

Diabetes Ireland Hosts Free Screening Day at Cappamore Show in Limerick

- Diabetes Ireland and MSD joined forces to raise awareness of Type 2 Diabetes with 20 events taking place across Ireland
- Nurses from Diabetes Ireland provided free tests for Diabetes and tips on improving their health and wellbeing in Cappamore

19th August 2016: Diabetes Ireland, in partnership with healthcare company MSD, hosted a free diabetes awareness day at Cappamore Show on Saturday 20th August, as part of its national 'Diabetes Roadshow' initiative, taking place in 20 locations across the country. The day was open to all adults, particularly those with diabetes or with a family member who has the condition. Now in its third year, this hugely successful free education and screening programme has to date helped over 1,900 people around the country to either take steps to prevent Type 2 Diabetes or to get additional advice to prevent diabetes complications.

With the quick and simple screening process, visitors to Cappamore Show availed of a free test and risk assessment as part of the awareness day. Supported by a specialised nurse from Diabetes Ireland they also received information and advice on how best to prevent, manage and treat type 2 diabetes.

More than 850,000 Irish adults over 40 are at increased risk of developing, or already have, Type 2 Diabetes and this figure is set to rise dramatically.¹ Type 2 Diabetes, which usually develops slowly in adulthood, is progressive and can sometimes be treated with diet and exercise, but more often requires management with medication and/or insulin injections.

Commenting on the initiative, Nicola Fullam, Patient Programme Manager, MSD Ireland said, "This is our third year to partner with Diabetes Ireland in the roll-out of this highly successful national 'Diabetes Roadshow' and we are delighted to see the public and local pharmacies continue to value and support this initiative. We hope it helps raise awareness of Type 2 Diabetes and support people to be more proactive in the management of their health."

Speaking about the importance of the Diabetes Awareness Roadshow, Dr. Anna Clarke, Health Promotion and Research Manager, Diabetes Ireland said, "Diabetes in Ireland, particularly Type 2 - has reached epidemic proportions. Chronic conditions such as Type 2 Diabetes can often seem daunting, which is why it is so important that people educate themselves on how to identify risk factors in their lifestyle and correct the modifiable ones, complete risk assessments and proactively manage their health. We are delighted to have the support of MSD on a national and community level and to partner with their team in order to take this successful Roadshow around the country again this year."

Mary Ryan, Pharmacist at Cappamore Pharmacy, said, “We were delighted to be a host for the free diabetes awareness day at Cappamore Show. It was so great to see new and familiar faces come along on the day for this important initiative with Diabetes Ireland and MSD.”

The Diabetes Roadshow kicked off at Cappamore Agricultural Show in Limerick and will continue in over 20 locations throughout September and October.

-ENDS-

References

1. Diabetes Ireland. *Diabetes in Ireland*: <https://www.diabetes.ie/about-us/diabetes-risk-factors/>

Notes to Editor

About MSD

Known as MSD worldwide, and as Merck in the United States and Canada, MSD has operations in more than 140 countries. In Ireland, MSD employs approx. 2,000 people across its five sites in Dublin, Carlow, Cork, Tipperary and Wicklow. Its extensive Irish operations encompass manufacturing, commercial and marketing facilities.

MSD is a leader in healthcare, dedicated to helping the world be well through a wide range of innovative health solutions. This includes the development, production and distribution of prescription medicines, vaccines and biologic therapies as well as animal health products.

MSD’s commitment to research and to increasing access to healthcare across the world is demonstrated by clearly focused policies, far-reaching programmes and life-enhancing partnerships.

About Diabetes Ireland

Diabetes Ireland is the national charity dedicated to providing support, education and motivation to all people affected by diabetes. Diabetes Ireland also raises public awareness of diabetes and its symptoms and funds research into diabetes.