

Title: Women's Health Service Funds	Policy Number: 4.2
Approved By: Joe Holliday MD, MPH	Program Area: Family Planning
Effective Date: 1993	Revised Date: 9/10/09

**Purpose Statement of Policy:**

To provide state dollars to expand the use of long acting reversible contraceptives for women of child-bearing age who are not eligible for Medicaid, regardless of marital status.

**Definition:**

Defined within the Women's Health Service Funds policies the following areas must be addressed:

- Women of child-bearing age, regardless of marital status, shall be able to obtain upon request the insertion, implantation, removal, or injection of a long-term, reversible contraceptive drug or device.
- Use of these services must be initiated only upon the voluntary request of 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.
- 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.
- Women must be provided comprehensive counseling on implantation, insertion, injection, and removal procedures including potential side effects.
- Except in cases of medical necessity (i.e. dosing schedule, efficacy of device), women may receive contraceptive devices under this section on a one-time basis only.
- Other contraceptive options for preventing pregnancy, including newly approved long-term, reversible contraceptive devices or drugs that become available should be covered during the methods counseling session.
- Family planning education and counseling, including parenting skills (if applicable) shall be included in the education programs.
- Information on sexually transmitted diseases shall be provided and the fact that long-term, reversible contraceptive devices or drugs do not protect against such diseases.
- Patients without a high school diploma shall be counseled about the benefits of completing high school or obtaining a GED. The Women's 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.

- Written notice to applicants for services 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.

**Responsibilities:**

It is the responsibility of the local health department and its designated personnel to develop, implement, and ensure compliance among all staff on the administration of Women's Health Service Fund services in the Title X Family Planning Clinic. Distribution of these funds is based in part, on the proportion of non-Medicaid patients on long acting reversible contraceptives in the family planning clinics at the local health department using a three year average.

**Policy:**

The local health department will ensure that written policies are in place that addresses the above required areas in the definition section for provision of Women's Health Service Funds in expanding the use of long-acting, reversible contraceptives for women who request these methods.

**Legal Authority:**

This policy is based on Chapter 769, Section 27.9 of the 1993 Session Laws regarding the budgeting and expenditure of the Women's Health Service Funds.

**References:**

Chapter 769, Section 27.9 of the 1993 Session Laws can be accessed at:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/sessions/1993/bills/house/pdf/h1338v1.pdf>

**Example policies may be obtained from the Women's Health Regional Nurse Consultants.**

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