

## Diabetes Ireland calls on the public to avail of free diabetes screening at National 'Diabetes Roadshow'

- Diabetes Ireland and healthcare company join forces to raise awareness of Type 2 diabetes and provide free screening in 20 locations across Ireland
- 1,900 people have been tested already as part of National 'Diabetes Roadshow'

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2016:** Diabetes Ireland, in partnership with MSD, has launched a national "Diabetes Roadshow", with a series of diabetes awareness days in selected pharmacies. Taking place in 20 locations nationwide, the awareness days are open to all adults especially if they have diabetes or a family member with diabetes. Now in its third year, this hugely successful free education and screening programme has to date helped over 1,900 people to either take steps to prevent type 2 diabetes or to get additional advice to prevent diabetes complications.

The screening is very simple and takes only a few minutes so adults are encouraged to visit the Diabetes Ireland team at selected pharmacies and get their free risk assessment and screening for Type 2 Diabetes, as well as receive information and advice on how best to prevent, manage and treat this condition..

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

"This is our third year to partner with Diabetes Ireland in the roll out of this 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." Commented Ms Nicola Fullam, Patient Programme Manager, MSD Ireland.

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."

The Diabetes Roadshow kicked off at Cappamore Agricultural Show in Limerick in August and will continue until mid-December.

**-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.