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Deputy John Brady  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**PQ ref: 20246/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to open a PrEP clinic in County Wicklow in the near future taking into consideration that a number of new primary health care centres in County Wicklow have opened in recent years; 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.

Provision of HSE funded, free PrEP to those at substantial risk of sexual acquiring HIV was first introduced in November 2019. Since then, 6216 individuals have been approved for PrEP including 848 individuals to date in 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/>.

Many public STI clinics report that they are struggling to meet demand for PrEP. The SHCPP is actively working with existing public PrEP clinics to support them to increase PrEP capacity; and working to increase the number of PrEP providers. The establishment of new services in specific areas is beyond the Programme's scope of work. Development of new PrEP services requires a business case from the prospective services, outlining the need and resources required to provide a service in a particular area.

Yours Sincerely

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**Maeve O'Brien**  
Interim Programme Lead  
Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme