

# Core brief

Thursday, 15 December 2016

## Introduction

This issue of Core Brief provides information on HealthNews which is out today and features some of our staff who will be working on Christmas Day. It also details a Scottish Government press release on better access to new medicines.

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## Latest edition of HealthNews out NOW!

This month's special winter edition features some of our staff who will be working on Christmas Day. To find out how Barbara, Kevin and Jill will be spending their Christmas Day [click here](#) and get your copy of HealthNews today.

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## Better access to new medicines

Fresh reforms to the way new medicines are approved will mean better access for patients in Scotland.

Health Secretary Shona Robison has confirmed she will take forward the recommendations of Dr Brian Montgomery's Review of Access to New Medicines, published by the Scottish Government.

Ms Robison asked Dr Montgomery to examine how changes made to the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) process in 2014 affected access to medicines for rare and end-of-life conditions. The review's recommendations set out how the process for appraising medicines can be made more open, transparent and robust.

Following his recommendations, a revised approval process for true ultra-orphan medicines will be devised in the coming months. This will see final decisions on these low volume high cost medicines being made outwith the SMC. [Click here to read the full press release.](#)

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