



Ireland

HEALTH/MEDICAL

Market Overview

Health services in Ireland have been under considerable pressure during the 1990s to meet the ever increasing demands of modern society. However, with a sizeable budget surplus, the Department of Health and Children now has the resources to tackle many of the problems that have emerged during the last two decades. Based on the December 2000 Budget, the Minister was able to increase gross spending on health from IRE4.3 billion in 2000 to approximately IRE5.3 billion for 2001.

Significant delays in treatment and long hospital waiting lists have caused approximately 60% of the population to choose private health insurance programs to enjoy medical care on demand. Public hospitals around the country have been encouraged to generate their own income by setting aside beds for privately insured patients.

The dramatic changes in health spending and the increasing demands of the insured patients are effectively expanding the market. Newer and more expensive drugs

and technologies are constantly being developed, and patient demand is insistent that these should be made available by their doctors and hospitals.

Opportunities

The "growing" market, the demand for more sophisticated devices and drugs, plus the tendering system ensure that market potential is available to all suppliers regardless of scale. On the device front, manufacturers must secure the CE mark, based on EU medical directives.

Pharmaceutical companies must conform to the requirements of the Irish Medicines Board, which is currently assessing controls on alternative and traditional medicinal products, including herbal products. St. John's wort has already been designated as a prescription medicine.

Health authorities, boards and individual hospitals must purchase their equipment, pharmaceutical and construction needs by tender invitation. Key tenders may be viewed via the IBOC Web site at <http://www.iboc.gc.ca>

For further information, contact:

Department of Health and Children:
<http://www.doh.ie>

Irish Medical Directory:
<http://www.imd.ie>

Irish Medicines Board:
<http://www.imb.ie>

National Standards Authority of Ireland:
<http://www.nsal.ie> (Re: CE mark)

Major Shows
BioMedica 2001, April 25-26, 2001,
E-mail: amls@indigo.ie

Web Site: <http://www.amls.ie>
For medical and laboratory diagnostics
and instruments

IRECHEM 2001, September 18-20, 2001,
Bishopstown, Cork
E-mail: deirdre@sdlexpo.com
For chemical, pharmaceutical and
process engineering

