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Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

27th June 2024

PQ ref: 26862/24

To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to utilise the existing network of sexual health clinics and HIV/AIDS volunteer groups (details supplied¹) to increase availability of PrEP.

Dear Deputy Gould,

Thank you for your question to the Minister for Health, which was forwarded to my office to respond to you directly.

At present, there are 13 public PrEP clinics in Ireland, four of which are located in Dublin. The public PrEP clinics are delivered through the existing public STI clinics in Ireland.

Many measures have already been implemented to increase the availability of PrEP.

Current and planned measures to increase the availability of PrEP:

- Administrative efficiencies, including telephone consultations, making the approval process for individuals to access PrEP more efficient and using data from the PrEP PCRS approval process for monitoring, thus reducing the administrative burden on PrEP services in gathering and providing monitoring data.
- Using the national free home STI testing service for routine STI testing for stable PrEP patients, therefore reducing the number of clinic visits and freeing up clinic capacity for new appointments.
- The development of a free PrEP e-learning programme is ongoing and due to be completed in Summer 2024. This will increase the number of HSE approved PrEP providers within public and private services and therefore increase access to free PrEP medication for those in need.

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) is working in collaboration with the multisectoral PrEP working group to increase the availability of PrEP. The working group includes representation from clinical providers and community organisations, such as MPOWER.

¹ Details supplied: such as MPOWER

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Orla McGowan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Orla McGowan

Programme Lead

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme, Health and Wellbeing
Strategy and Research, HSE Healthcare Strategy