

13.11.2009

PRESS RELEASE**NOVEMBER 14th: WORLD DIABETES DAY****A free diabetes test for passengers and employees of Olympic**

On the occasion of the **World Diabetes Day** celebrated tomorrow on Saturday, November 14th, **Olympic** in collaboration with the **HYGEIA** and **MITERA** hospitals of the **HYGEIA Group** will offer one (1) FREE diagnostic test for diabetes to the 11,000 passengers of tomorrow's total 203 domestic and international flights of Olympic Air as well as to the 5,000 employees of Olympic in Greece.

Children up to the age of 14 and adults will be tested at MITERA and the HYGEIA Therapeutic Centre of Athens, respectively. An informational leaflet will be distributed to passengers of tomorrow's flights.

To support public awareness on diabetes treatment, the 190 air hostesses of tomorrow's flights and ground-handling employees of Olympic Handling will be wearing the blue circle pin, a symbol of the International Diabetes Federation.

Today, diabetes mellitus is a major medical and social problem. In Greece, 7% - 8 % of the total population is known to suffer from diabetes, i.e. there are almost 700,000 patients with diabetes out of whom only the 20% is adequately monitored, while there is a 5% who ignore their medical problem.

Nevertheless, early diagnosis, good control and systematic monitoring of diabetes can allow a normal life.

No one should be ashamed of having diabetes mellitus. It is not even a disease with the proper meaning of the word!