



Date: 20th December, 2022

Circular Number: NCO-20-2022

Arrangement with Community Pharmacy Contractors in relation to Free Contraception Service

Dear Community Pharmacy Contractor,

I refer to Circular NCO-12-2022 dated 13th September, 2022 which outlined details of arrangements with Community Pharmacy Contractors under their CPC Contract 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 Community Pharmacy Contractors in advance of that date.

I wish to confirm therefore that, with effect from the 1st January, 2023, Community Pharmacy Contractors will be able to provide the Service to 'Relevant Women aged 26 years and receive reimbursement for Services provided in accordance with the fee rates set out in Circular NCO-12-2022 which, for ease of reference, I have reproduced hereunder.

Table 1: Fees Payable to participating Community Pharmacy Contractors

| 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 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 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 |

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| 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 take this opportunity to wish you and your Pharmacy team a very happy Christmas and all the very best for 2023.

Yours sincerely,



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