



**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

**Circular Number: NCO-12-2022**

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

Dear Community Pharmacy Contractor,

As you will be aware the Government has 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), hereinafter referred to as the Act.

In the above context the HSE and the Department of Health 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 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 within the context of the Contract with the HSE. Furthermore, following engagement with the IPU pursuant to clause 12.2 of the Contract, I can confirm that the following fee rates will be payable to Community Pharmacy Contractors who participate in the delivery of the Service to Relevant Women.

**Table 1: Fees Payable to participating Community Pharmacy Contractors**

<b>Description of Applicable Service</b>	<b>Fee Amount</b>
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 product referred to at 1 above of this Table) on a single occasion to a Relevant Woman.	€6.50
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	€10.00

Relevant Woman.	
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

The above fee rates will be given legal effect in Regulations which will be signed in to law in the coming days. I will be in further communication in this regard in early course.

Please note that in submitting claims for reimbursement to the HSE's Primary Care Eligibility and Reimbursement Service, Community Pharmacy Contractors should ensure that the name, date of birth and PPSN of the Relevant Woman receiving the Service is included with each claim.

For planning and logistical purposes, the HSE would like to ascertain the number and geographical distribution of Community Pharmacy Contractors who will provide the Service to Relevant Women in accordance with the statutory provisions.

In the above regard I should be obliged if you would give this matter your consideration and if it is your intention to provide the Service please complete the online Expression of Interest Form and email it to the

following email address [contract.national@hse.ie](mailto:contract.national@hse.ie). The Expression of Interest form can be accessed for reading and printing purposes via the following web link [www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/gmscontracts/free-contraception-service-contract/](http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/gmscontracts/free-contraception-service-contract/) **I should point out that an Expression of Interest form is required for each Community Pharmacy business.** In returning the Expression of Interest Form(s) can I ask you to ensure that your email correspondence address is included in the space provided to allow for subsequent communications from the HSE in this matter. Once received by the HSE the Expression of Interest form(s) will be countersigned by an authorised manager of the HSE and a copy of same will be returned to you for your records.

I should point out that Community Pharmacy Contractors, whose Expression of Interest form(s) are received by HSE after the Service commencement date but on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 will be entitled to receive payment for Applicable Services provided by them to Relevant Women from the Service's commencement date in accordance with the above fee rates.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence and hope that you will be in a position to provide this new Service and look forward to receiving your Expression of Interest form(s) in early course.

Yours sincerely,



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