Irish heart care ranks only 16th in New Euro Consumer Heart Index

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Ireland’s provision of heart health care ranks 16th out of 29 European countries, according to the inaugural Euro Consumer Heart Index launched in Brussels today. Luxembourg leads the index with a score of 836 points from a possible 1,000 followed by France, Norway and Switzerland. Ireland scored 652 points well after for example the UK and Slovenia.

The new Heart Index compares how consumer-friendly care systems are around Europe. In five categories covering 28 performance indicators, Ireland’s score placed it slightly below average, behind the majority of Western European systems.

“Despite being very active in establishing measures to curb smoking, Ireland scores poorly overall in prevention” says Dr. Arne Björnberg, Research Director for the Heart Index. “The other elements of effective prevention, such as combating obesity, reducing the heavy drinking culture and improving diet problems need to be addressed to counter Ireland’s rather poor results on heart disease outcomes.”

What more could be done in Ireland?

“Ireland can improve their prevention activities through introducing national screening for heart disease and taking measures to control blood pressure” states the President of the Health Consumer Powerhouse, Mr. Johan Hjertqvist, when analysing the Index outcome for Ireland. “Higher levels of exercise in Irish schools would also be an excellent long term investment towards cardiac health in the future”.

About the Heart Index

The Index provides a ranking of European cardiovascular healthcare systems across five key areas to the consumer: Information, Consumer rights and choice; Access; Prevention; Procedures; and Outcomes. The Index is constructed from public statistics and independent research.

The producer of the European Consumer Heart Index is the Health Consumer Powerhouse, providers of analysis and information in healthcare. As with all the HCP’s other indexes it takes a consumer-centric position. The Heart Index was produced with the help of an unrestricted grant from Pfizer Inc.
Press Release

For more information and the explanatory report:

About the Health Consumer Powerhouse: www.healthpowerhouse.com

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