

Prevention Support Clinic (PSC) at the St Vincent's University Hospital



Information Leaflet

What is the Prevention Support Clinic?

The Prevention Support Clinic (PSC) at St Vincent's University Hospital aims to provide safe and convenient medical, nursing and social support to people who would like help and clinical advice on HIV prevention, including Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). PSC is a service delivered by healthcare providers experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and STIs. The clinic will monitor for any adverse effects associated with PrEP and offer STI screening where appropriate.

What is PrEP?

PrEP is a safe and effective strategy to prevent HIV acquisition. It can be used in combination with other conventional reduction methods including condoms. Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF/FTC) is a pill that is used for PrEP and can be taken daily or in the hours before and after unprotected risk of HIV acquisition. PrEP may be beneficial to you if you have recently had a rectal STI (Gonorrhoea, Chlamydia or Syphilis), have recently used PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis), are using drugs ('chems') during sex (e.g. crystal meth, mephedrone or G), are having condomless sex or have a HIV positive partner who is not on treatment.

What happens at the Prevention Support Clinic?

- Your first visit will be scheduled after we have received a completed 'Referral Request Form', which will be used to assess your needs and guide your appointment date. To run the clinic efficiently we need to record your personal details (name, address, date of birth, telephone number) to register you with the

hospital. We operate in a strictly confidential and professional manner and your information will remain private amongst medical professionals involved in your care.

- When we receive your completed Referral Request Form we will call you to verify your contact details.
- Your first appointment will be for a 'pre-clinic screening visit'. At this visit we will take swabs for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea and draw blood to check for HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis. When this visit is completed, you will receive a follow up appointment (usually 2 weeks later) to see a doctor in the PSC clinic.
- A key part of your initial consultation will be to educate you on all forms of HIV prevention including PrEP, PEP, condoms and regular STI screening. During medical review a decision will be made about follow-up visits which may vary depending on your assessed needs.
- Follow-up visits take the same format as the pre-clinic screening visit. You will have

HIV/STI testing during an allocated week and will then be provided with a scheduled follow up appointment to see a doctor.

- It is important to note that **we do not dispense PrEP at the PSC clinic** but we may provide prescriptions for PrEP. There are limited spaces available and access to the clinic is by appointment only. A walk-in service is not available.

How do I get an appointment?

The process of referral begins by completing the attached 'Referral Request Form', including the pre-clinic questionnaire, and sending them by post to **Prevention Support Clinic, Department of Infectious Diseases, St Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4**. You will then be sent an appointment via text for your first pre-clinic assessment visit. Please complete this form fully as incomplete forms may result in delayed appointments or declined referrals.

Clinic Attendance

Important to Note: If you cannot attend an appointment you must reschedule a visit as soon as possible by contacting the



Infectious Diseases department by phone (see contact details below). If you do not turn up for appointments without prior notice you will be discharged from the service and will have to restart the registration process with the 'Referral Request Form' to access support.

Infectious Diseases Research

The UCD HIV Molecular Research Group (HMRG) are based at the hospital and conduct research into HIV treatment and prevention.

HMRG have established the Infectious Diseases Cohort study (UCD-ID Cohort Study) that collects clinical information on all patients attending Infectious Diseases clinics at the St Vincent's. The study helps us to identify gaps in existing services and to explore the needs of the new PSC. You will be invited to participate in this research when you attend clinic.

Contact Details:

**Prevention Support Clinic,
Department of Infectious
Diseases,
St Vincent's University
Hospital,
Elm Park,
Dublin 4**

Tel: (01) 2213363

Fax: (01) 2213331

**To find out more about the HMRG
research at St Vincent's
University Hospital**

Email: hmrq@ucd.ie

Tel: (01) 7164584
