



Sláinte Ghnéis & Clár Thoirchis Ghéarchéime,  
Urlár 4, 89 – 94 Sráid Chéipil,  
Baile Átha Cliath 1,  
T:01 7959130 Email: [infocpa@hse.ie](mailto:infocpa@hse.ie)  
[www.sexualwellbeing.ie](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie)

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 89 – 94 Capel Street,  
Dublin 1.

Deputy Patrick Costello  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**PQ ref: 21854/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of approved PrEP clinics available in Dublin; and the number of new patients each is currently accepting, along with an average wait time to be admitted to each service, in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Costello,

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; and 17 private/GP providers are approved to prescribe free PrEP, 15 of whom are located in Dublin. The Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP), HSE Health and Wellbeing, receives quarterly reports from the Primary Care Reimbursement Scheme (PCRS) on reimbursements made to community pharmacies for dispensing free PrEP medication to PrEP users. This data is provided nationally. In Q1 2024, 260 individuals received free PrEP for the first time (had first ever PrEP prescription filled). Information for individual PrEP clinics is not available.

The SHCPP has liaised with the Dublin based public PrEP clinics to respond to this PQ. Information from private PrEP services is not available.

All of Dublin based public PrEP clinics are experiencing challenges in meeting demand for new PrEP patients within current resource allocation. Despite these challenges all services continue to see new PrEP patients. In many circumstances these are individuals who have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to HIV risk (through the general STI service or through links with community based peer support) and are seen as quickly as possible.

Two of the services provide a public facing online opportunity to self-book a new PrEP appointment and release these slots when capacity allows. Waiting time after a self-booked appointment can vary from 1 day to 6 weeks.

The other two services maintain a waiting list that individuals can register with online. As capacity allows, both of these services make contact with individuals on their waiting list to offer an appointment.

The SHCPP and service providers have made significant efforts to improve access and capacity within available resources as outlined in response to your PQ ref: 21856/24.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Orla McGowan".

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**Orla McGowan**

Programme Lead

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