

Core brief

Daily update

(21 November 2024, 11.45am)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Needlestick Injury Reduction Group (NIRG)
- Human Resources and Organisational Development move to the Gartnavel campus
- Band 5 nurses urged to apply for role re-evaluation

Needlestick Injury Reduction Group (NIRG)

The NIRG is a sub group of the NHSGGC Health and Safety Forum. The group aims to promote the use of safer sharps devices, risk assessments and compliance with sharps training and education to reduce the risk of needlestick and medical sharps injuries to our staff and others.

Safer sharps

Medical sharps are widely used throughout healthcare and include needles, blades (e.g. scalpels) and other medical instruments necessary for carrying out medical procedures. Health and Safety regulations require safer sharps devices to be used wherever possible. This means **where a safer sharps device is available it should be the default option for your service**. Any exception to this requires a risk assessment which fully explains the clinical reasons that a safer sharps device cannot be used for tasks within your service. Risk assessments should be submitted via your local Health and Safety contact to the NIRG for approval. A list of local H&S contacts can be found [here](#).

Only where exemption risk assessments have been approved by the NIRG, will procurement be able to process the purchase of non-safe sharps.

Existing exemption risk assessments should be reviewed every year or sooner if changes to process or following a significant incident.

Any departments and services who order non safer devices without an exemption risk assessment approved by NIRG will instead be issued with the safer sharp alternative.

Training and education

Staff who use sharps must complete LearnPro module NES: Prevention and Management of Occupational Exposure. This module requires to be retaken every two years.

In addition to this device specific learning is also available via Practice Development, cascade training and manufacturers/suppliers.

For more information on sharps, including support for trialling new safer sharps, please refer to the [Sharps Sharepoint](#) or contact your Practice Development or Health and Safety teams.

Human Resources and Organisational Development move to the Gartnavel campus

Further to the Core Brief issued on [7 October 2024](#) all eight Human Resources and Organisational Development teams have now relocated to the Gartnavel campus.

Please take note of the teams which have relocated:

- Human Resources, Organisational Development and Health and Safety (WGACH team only)
- Acute Psychology
- Corporate Practice Development
- Acute Physiotherapy Leadership Team
- Clyde AHP Team
- Practice Education.

If you have intentions to visit any of these services, they will be located at Admin Building and West House at Gartnavel Campus, 1055 Great Western Road, G12 0XH.

Band 5 nurses urged to apply for role re-evaluation

Band 5 nursing staff who believe they are working at a higher level are encouraged to apply to have their pay banding re-evaluated now.

The review is open to Band 5 nurses across all fields of practice, specialties and settings, including those working in bank roles.

Successful applicants will see their role upgraded to Agenda for Change Band 6.

To ensure consistency of the application process, a National online digital portal/app has been developed, hosting an online application form. You can access the portal/app from any device, but you will need your NHS email address and sign-in details.

The application includes questions about all aspects of your job including the skills and knowledge required, your responsibilities and working environment. The application form is designed to gather information needed to evaluate your role.

Nurses are asked to discuss their applications with their manager before making the initial submission.

Full information on the process is available on the Scottish Terms and Conditions (STAC) website: [STAC Agenda for Change Review](#).

Further information is also available on [Staffnet](#).

**Remember, for all your latest news stories, visit the Staffnet Hub:
[GGC-Staffnet Hub - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)**

The poster features the NHS logo in the top right corner. The main title is 'Getting the right care is as easy as ABC'. Below this, there are three columns labeled A, B, and C. Column A is titled 'Ask yourself' and includes the question 'Do I need to go out?' and advice to use NHS Inform or the NHS 24 App. Column B is titled 'Be aware' and lists local services like GPs, pharmacies, and opticians. Column C is titled 'Call 111' and provides instructions on when to call NHS 24. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the website address www.nhsggc.scot/rcrp.

Getting the right care is as easy as ABC

A
Ask yourself
Do I need to go out?
For information on treating minor illnesses and injuries from home, go to **NHS Inform** or download the **NHS 24 App**.

B
Be aware
There is help on your doorstep.
Your local **GP, pharmacy, dental practice and optician** offer a range of services.

C
Call 111
If it's urgent, or you're unsure, call **NHS 24** on **111**.
They'll get you the care you need.

Unless it's an emergency - think ABC before visiting A&E.
For more information: www.nhsggc.scot/rcrp

Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).

It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.

A full archive of printable PDFs are available on [website](#)