



Date: 31st July 2023

Circular Number: NCO-32-2023

Arrangement with Community Pharmacy Contractors in Context of the Further Roll Out of Free Contraception Service

Dear Community Pharmacy Contractor,

I refer to Circular NCO-12-2022 dated 13th September, 2022 which provided details for Community Pharmacy Contractors on the Government’s decision to provide access, free at the point of service, to a primary care based contraception service to Relevant Women aged between 17 and 23 years (inclusive) with effect from 1st September 2022 and subsequently extended to Relevant Women aged between 17 and 26 years (inclusive) as defined in Section 67E of the Health Act, 1970 (as amended).

In the above context the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive (HSE) have reached agreement with the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) pursuant to Clause 3 of the Community Pharmacy Contractor Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the Contract) on the extension of the arrangements pertaining to the participation of Community Pharmacy Contractors in the provision of a community pharmacy counselling/advisory and dispensing service (hereinafter referred to as the Service) to Relevant Women aged between 17 and 30 years (inclusive) within the context of the Contract with the HSE. This extension of the service to relevant women between the age of 27 and 30 years (inclusive) will take effect from the 1st September, 2023. Therefore participating Community Pharmacy Contractors will be able to provide the Service to ‘Relevant Women aged between 17 and 30 years (inclusive) with effect from the 1st September, 2023 and receive reimbursement for Services provided in accordance with the fee rates set out hereunder.

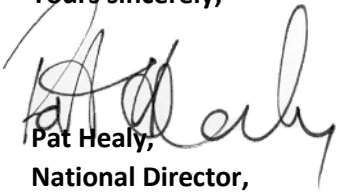
Table 1:

Description of Applicable Service	Fee Amount
1. Dispensing a relevant product that is a Coil, Contraceptive Implant, Contraceptive Injection or Emergency Contraceptive on a single occasion to a Relevant Woman	€6.50
2. Dispensing one month of supply of a relevant product (other than a relevant	€6.50

product referred to at 1 above of this Table) on a single occasion to a Relevant Woman.	
3. Dispensing two months of supply of a relevant product (other than a relevant product referred to at 1 above of this Table) on a single occasion to a Relevant Woman.	€10.00
4. Dispensing three months of supply of a relevant product (other than a relevant product referred to at 1 above of this Table) on a single occasion to a Relevant Woman.	€13.50
5. Dispensing four months of supply of a relevant product (other than a relevant product referred to at 1 above of this Table) on a single occasion to a Relevant Woman.	€17.00
6. Dispensing five months of supply of a relevant product (other than a relevant product referred to at 1 above of this Table) on a single occasion to a Relevant Woman.	€21.50
7. Dispensing six months of supply of a relevant product (other than a relevant product referred to at 1 above of this Table) on a single occasion to a Relevant Woman.	€24.00
8. Additional fee for dispensing a relevant product that is an emergency contraceptive without a prescription to a Relevant Woman	€11.50
9. One-off Administrative fee in respect of a Relevant Woman on the first occasion that a relevant product is dispensed to that Relevant Woman by any Community Pharmacy Contractor under Section 67 E of the Health Act 1970	€5.00

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence and hope that you will be in a position to continue to provide this Service to Relevant Women who, as a result of this extension, will include Relevant Women aged between 17 and 30 years (inclusive).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Healy', written over the printed name.

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