

Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive in Secondary Care

CRITERIA BASED ACCESS

Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) are methods of controlling fertility for an extended period of time without requiring user action.

All currently available LARC methods (intrauterine devices [IUDs], intrauterine system [IUS], implant and injectable contraceptives are more cost effective than the combined oral contraceptive pill even at 1 year of use. IUDs, the IUS and implants are more cost effective than the injectable contraceptives. It has been shown that increasing the uptake of LARC methods will reduce the numbers of unintended pregnancies.

NHS Swindon and Gloucestershire will fund the insertion of intrauterine devices (IUDs) or intrauterine system (IUS) in secondary care when:

1. The patient has had at least one attempt to inserting the IUD by an experienced practitioner in a primary care or community setting.

The clinician should consider making a second attempt in primary care at a different stage in the menstrual cycle or using some analgesia or premedication, or an attempt by a more experienced practitioner.

AND

2. The patient is willing to have another attempt done in secondary care.

Where an earlier device was fitted under GA the GP should review the records and consider whether fitting in primary care is likely to be successful or not. Where the GP considers that fitting in primary care is unlikely to be successful, the patient may be referred to secondary care without an attempt being made in primary care".

In the case of patients with known anatomical abnormalities (e.g. fibroids, previous cervical surgery), where the GP considers that fitting in primary care is unlikely to be successful, the patient may be referred to secondary care without an attempt being made in primary care.