



In the Newspaper

Daily

- Front Page
- Ireland
- World
- Finance
- Features
- Sport
- Opinion
- Letters
- Crossword
- Sudoku
- Article Index

Daily PDFs

- Front Page
- TV Listings

Weekly Index

- Tuesday
 - Health
 - Education Today
- Wednesday
 - Motors
 - An Teanga Bheo
 - Commercial Property
- Thursday
 - Science Today
 - Property
- Friday
 - The Ticket
- Saturday
 - Weekend
 - News Features
 - Obituaries
 - Magazine

Weekly Article Index

- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| MON | TUE | WED |
| THU | FRI | SAT |

Archive Search

Special Reports

Click here for Special Reports...

Health

A testing time for diabetics

Sheila O'Kelly

Health awareness

More than 4,000 adults and parents of children who have diabetes visited the National Diabetes Health Awareness Exhibition in Dublin at the weekend.

Many more who felt they were at risk of developing diabetes but had not yet been to a GP with their concerns also went along to be checked out and get advice and information.

The extensive range of free health testing services were kept busy all day.

The tests assessed people for diabetes; A1c (a test which gives an accurate picture of the blood sugar levels over the past three months); glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy (eye disease); cholesterol; blood pressure; and BMI (body mass index).

The Diabetes Federation of Ireland, which organised the event, provided the diabetes screening and some 10 per cent of the 280 people they tested were referred on to their GPs for further tests.

Diabetes chairman Dr Tony O'Sullivan, who is a GP with a practice in Dublin, said the queues showed that there was a demand for easy access to these types of health test.

"When people are offered health checks free they are interested and do want to know about their health. These tests were free and simple for people to get access to," he said.

"It makes you think we need to make it easier for people to get to their GPs for those types of assessments.

"But, of course, that would require investment in machinery and practice nurses," he said.

Almost 200 people queued for the A1c tests, which give an accurate picture of the long-term blood glucose levels in someone who has diabetes. Previously people were advised to keep their levels under 7 but the International Diabetes Federation recently revised this figure down to 6.5.

Tony Brennan, nurse manager for Sanofi Aventis, said that Sunday's A1c results ranged from 5 to 12.9 with an

