



Clár Sláinte Ghnéis,  
Urlár 4, 89 – 94 Sráid Chéipil,  
Baile Átha Cliath 1,  
T:01 7959130 Email: [sexual.health@hse.ie](mailto:sexual.health@hse.ie)  
[www.sexualwellbeing.ie](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie)

Sexual Health Programme,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 89 – 94 Capel Street,  
Dublin 1.

Deputy Sheehan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

22/09/2025

**PQ ref: 44851/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health to the steps she and her Department are taking to increase availability of PReP appointments as the clinics in UHL and Dublin are currently not accepting new clients, due to being oversubscribed**

Dear Deputy Sheehan,

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

The Sexual Health Programme (SHP) acknowledges that there are many reports of individuals facing challenges in seeking PrEP appointments. Services report challenges in meeting new appointment requests and have made significant efforts to improve access within available resources.

Despite the challenges, services continue to see new PrEP users. In the first 6 months of 2025, 938 individuals accessed PrEP for the first time through the HSE PrEP service.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of new PrEP users (first PrEP prescription)	346	1,467	1,400	1,670	2021	1,729

At present, there are 13 public PrEP clinics in Ireland and 36 private/GP providers who are approved to prescribe free PrEP, 32 of whom are located in Dublin, and one located in Limerick.

Additional funding was secured for staff resources within the Dublin PrEP services, commencing in Q2 2025, which is allowing Dublin services to increase the number of new PrEP appointments, prioritising those on existing waiting lists.

The PrEP service in Limerick is currently closed to new PrEP appointments and is maintaining a waiting list.

Many measures have already been implemented to increase PrEP capacity. Current and planned measures to increase PrEP service capacity include:

- Administrative efficiencies, including telephone consultations, making the approval process for individuals to access PrEP more efficient and using data from the PrEP PCRS approval process for monitoring, thus reducing the administrative burden on PrEP services in gathering and providing monitoring data.
- Using the national free home STI testing service for routine STI testing for stable PrEP patients, therefore reducing the number of clinic visits and freeing up clinic capacity for new appointments.
- A free PrEP e-learning programme was developed in order to increase the number of HSE approved PrEP providers within public and private services and therefore increase access to free PrEP medication for those in need. The PrEP e-learning programme was launched on HSELand in December 2024 and 80 individuals have completed the e-learning programme to date.
- The PrEP e-learning programme is one of the competencies that GPs must complete prior to becoming a HSE approved PrEP provider. In 2025 to date, 20 GPs have been newly approved as PrEP providers, sixteen in Dublin, one in Wicklow, one in Cork, one in Limerick and one in Meath.
- SHP is working to explore digital solutions to address PrEP capacity challenges. Members of the SHP clinical team are part of a research team awarded a Health Research Board grant under the Government of Ireland Evidence for Policy Call. This research will evaluate the impact of the introduction on an online PrEP component to PrEP care on efficiency, capacity, value for money, feasibility and acceptability. Recruitment has commenced for this pilot online service which will run for a 1-year period over which time it will be comprehensively evaluated.

The latest PrEP report (2023) is available here:

<https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/prep-monitoring-report-2023-final-feb2025.pdf>

Yours Sincerely,

**Orla McGowan**

General Manager, HSE Sexual Health Programme