

Thursday 9 February 2023

Finance update – drugs, the impact of inflation, and the role we can play Yesterday we highlighted the impact rising energy costs are having on us as an organisation, today we're looking at the impact of inflation. Current estimates suggest inflation in the UK will be 9.1% this year, and around 7.4% next year, making everything we buy more expensive. While NHS boards can negotiate better deals through bulk purchasing, we still expect our non-pay budget to be hit to the tune of £6.5M. One standout example is the cost of printing, stationery, and postage which we expect to hit £3M this financial year. Meanwhile, the price rises we all see on the supermarket shelves are hitting our catering team; they've seen some of their costs rise by almost a third.

In our waste service, we are developing a plan to support better segregation of clinical waste and mixed recycling. We know a proportion of waste in orange bags (for clinical waste) and black bags (for general waste) could – and should - be recycled. The difference in the disposal-cost of each of these waste streams is significant. Orange bag waste costs £500 per tonne, black bag waste is £150 per tonne and mixed recycling is only £40 per tonne. Making sure we get the right items in the right waste stream not only makes us more efficient and sustainable, but it also helps us save money.

As an NHS board, of course we must spend money on drugs, and we can be hit by price rises beyond our control. In the new financial year, additional funding of almost £30M will be required for drugs budgets across primary and secondary care. This means it is more important than ever to minimise waste, comply with formulary, use generic drugs where available, and adopt Realistic Medicine principles. Indeed, all the above areas of spending have a common thread; we can all play our part in reducing them. Whether we carefully consider what we print – or don't print at all – or ensure rubbish goes into the correct waste stream, we can all make a difference to the organisation's finances.

ePayslips As a reminder, details of how to sign up to ePayslips, guidance on logging in to the system and how to use self-service [can be found here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only). Please note access to the ePayroll system **must** be done via a network PC; it is not possible to access your e-Payslip outwith the network, or on a smartphone/tablet

Helping patients or clients in poverty Working alongside Health & Social Care Partnership colleagues across Grampian, Public Health have co-developed a series of factsheets and a TURAS eLearning module to raise awareness of the impact of poverty on the people we look after and the services available to support them.

The factsheets provide brief information for those of you who visit patients or clients in their homes and provides guidance on what to look for and how to support them. There are bespoke factsheets for Moray, Aberdeenshire, and Aberdeen City: [Professional Guidance \(nhsgrampian.org\)](https://www.nhs.uk/grampian/public-health/professional-guidance) That link will take you to the Winter Support section of the NHS Grampian public website.

The short eLearning module is intended to increase participants' awareness of poverty and impact, as well as introduce the Worrying About Money leaflets and their use within the work setting. Just follow this

link [Worrying about Money : who offers help in Grampian | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#) (requires a Turas log-in)

If you would like additional health and wellbeing advice, for your patients/clients or for yourself, please contact the Healthpoint service by calling 08085 20 20 30 or email gram.healthpoint@nhs.scot

EIS strike action The EIS have announced two further days of national strike action on Tuesday 28 February and Wednesday 1 March. In addition, they are planning further rolling strike action during March and April, with the areas affected to be announced in due course. The parents and carers among you will get further information direct from your school(s); as with previous school strikes you should speak to your line manager to make alternative arrangements (e.g., shift swap, working at home, annual leave) if you are unable to come into work.

ELVIS study – children and the common cold It might be February, but there are still plenty of colds doing the rounds. Did you know the team at RACH are taking part in a study to see if using saltwater nose drops helps young children recover from colds more quickly and prevent spread of the illness? They are looking to recruit children under the age of 7; parents or carers who are interested in finding out more can contact the research nurses on 01224 550267 or 551773, or via gram.rachresearch@nhs.scot Further information is [available on the ELVIS Kids website](#); please share this information with family and friends as appropriate. Please note the study will close on 30 April.

Pride Aberdeen – save the date! Event organisers have confirmed there will be a Pride parade along Union Street in Aberdeen on Saturday 27 May and NHS Grampian will be taking part once again. If you are interested in joining us, all you need to do right now is get the date in your diary; we'll have more information nearer the time. New for 2023, there will be a series of Pride events taking place across Aberdeenshire, starting next month in Inverurie. Full details on dates and locations can be found on the [Grampian Pride website](#), just click on 'Grampian Pride Events'. Organisers of Pride in Moray have also confirmed they will be hosting an event last this year, we'll share those details when we have them.

Tune of the day Thanks to Cath and the nightshift team at CDU for today's request. The team have been reflecting on the sudden death of their colleague Jamie Labrum and have asked for [I am... I said](#) by Neil Diamond (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