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Deputy John Brady
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

6th May 2022

PQ ref: 20244/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that are currently on the waiting lists for PrEP treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy Brady,

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

The provision of HSE funded, free PrEP to those at substantial risk of sexual acquiring HIV was first introduced in November 2019.

Since then, 6,216 individuals have been approved for PrEP, including 848 individuals in Q1 2022.

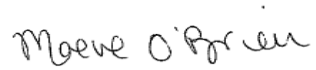
PrEP is currently available via a number of public STI clinics, a number of GPs and private STI providers <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/sexual-health/prep/where-to-get-prep/>.

Individuals established on PrEP have their appointments scheduled to meet their needs with no significant delays in getting prescriptions. During the pandemic, at times there were necessary changes to appointment times, as services faced challenges in running clinics and/or where individuals were unable to attend owing to having COVID or being a close contact.

Waiting time for those seeking to engage with the PrEP programme for the first time varies around the country. Some services are currently unable to see new PrEP patients; while other services are seeing between 1 and 10 new patients per week. Waiting times of between two weeks and six weeks have been reported for individuals seeking to get an appointment. Some services offer appointments to the public via an electronic self-booking portal (SwiftQ) and report that when they become available, these appointments are booked rapidly

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) is actively working with existing public PrEP clinics to support them to increase capacity; and is also working to increase the number of PrEP providers.

Yours Sincerely



Maeve O'Brien

Interim Programme Lead

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme, HSE Health and Wellbeing