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**VALUE-BASED PRICING UNLIKELY TO IMPROVE PATIENT ACCESS,
SAYS UK THINK TANK**

The proposed reforms to the way that medicines are priced within the NHS are unlikely to result in improved patient access to innovative medicines, according to the Stockholm Network, a pro-market think tank. As part of its submission to the Department of Health consultation, the Stockholm Network argues that a collection of misleading assumptions are impeding constructive reform that could ultimately see wider access for patients to new, innovative medicines.

The submission argues that there seem to be very few guarantees from these reforms in regard to patient access and that the maintenance of pricing ceilings in itself implies that patients will still be denied medicines that are deemed too expensive. It also laments the intention to terminate both the Cancer Drug Fund and patient access schemes, which had provided a short-term solution if patients continued to be denied treatments.

Helen Disney, chief executive of the Stockholm Network, says that “For too long now patients in the UK have been denied access to the innovative medicines that they need and which patients in many other European countries have been able to obtain. Any reforms that aim to amend reimbursement in the NHS should first and foremost focus on this challenge in the system and endeavour to reassure patients that the medicines which they and their physicians feel are necessary for them can generally be acquired.”

The submission can be viewed in full from the Stockholm Network website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/SNVBPsubmission>

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Notes to Editors:

Helen Disney is the CEO and Founder of the Stockholm Network, a pan-European think tank based in London and founded in 1997.

Information on the Stockholm Network health and welfare programme can also be found at:

<http://www.stockholm-network.org/Conferences-and-Programmes/Health-and-Welfare>