

# In brief

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This new pocket-sized visualisation tool provides ultrasound technology at the point-of-care. Similar in size to a mobile phone and weighing less than one pound, it can give high quality colour images enabling physicians to take a quick look inside the body and detect disease earlier. Vscan™ is marketed by GE Healthcare and has received the CE Mark by the European Union

## New SIGN diabetes guidance

The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) has published new guidance on the management of diabetes. The full guidance is available on [www.sign.ac.uk](http://www.sign.ac.uk) and provides recommendations on:

- lifestyle interventions for people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes
- managing psychosocial issues
- managing type 1 diabetes
- glucose-lowering therapies in people with type 2 diabetes including direction on the use of newer agents such as DPP-4 inhibitors
- managing cardiovascular, kidney and foot diseases
- preventing visual impairment
- managing type 1, type 2 and gestational diabetes during pregnancy.

Prevention of diabetes and prediabetes are not covered in the guidance.

## SMC recommends saxagliptin

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has recommended saxagliptin (Onglyza™) for people with type 2 diabetes in Scotland as add-on combination therapy with metformin, when metformin alone, with diet and exercise, does not provide adequate glycaemic control. It is restricted to use in patients only when the addition of sulphonylureas is not appropriate and represents an alternative to other agents, such as thiazolidinediones.

## Pacemaker development enables patients to access MRI scans

A second-generation pacing system (Advisea DR MRI™ Surescan™, Medtronic) has been approved for use in MRI machines in the UK. First patients have already been fitted with the new pacemaker in the UK, which enables them to have access to full body scans.

“Existing pacemaker technology meant that MRI scans were not safe for over a quarter of a million patients because of the strong magnetic fields it uses,” said Dr Jonathan Lyne, cardiologist at the Royal Brompton Hospital, London. “These patients will not need more invasive or complicated diagnostic procedures and will lead to speedier and more accurate diagnoses.”

## Teach me to pace – the dilemma of the new registrar

What is it like to attend a workshop on bradycardia and pacing? Do trainees really benefit from these short sponsored courses, what's involved and how can one enrol? These questions are answered by Hammersmith Hospital, Cardiology Registrar, Henry Savage (above). To see his review go to our Arrhythmia Watch website, [www.arwatch.co.uk](http://www.arwatch.co.uk). It's free to register and read his report alongside other developments in the heart rhythm management area.



## Heart failure report published

A comprehensive review of the quality of heart failure care in England *Bridging the quality gap: heart failure*, has been published by The Health Foundation. It highlights that prevention is key to improving outcomes for people with heart failure and reports that survival rates are improving. But it also draws attention to the slow improvement in services in England compared to international comparators with guidelines not being adequately followed.

“We would welcome more strategic attention to be paid to heart failure, particularly around prevention and screening,” said Stephen Thornton, Chief Executive at the Health Foundation.

A copy of the report can be downloaded at [www.health.org.uk](http://www.health.org.uk)



A new study is assessing the safety and performance of this new stent graft system. The Incraft™ stent developed by Cordis is being assessed in patients with abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) in Germany in the INNOVATION trial. AAA is suffered by 27 million people worldwide