

### Appendix 3 - Free Contraception

1. The cost of providing a free contraception service as recommended by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the 8th Amendment.

2. Assume all women between 17 and 45 will require two GP visits a year.

- With 50% and 80% respectively take up of either a contraceptive pill prescription or an IUD, and if the Department has further statistics on uptake of contraceptive methods to apply this analysis.

- Analysis should also be based on the take up of free contraception under the GMS scheme, and in the response from the Department to provide details of this.

#### Response

Condoms (and related barrier items) do not require a prescription and consequently are not reimbursed on State Schemes.

In terms of obtaining information on a volume basis for the number of reimbursable contraceptives supplied in the State by wholesalers, PCRS can only provide data in relation to claims made by pharmacies.

#### Claims (Jan – Oct 2017)

Unique Patients GMS	GMS Total Ingredient Cost	GMS Total Gross Cost	GMS Average Cost
114,007	€5,129,180.60	€8,397,900.40	€73.66

PCRS figures for GMS patients cover the age range **16 to 44**. On average the cost per patient is €73.66.

Census figures for females aged **17 to 45** in 2016 was 975,571.<sup>1</sup> If we subtract females age 16-44 in 2017 with full eligibility amounting to 263,409, this gives an additional amount of 712,162.

If 80% of this cohort (569,730) availed of services, the additional pharmacy costs would amount to €42.0m or if 50% availed (356,081), it would be an additional €26.2m.

Assume all the women between 17 and 45 will require two GP visits, but if we subtract those with full eligibility and a further 33,161 with GP eligibility only, this amounts to an additional 679,001 and if the consultation fees come to €83.26.<sup>2</sup> This would amount to €56.5m.

	Number	Cost	Total Cost
No availing GP Visits	679,001	€56.5m	
No availing Pharmacy (80%)	569,730	€42.0m	€98.5m
No availing Pharmacy (50%)	356,081	€26.2m	€82.7m

<sup>1</sup> CSO 2016 Female Population age 17-45

<sup>2</sup> Under GMS, out-of-hours consultation fee €41.63.