



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

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

Deputy Patrick Costello
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

28th May 2024

PQ ref: 21856/24

To ask the Minister for Health if he accepts that demand for PrEP clinics in Dublin is currently more than the capacity of the system; and the steps being taken to address the gap in provision.

Dear Deputy Costello,

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

The Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) acknowledges that there are many reports of individuals facing challenges in seeking PrEP appointments. Services report challenges in meeting new appointment requests and have made significant efforts to improve access within available resources.

At present, there are 13 public PrEP clinics in Ireland, four of which are located in Dublin; and 17 private/GP providers who are approved to prescribe free PrEP, 15 of whom are located in Dublin.

Many measures have already been implemented to increase PrEP capacity. Current and planned measures to increase PrEP service capacity include:

- 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 June 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.

- SHCPP is keen to explore digital solutions to address PrEP capacity challenges and is maintaining a watching brief on opportunities to harness technology to improve efficiency and capacity.

Yours Sincerely,



Orla McGowan

Programme Lead

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