

## **Frequently asked questions about the Government's free contraception scheme for women aged 17 to 26**

### **Is the IFPA providing free contraception for 17 to 26-year-old women through the scheme?**

Yes. The IFPA is a provider of the free contraception scheme for women aged 17 to 26.

### **Who is eligible?**

All women aged 17 to 26 (inclusive) who are ordinarily resident in Ireland are eligible for the free contraception scheme. People are eligible from the date of their 17th birthday to the day before their 27th birthday.

### **What do I need to avail of the scheme?**

You will need a PPSN and proof of age. We will also ask you for your name, date of birth and address. Photo ID is preferable as your proof of age. If you do not have photo ID, please ring us on 0818 49 50 51 and we will be happy to discuss what other documents are acceptable as proof of age.

### **What contraception methods are available for free under the scheme?**

The fitting and removal of all LARCs including hormonal coils Mirena, Jaydess and Kyleena, the copper coil and the hormonal implant are all free under the scheme. The administration of the hormonal injection and the injection itself are also covered under the scheme.

Prescriptions for the Mirena, Jaydess and Kyleena coil, the hormonal implant, hormonal pills, the patch, the vaginal ring and emergency contraception are all free under the scheme. The copper coil is not currently covered under the scheme. The IFPA can supply the copper coil to clients for a cost of €25.

### **What are LARCS?**

Long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) include hormonal coils, the copper coil, the implant and the injection. They are 'fit and forget' methods of contraception that last between 3 months and 10 years depending on the type. They are the most effective method of contraception as you do not have to remember to take them.

### **What happens if I get a LARC fitted under the scheme and want it removed, but I have already turned 27?**

If you are over 27, but had a LARC fitted under the scheme before your 27th birthday and want to have it removed, the removal is free.

**If I have already gotten free contraception under the scheme but now want to change method, will my new contraceptive method also be free?**

If you wish to change your method of contraception and are still within the eligibility criteria of the scheme, your new contraception will also be free.

**If I have a consultation with my GP, but they don't fit LARC's, can I have my fitting at the IFPA?**

Yes, just call us for an appointment.