

# Core brief

## Introduction

This issue brings you the Scottish Government press release on the “Impact of infection outbreaks on families”, new neuro theatres and Challenge poverty Week.

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Following meetings between the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and families of RHC patients, the Scottish Government has issued the following press release.

### Impact of infection outbreaks on families

Action to ensure the voices of families affected by the infection outbreaks in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are heard has been announced by the Health Secretary.

Ms Freeman met families and young paediatric cancer patients who have been treated at Glasgow’s Royal Hospital for Children and Queen Elizabeth University Hospital to hear their concerns about the impact the outbreaks have had.

Families raised a number of issues and are seeking information from the health board on:

- infection control measures
- the work underway in the haematology/oncology areas of the hospital
- the intended outcome and timeline of the enhanced safety measures which the board has put in place

Following her meetings with families, Ms Freeman has announced she will appoint Professor Craig White, the Divisional Clinical Lead in the Healthcare Quality and Improvement Directorate at the Scottish Government, to review their concerns and act as a single point of contact for families about these issues.

The Chief Nursing Officer has also asked Health Protection Scotland to undertake an external review of the board’s data on healthcare-associated bloodstream infections, and the actions they have taken to ensure infection prevention and control.

Ms Freeman said: “I am very grateful to the families for their time and for the frank and open way they detailed their concerns and feelings with me about the impact these concerns have had on their lives. All the information they have asked for is information they’re entitled to and should receive.

“Some of the questions raised by families will be answered by the Independent Review I commissioned in January which I expect to report by spring next year, and by the public inquiry I announced on 18 September.

“However many of the questions are pressing and will be answered and resolved in the coming weeks.

“I’ve asked the chair and chief executive of NHS Greater Glasgow to meet those families who wish to meet them. I expect to see a number of the immediate practical issues addressed and a clear information flow to families established.

“All of the families I met said the frontline staff they dealt with were compassionate, caring and skilled. They were clear they wanted their thanks to these staff recorded. I expect to see additional steps taken to support all the staff involved who continue to deliver high-quality compassionate care in difficult circumstances.

“I will continue to take a close interest in the progress made by the board in dealing with the issues and concerns the families have raised.”

### **New neuro theatres will begin surgery on patients next month**

A suite of four new theatres, which will revolutionise the future of adult neurosurgery and oral maxillofacial surgery in Glasgow, have been given the green light after the successful commissioning and validation of the mechanical and electrical systems.

Dr Scott Davidson, Deputy Medical Director Acute, said: “The opening of these new theatres is a further example of how close collaboration between academic research and healthcare can provide cutting edge facilities to benefit patients across Scotland. [Click here to read more.](#)

### **Challenge Poverty Week 7-13 October**

Almost a quarter of children in Scotland are living in poverty and this is likely to increase.

Dr Linda de Caestecker, said: “As health professionals, we are in a unique position to recognise the effect of poverty and provide the right support.

“Health workers have the potential to act early in a child’s life and often see families at their most vulnerable. We have a key role to play not just in terms of addressing our patients’ health issues but in making sure those patients are referred to money and welfare advice services.”

Asking our patients about money worries should be part of our routine enquiries.

During Challenge Poverty Week view and share the short film, [‘Money Worries – In Sickness and in Health’](#). The film encourages us to consider how money worries contribute to poor health and suggest a framework to address them.

For more information on money worries see [here](#).

[Click here to read more.](#) (StaffNet only)

**Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here to check](#)**