

## Women's Health Service Fund Requirements

### I. Patient Eligibility

- Women of child-bearing age, regardless of marital status, shall be able to obtain upon request the insertion, implantation, or injection of a long-term, reversible contraceptive device or drug.
- Women may receive contraceptive devices using these funds on a one time basis only, except in cases of medical necessity. The Depo Provera Injectable® contraceptive method, which requires injections every three months, is exempted from this requirement.

### II. Voluntary Participation

- Use of these services must be initiated only upon the voluntary request of the recipient.
- Providers will prescribe a long-term, reversible contraceptive device or drug only when the provider and the recipient determine that there are clear benefits to the recipient.
- Providers must ensure that individuals will not be subjected to coercion, offered financial or other incentives, or have penalties imposed for refusal of services, in the application information, the education or the counseling related to the services available under this subsection.
- Acceptance of these services must not be a prerequisite to eligibility for, or receipt of, any service or assistance from, or participation in, any other program.

### III. Reimplantation/Reinsertion of Contraceptive

- Women may receive contraceptive devices using these funds on a one time basis only, except in cases of medical necessity. The Depo Provera Injectable® contraceptive method, which requires injections every three months, is exempted from this requirement.

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### III. Reimplantation/Reinsertion of Contraceptive (con't.)

- Providers must give written notice to recipients that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has no obligation to reimburse providers for the reimplantation or reinsertion of a device that has been prematurely removed from the individual except in cases where the premature removal was prescribed for medical reasons.

### IV. Health Education

Recipients will agree to attend, prior to insertion, implantation, or injection of the device or drug, education programs which shall include:

- a. Comprehensive pre-insertion of pre-prescription counseling on implantation, insertion, injection, and removal procedures;
- b. Potential side effects and the cost of the client of the device or drug;
- c. Other options for preventing pregnancy, including newly approved long-term, reversible contraceptive devices or drugs that become available, and family planning education and counseling, including parenting skills;
- d. Information on sexually transmitted diseases and the fact long-term, reversible contraceptive devices or drugs do not protect against such diseases; and
- e. Counseling for applicants who do not have a high school diploma regarding the benefits of completing her high school education either by remaining in school or obtaining her GED.\*

*\*Note: (The Women's Preventive Health Branch considers it sufficient to include a statement during birth control method counseling that it is to the client's benefit to stay in school until graduation or to obtain her GED. The Women's Preventive Health Branch shall consider that the provider has met this requirement if it is noted in the client's chart that method-specific health education has been provided. Providers do not have to state specifically that they have talked about completing an education. )*