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Deputy Gary Gannon  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

28th March 2023

**PQ ref: 13896/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of general practitioners, by HSE regional area, who have applied to be approved to prescribe PrEP to patients under the drug payment scheme, by calendar year from 2017 to 2022, inclusive; the number of general practice practitioners, by HSE regional area, who have been approved to prescribe PrEP to such patients under the DPS during these calendar years; the reasons any number of GP practices have not been approved to prescribe this service to patients, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Deputy Gannon,

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

Of note, in Ireland, HIV PrEP was first made available free of charge to individuals at substantial risk of HIV in November 2019. Therefore information for the years 2017 and 2018 is not available.

Owing to the absence of a Clinical Lead/Medical Director at the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) between October 2018 and September 2021, in October 2020, approval of new GP PrEP providers was suspended. In the absence of a Clinical Lead, the required medical oversight for GPs wishing to register as new PrEP providers could not be provided. A new approval process was agreed within the HSE in October 2022. A small number of providers were approved on an interim basis following individual discussions and assessments with the Clinical Lead. The number of applications and approvals, by year and county from 2019 to now is presented in the tables.

<b>GP PrEP applications</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>County</b>
2019	4	Dublin
2020	4	Dublin
	1	Mayo
2021	5	Dublin
	1	Wicklow
	1	Online
2022	3	Cork
	6	Dublin
	1	Kildare
2023	5	Dublin
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	

<b>GP PrEP approvals</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>County</b>
2019	3	Dublin
2020	3	Dublin
2022	6	Dublin
	1	Wicklow
2023	1	Dublin
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	

Yours Sincerely

*Maeve O'Brien*

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**Maeve O'Brien**

Interim Programme Lead Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme  
HSE Health and Wellbeing