

Global healthcare company Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD) is to look for up to 90 voluntary redundancies over the next six months.

MSD said it was making the cuts at its facility in Brinny, Co Cork because of a decision by the company to decrease production levels of Interferon, the Hepatitis C drug.

Matt Corcoran, MSD site manager said after the announcement "We have committed substantial resources to investigate all elements of our business operations to identify potential cost savings, but reducing workforce was necessary and sadly unavoidable for the site to stay competitive," he said.

"Our immediate priority now is to work with and support all our employees during the consultation process."

MSD employs 2,300 people in Dublin, Carlow, Tipperary, Cork and Wicklow and produces prescription medicines, biologic therapies, vaccines, consumer care and animal health products.

The plant at Brinny, which opened in 1980, is known as an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient and sterile manufacturing centre of expertise in the healthcare industry and has 455 people employed there.