



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

Sexual Health Programme,
4th Floor, 89 – 94 Capel Street,
Dublin 1.

Deputy Clarke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

01/10/2025

PQ ref: 48398/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on the current waiting times for access to HIV PrEP services; the number of individuals currently on waiting lists by RHA; the steps being taken to address barriers to timely access to PrEP.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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

The current waiting times for self-referrals to access new HIV PrEP appointments ranges across services from less than 14 days to more than a year.

While many services have waiting lists for self-referrals, they continue to accept urgent referrals who are offered an appointment to be seen within 1 month and are not included on a waiting list.

Waiting lists need to be interpreted with caution. Services report that when they contact individuals on their waiting list to offer them an appointment, a proportion are already engaged with a different PrEP service. In addition, some individuals who attend a service for the first time are seeking to transfer their care to a more convenient location rather than actually access PrEP for the first time.

The table below outlines the number of individuals on waiting lists by RHA. Please note, not all services in these regions maintain waiting lists, indicated with a * on the table below.

RHA	No. on waitlist
A: HSE Dublin and North East	325*
B: HSE Dublin and Midlands	30-140*
C: HSE Dublin and South East	153*
D: HSE South West	90

E: HSE Midwest	71
F: HSE West and North West	No active waitlists

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.

	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, four of which are located in Dublin; and 38 private/GP providers who are approved to prescribe free PrEP, 33 of which are located in Dublin, two in Cork, one in Meath, one in Wicklow and one in Limerick.

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

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, 21 GPs have been newly approved as PrEP providers, sixteen in Dublin, one in Wicklow, two in Cork, one in Limerick and one in Meath.
- SHP is working to explore digital solutions to address PrEP capacity challenges. 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