

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **MS Ireland statement on Fampyra**

'Multiple Sclerosis Ireland is the services, information and research organisation supporting people with multiple sclerosis (MS) in Ireland. We are very concerned that, from July 1<sup>st</sup>, Fampyra a drug for the symptomatic treatment of walking impairment in adults with MS, will only be available at a personal cost of between €225 and €400 per month. This ongoing cost would be prohibitive for many people with MS who have been receiving the treatment for free up to this point on a named patient basis.

MS Ireland is calling for access to approved treatments for people with MS, particularly those which can significantly impact on a person's ability to remain independent. Fampyra has been shown to have clear benefits, improving mobility for people with MS.

Specifically, we ask that the Health Services Executive (HSE) make Fampyra available through one of the HSE payment schemes.

There are an estimated 8,000 people with MS in Ireland and with one of the world's highest rates of the neurological condition Ireland cannot afford to fall behind in the availability of approved MS treatments.

Sharon Dillon, from Castlebar in County Mayo, has been receiving Fampyra for two and a half years. Sharon has a young family and Fampyra has a direct affect on her daily life and mobility. She also works part-time. Without the drug, even for a short period of time, Sharon's ability to complete the simplest of tasks is severely restricted.

MS is the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young people in Ireland. MS is usually diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40. There is no known cause or cure for MS.'

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