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PHPU Newsletter

Public Health Protection Unit e-mail: phpu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Telephone 0141 201 4917 [Public Health Protection Unit - NHSGGC](https://www.ggc.scot.nhs.uk/public-health-protection-unit)

Welcome

The turn in the weather, and the increase in norovirus outbreaks, indicate we are now clearly in winter season. As we start to gather for celebrations, whether a work's night out, a family gathering or a community celebration, there are things we can do to keep ourselves and those around us safe. That can be being up to date with our vaccinations, cooking our food safely, or looking out for each other as the cost of living crisis continues.

The highlights in the newsletter provides updates on these topics. Feedback is welcome – please email us at phpu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Shingles - move from Zostavax® to Shingrix® and eligibility age reduced from 70 to 65

From September 2023 Boards across Scotland will move from Zostavax® and Shingrix® use to sole use of Shingrix®, simplifying the programme for shingles. The cohort for shingles vaccination will also widen with the eligibility age dropping to 65 and running up to 79.

Shingrix® is a non-live two-dose vaccine and since its introduction it has led to immunosuppressed individuals also receiving vaccination against shingles, a positive step forward.

Pharmacy Public Health would encourage any Zostavax® is now bagged up, marked clearly, and kept separate from Shingrix® supplies. Areas will be notified by Pharmacy Public Health or PHPU on further action for remaining Zostavax® in due course.

Mpox vaccination update

Mpox vaccination is still being offered in NHS Scotland pending further review from Scottish Government for Financial Year 2024-25. In line with Public Health Scotland guidance, Sandyford are offering mpox vaccination to eligible individuals on an opportunistic basis.

Thank you to all staff from the immunisation delivery team who supported scheduled clinics at Sandyford over the summer months. 557 vaccines were given in total during June, July and August and this was a great piece of joint work between sexual health and public health staff.

Autumn/Winter Programme

The Winter Programme began on 4th September 2023, starting with the flu only groups, notably those aged 50-64 years with no underlying clinical condition and non-front line health and social care staff.

It's not too late to get your Covid and flu vaccines - [NHSGGC - Autumn Winter Vaccination Programme 2023/24](#)

Seventeen venues operated across the first week of the programme with 6 new venues joining the programme and 1 venue, Barrhead, returning for the Autumn Winter period. Over 220,000 patients have already been through the clinic doors and feedback from both patients and staff are that they are enjoying working and visiting the new venues

Attendance vs booked appointments has been between 89% and above across all venues which was expected due to appointments being self booked by patients.

Early indications show the number of booked appointments are lower than forecasted but there is an expectation that the numbers will increase as the programme gathers pace and as local/national comms increase to promote all cohorts.

The Scottish Ambulance Service ran mobile bus operated for the first time across Acute site car parks and attendance has been higher than forecasted. Extra dates are now being explored to revisit to support with staff vaccinations as well as utilising the wellbeing bus for vaccinations.

Referring for Non Routine Immunisations

For General Practices, referrals for all non routine immunisations for adults and children are now on SCI Gateway. The original Microsoft referral form is no longer in use for GP practices. We are working to add key Acute colleagues who refer for immunisation to SCI Gateway also so they can make referrals, and additionally exploring the possibility of using Trackcare for referrals.

Each week our Clinical Leads work with the referrals that are received at our contact centre to screen these and appoint them to clinic. For non routine immunisations these will be allocated into our community clinics at the earliest opportunity or in line with any transplant schedule. Any queries regarding referrals practice staff can email our contact centre at ggc.vaccinationcontactcentre@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Rabies guidance

The Scottish guidance on rabies prevention and response to rabies prone exposures has been updated.

All potential rabies prone exposures should be considered a possible medical emergency and referred to Infectious Diseases on the same day of presentation by phoning the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QUEH) on 0141 201 1100 and asking for Infectious Diseases (ID) on call (ID Registrar 0900-1700 Monday

to Friday, ID Consultant on call out with these times). The SCI-Gateway referral system must not be used for referral for rabies prone exposures/post exposure prophylaxis.

We have also circulated a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document which we hope will help answer some of the most common queries we receive in the PHPU regarding rabies vaccine. If you would like a copy of the FAQ, please contact PHPU.

Accessing care this winter

NHS GGC has launched a new campaign on accessing care this winter - It's As Easy as ABC.

Accessing the right care is as easy as ABC:

- **Ask yourself:** Do I need to go out? For information on keeping yourself well and treating minor illnesses and injuries from home, go to NHS Inform or download the NHS24 app.
- **Be aware:** There is help for many conditions right on your doorstep. Your local GP, pharmacy, dentist or optician offer a range of services.
- **Call 111:** If it's urgent, or you're not sure, call NHS24 on 111. They'll make sure you get the help you need.

More information on the campaign, and where to access care please visit [Right Care, Right Place - NHSGGC](#)

Cost of living

The current cost of living crisis has introduced additional pressure to household budgets, which for many of us may already have been stretched. Food and home energy costs have risen dramatically and the costs of childcare and public transport have increased. Whilst the increased costs have been felt by all of us, some are impacted more than others.

In the community anyone can access money advice and support through local Citizens Advice Bureaux, further information available here: www.cas.org.uk/bureaux or by calling Scotland's Citizens Advice Line on 0800 028 1456.

Hospital patients, staff and visitors can access a wide range of support from Support and Information Services and have links to other community-based advice organisations, including those for money advice, support when struggling during the current cost of living crisis and resolving debt at hospital. Contact Support and Information Services on **0141 452 2387** or email sis@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Following an award by the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Healthcare Charity, Support and Information Services are also able to provide small hardship grants to staff as part of a wider needs assessment, to ensure any member of staff seeking

to access the fund is also able to access sustainable, long-term support. The service is entirely confidential and details of those using the service will not be shared with anyone.

Information on how to access hardship support can be found on the 'All About Money' staff web page, which contains a range of useful information and resources for our staff including the HES partnership; the NHS Credit Union; staff benefits and discounts; and information and contacts for social security benefits. You can access the page by clicking here [All About Money - NHSGGC](#) . You can also download copies of the Staff Money Worries campaign resources for use in your local team.

Festive food safety

At this time of year, many of us will be joining with family and friends for celebrations, often around the table. This means extra food in the fridge and the freezer, and cooking meals we don't do regularly.

To avoid the festive season being ruined by a gastrointestinal illness, correct storage and preparation is essential. Food standards Scotland have a [Christmas food checklist](#) and specific [Turkey food safety](#) information.