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Deputy Cian O'Callaghan
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
22nd March 2021

PQ ref: 12836/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the period of time that registration is counted as current for the PrEP programme; the reason that a registration would no longer be counted as current in relation to persons who are registered on the national PrEP programme; the actions that are required to extend a current registration; the actions that are required to renew a registration that is no longer current; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy Callaghan,

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

Approved prescribers must register eligible individuals on the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) application system, so that they are clinically approved for PrEP.

Typically, PrEP registration on the (PCRS) system is for 6 months. When an individual's registration expires, the approved PrEP service is required to re-register the individual on the PCRS system at their next visit, should continuation of PrEP be required.

Since March 2020, PrEP services have faced significant service restrictions due to the impact of Covid-19. In order to support PrEP services to maintain PrEP treatment for those registered on the programme, PCRS extended the approvals for those registered on the PrEP programme to early 2021. This has facilitated PrEP services to maintain their PrEP patients through virtual consultations where possible, minimising face-to-face contact, and provision of postal prescriptions where required.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maeve O'Brien".

Maeve O'Brien

Interim Programme Lead, Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme