



Maurice Quinlivan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

10th February 2023

PQ: 4658/23

To ask the Minister for Health if a scheme can be put in place to enable women whose contraceptive pill suppliers have not signed up to the HSE reimbursement scheme to apply for reimbursement on an individual basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Maurice Quinlivan

Dear Deputy Quinlivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 4658/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

On 14th September 2022, the Government decided to provide access, free at the point of service, to a primary care based contraception service to Relevant Women as defined in Section 67E of the Health Act, 1970 (as amended). Where a contraceptive product is prescribed and on the Reimbursement List, it is provided free of charge to those aged between 17 and 26 years under the Free Contraception Scheme.

General Practitioners who wish to enter in to this contract can provide the completed relevant form to the HSE's National Contracts Office at contract.national@hse.ie (<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/gmscontracts/free-contraception-service-contract/>).

The scheme provides for:

- The cost of necessary consultations with GPs and other doctors to discuss suitable contraceptive options for individual patients and to enable issuing of prescriptions for same;
- The cost of dispensing of contraceptive prescriptions by Community Pharmacists
- The cost of fitting and/or removal of various types of long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs) plus any necessary checks, by medical professionals to fit/remove same;
- Provision of the wide range of contraceptive options currently available to GMS (medical) card holders will also be available through this scheme, to include

contraceptive injections, implants, IUS and IUDs (coils), the contraceptive patch and ring, and various forms of oral contraceptive pill, including emergency contraception.

There are no individual reimbursement arrangements in place to provide the above contraceptive services free of charge to patients outside of this contracted scheme.

Currently 2,306 GPs have a contract in place with the HSE to provide the Free Contraception Service. Furthermore, the number of pharmacies submitting claims under the Free Contraception scheme is 1,874.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service