

Press Release

Date: 4th February, 2015.

Minister for Health to launch ‘Severe Bleeding Disorder Alert Card’

Health Minister, Leo Varadkar, will launch an updated ‘Severe Bleeding Disorder Alert Card’ at the office of the Irish Haemophilia Society, First Floor, Cathedral Court, New Street South, Dublin 8 on Wednesday, February 4 at 8.15am.

“There are 775 people with haemophilia in Ireland who receive treatment at one of three comprehensive haemophilia treatment centres. However, in the event of an emergency, it is sometimes necessary for a person with haemophilia to attend another hospital and in such cases, it is vital that treatment for the bleeding disorder is administered without delay” stated Brian O’Mahony, Chief Executive of the Irish Haemophilia Society.

The updated alert cards will allow patients with haemophilia to alert the appropriate hospital staff to the need for rapid treatment and by providing contact details for the comprehensive care centres.

Minister Varadkar stated “Many people in Ireland live with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders. Around one in every 10,000 people have haemophilia. But it can be difficult for medical staff to recognise that a patient has a severe bleeding disorder. Thankfully this updated Severe Bleeding Disorder Alert Card will be issued to every person in Ireland with haemophilia to help hospital staff and ensure that patients get immediate and appropriate treatment. This simple but effective card will help to save lives and ensure that the best possible treatment is provided.”

The event will be attended by members of the National Haemophilia Council, people with haemophilia and health care workers. This National Haemophilia Council initiative is supported by the Health Service Executive and the Irish Haemophilia Society.

This information is also being distributed within the Health Service Executive, so that medical, nursing and ambulance staff are made aware if a person with severe haemophilia attends at an Emergency Department, that they are treated without delay.

Remarks will be made by the Minister and by the C.E.O. of the Irish Haemophilia Society. The Minister will then meet with the National Haemophilia Council.

For further information contact: Brian O’Mahony or Debbie Greene at the Irish Haemophilia Society on: 01-6579900