you selecting the correct printer? The Clinical Genetics team, based in Ashgrove House, are seeing print jobs from other parts of the organisation arriving in their machine. Not only is this a waste of resources, it also poses a risk depending on the material being printed. Please ensure you only print when necessary and are printing to the correct machine.

Save the Date – R&D conference The Research & Development team will hold their annual conference on Wednesday 12 October, 10am-1pm. The event will take place at the Suttie Centre, with a livestream also available. More details on the programme and registration will follow soon.

Pause for thought Thanks to the Guided Journaling team for once again providing us with a Monday opportunity for reflection. This is taken from last week's sessions; more information on Guided Journaling [is available on the We Care website](#).

The Human Race

'We are all caught up in this human race

But faster and faster goes its pace

We're running and running to just stand still

And only go forward to the next bill'.

(From *The Romantic Engineer* by Roderick James. Thanks for the inspiration)

What race might you find yourself caught up in? Who will be the winner in this?

Tune of the day Thanks to Rob Stevenson for today's request, [Peter Pan Was Right by Anson Seabra](#), dedicated to all those who want to stay young forever (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