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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MSD wins HSJ award for Best Pharma Partnership**

**March 9, 2018: Hoddesdon, UK** – MSD (tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA (NYSE: MRK) is proud to announce that it has won an HSJ Award for ‘Best Pharma Partnership’ at a ceremony held in London last night (March 8, 2018).

The award is a recognition of MSD’s innovative partnership working on an early intervention testbed flagship programme sponsored by NHS England (NHSE). The NHS Heywood Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group (HMR CCG) Early Intervention Test Bed Programme was one of seven ‘test bed’ programmes announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2016. These real-world trials are testing ‘combinatorial’ innovation (new combinations of products and processes) aiming to improve patient outcomes at the same or less cost than current practice whilst supporting economic growth.

The aim of the HMR Test Bed programme was for MSD in the UK, Verily Life Sciences and NHS HMR CCG to work collaboratively and combine different technologies to drive innovation in the delivery of services to the NHS through a package of interventions.

This included a risk stratification tool (MSD Informatics) initially, and then combined with Verily algorithms, to identify patients at risk of hospital admission, a large scale deployment of a remote monitoring service (Closercare) to enable self care, and an insight-driven change management programme (Evidence into Practice (EiP)) targeted at reducing variation in care to improve the outcomes and care of patients with, or who may be likely to develop, long term

#### References

<sup>1</sup> The King’s Fund: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/time-think-differently/trends-disease-and-disability-long-term-conditions-multi-morbidity>

conditions such as Heart Failure, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Diabetes.

Dr Junaid Bajwa, Executive Director, Healthcare Services at MSD, said:

“This is a fantastic achievement for MSD, its partners (NHS HMR CCG and Verily Life Sciences) and the patients who will ultimately benefit from our innovations.

“Approx 15 million people in England have a long-term condition<sup>1</sup>.

“As a healthcare company with a proud legacy of investing in innovation and R&D, the Test Bed programme is not only a fantastic example how we are working in partnership with the NHS to go beyond the pill to develop solutions to tackle healthcare challenges but it is also a recognition of the collaboration between MSD and its partners (NHS HMR CCG and Verily) to make this project a reality.”

Simon Wootton, Chief Officer, NHS HMR CCG said:

“Technology is revolutionising how we manage healthcare in the U.K with innovative products and services, such as those that we have collaborated on with MSD and partners, enabling healthcare professionals to more proactively detect and manage patient care. This will enable us to reduce illness and unplanned hospital admissions, and provide better outcomes and quality of life to patients.

“Winning this award is an extremely positive endorsement for the Test Bed programme and showcases the outstanding benefits the partnership is starting to achieve for local patients with long term conditions.

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### **About MSD**

For more than a century, MSD, a leading global biopharmaceutical company, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for the world’s most challenging diseases. MSD is a trade name of Merck & Co., Inc., with headquarters in Kenilworth, N.J.,

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U.S.A. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programmes and partnerships. Today, MSD continues to be at the forefront of research to advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and communities around the world. For more information, visit [www.msd-UK.com](http://www.msd-UK.com) and connect with us on Twitter [@MSDintheUK](https://twitter.com/MSDintheUK).

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