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Deputy Cian O'Callaghan Dail Eireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

PQ ref: 14387/20

**Question:** To ask the Minister for Health the counties in which PrEP is available; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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

Since November 2019, PrEP is available through the HSE free of charge to those at substantial risk of acquiring HIV through sex. PrEP is available through approved PrEP services and is being rolled out in a phased manner in line with the National Standards for PrEP Service Delivery.

Approved PrEP services are located in the following counties:

- Co. Dublin
- Co. Laois
- Co. Galway (includes Co. Mayo catchment)
  - the PrEP clinic is based in UHG but the satellite clinic in Mayo University Hospital also assesses patients for PrEP and refers them to UHG as required
- Co. Limerick (includes Co. Clare and Co. Tipperary (North) catchments)
  - the PrEP clinic is based in UHL but the satellite clinics in Nenagh and Ennis also assess patients for PrEP and refers them to UHL as required
- Co. Waterford (includes Co. Carlow and Co. Tipperary (South) catchments)
  - PrEP predominantly available through UHW but the satellite clinics in Carlow and Clonmel also assess patients for PrEP and refer them to UHW as required
- Co. Louth (includes Co. Monaghan catchment)
  - PrEP currently available in Louth County Hospital, with patients attending OLOL Drogheda and Monaghan being assessed and referred to LCH as required.

All STI services have been impacted by Covid-19 and many services have been closed or have had service restrictions in place over the past 4 months. Most services have been able to continue providing prescriptions to those already on PrEP during this time.

Services are in the process of reopening and resuming services within the confines of the newly required social distancing measures.

Expansion of PrEP services is planned for the following counties:

- · Co. Clare
- Co. Tipperary (North)
- Co. Carlow
  - o with satellite clinic in Clonmel South Tipperary continuing to assess patients for PrEP and referring them to either Waterford or Carlow clinics
- Co. Louth to OLOL Drogheda
- Co. Cork (includes Co. Kerry catchment)
- Co. Westmeath
- Co. Sligo
- Co. Donegal

The expansion of the PrEP service has been impacted by Covid-19. As public STI services now resume their services, the HSE SHCPP is communicating with services on the expansion of the national PrEP programme.

Yours Sincerely

Maeve O'Brien

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Interim Programme Lead Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme