**IMMEDIATE RELEASE – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8th 2018**

**DEMENTIA ADVISERS TO REFER PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA TO CHARTER MEDICAL’S RAPID ACCESS CLINIC UNDER NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) is delighted to announce its partnership with Charter Medical for the provision of the Rapid Access Clinic for persons with dementia.

The new partnership will enable ASI’s Dementia Advisers to refer persons with dementia to the service, which is a public clinic and provides services at no cost to the person with dementia and operates five days a week, Monday to Friday.

The clinic is for people who require an urgent but non-critical review by a Geriatrician.

Referral criteria include but are not limited to: recurrent falls; weight loss; syncope; TIA; cognitive impairment; or reduced mobility. However, Charter Medical cannot provide appointments regarding:Fair Deal issues / Long Term Care;Emergency admissions;orsurgical issues.

The clinic will initially be limited to patients from the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital’s catchment area.

All Charter Medical staff will be receiving dementia awareness training.

The Charter Medical service, which is based in Smithfield, Dublin 8 operates in conjunction with the HSE and has proven to be highly effective in support of General Practice.

The ASI’s Dementia Adviser service is a free and confidential service that works with people with dementia and their families and carers to provide a highly responsive and individualised information and sign-posting service.

**The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Dementia Adviser Jean Scanlon said:**

“We work with people with dementia in their own communities and in their own homes, so this new service for people living in the Mater and Beaumont areas will make it very straightforward to get a timely access to clinical expertise for changes that they are experiencing.”

**Charter Medical Clinical Director Dermot Power said:**

“We are delighted to be involved with, and looking forward to supporting the wonderful work of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland in providing any and all necessary clinical input for people with dementia in a supportive and reassuring setting.”

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Cormac Cahill on 086 044 1214 or** **cormac.cahill@alzheimer.ie**

**About Dementia:**

* The number of people with dementia in Ireland is expected to more than double over the next 20 years, from 55,000 today to 113,000 in 2036.
* Dementia is progressive. There is currently no cure. Dementia is not simply a health issue but a social issue that requires a community response.
* Each year over 4,000 people develop dementia. That’s at least 11 people every day and anyone can get dementia – even people in their 30s/40s/50s.
* The overall cost of dementia care in Ireland is just over €1.69 billion per annum; 48% of this is attributable to family care; 43% is accounted for by residential care; formal health and social care services contribute only 9% to the total cost.
* The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline is open six days a week Monday to Friday 10am–5pm and Saturday 10am–4pm on 1800 341 341.

Figures referenced to Cahill, S. & Pierce, M. (2013) *The Prevalence of Dementia in Ireland*

**About The ASI’s Dementia Advisers:**

Dementia Advisers work with people to provide information and advice throughout your journey with dementia; help connect you with dementia supports and services; help connect you with local groups and services and; help your community to be more dementia friendly.

**About Charter Medical:**

Charter Medical’s mission is to provide excellence to the highest clinical standard in patient care. They do this in an environment where quality, respect and compassion are at the core of all they do.

They strive to ensure our patients receive excellent medical care and personal attention in a highly professional and timely manner. We all know the importance of a healthy lifestyle and that good habits can reduce risk but it is still important to monitor your health. Charter Medical believes in putting the patient first and we believe that knowledge is power.

They supply both public and private healthcare within our facility and have a range of services which include specialist consultant care, primary care, preventative medicine and a minor injuries clinic.

Based in Smithfield, Dublin 7, Charter Medical is a modern medical facility with a warm atmosphere. They are conveniently located just a short walk from the Smithfield Luas stop and a 10 minute walk from Dublin’s O’Connell Street. Our facility is over 15,000 ft² spread over three floors with 50 consulting rooms.

For more information go to [www.chartermedical.ie](http://www.chartermedical.ie) or ring (01) 657 9000 or email medical@chartermedical.ie