



Date: 20th December, 2022

Circular Number: NCO-21-2022

Contractual Arrangement with Registered Medical Practitioners for provision of Free Contraception Service

Dear Doctor,

I refer to Circular NCO-11-2022 dated 13th September, 2022 which outlined details of a new contractual arrangement with Registered Medical Practitioners to give effect to the Government’s decision to provide access, free at the point of service, to a primary care based contraception service for ‘Relevant Women’ as defined in Section 67E of the Health Act, 1970 (as amended).

Following the Budget 2023 announcement to extend the Free Contraception Service to ‘Relevant Women aged between 26 and 30 years (inclusive), it has been agreed, as an interim step, that the current scheme will be extended to ‘Relevant Women’ aged **26 years** with effect from **1 January 2023**. Further extension of the scheme to include ‘Relevant Women’ up to the age of 30 years is expected to take place on the 1st September 2023 and this will be the subject of further correspondence from the HSE to Registered Medical Practitioners in advance of that date.

I wish to confirm that the existing Free Contraception Service Contract will cover the new cohort of ‘Relevant Women’ (i.e. those aged 26 years) and that for those Registered Medical Practitioners who already hold a free Contraception Service Contract with the HSE there is no requirement for them to sign a new contract. Therefore such Registered Medical Practitioners will be able to provide the Service to ‘Relevant Women aged 26 years with effect from the 1st January, 2023 and receive reimbursement for Services provided in accordance with the fee rates set out in Schedule 4 of the Free Contraception Service Contract which, for ease of reference, I have reproduced hereunder.

Applicable Services Rendered by a Registered Medical Practitioner on behalf of the Health Service Executive under the National Free Contraception Service Scheme.	
Description	Amount
1.1 – Consultation provided to a Relevant Woman for the purposes of obtaining a prescription for accessing relevant products	€55.00

1.2 – Fitting by a Registered Medical Practitioner of a relevant product that is a Coil	€160.00
1.3 – Removal by a Registered Medical Practitioner of a relevant product that is a Coil	€50.00
1.4 - Fitting by a Registered Medical Practitioner of a relevant product that is a contraceptive implant	€100.00
1.5 - Removal by a Registered Medical Practitioner of a relevant product that is a contraceptive implant	€110.00
1.6 – Where necessary, follow-up consultation in relation to the fitting by a Registered Medical Practitioner of a long-acting reversible contraceptive device	€55.00

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your practice team a very happy Christmas and all the very best for 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Pat Healy,
National Director,
Clinical Programme Implementation &
Professional Development