

Final report form

Date of sending out the form:

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Contact person/applicant:

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Title of the granted project

Use of prescribed contraception in Northern Ireland 2010-2016

Amount granted by the ESC (in euro)

4506

Project number:

P-2017-B-01

Allocated mentor:

A Londero

Date project actually started:

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Date of completion:

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Please provide a report of your findings and data.

The data provider (the Honest Broker Service) reviewed the project application on 30th March 2018 and approval was received on the 10th April 2018. Ethical approval was obtained from Ulster University on the 11th April 2018. The data set was created and was ready for analysis on the 01 June 2018. The analysis was conducted between June and August 2018.

Before drafting an article and holding a 'round table' dissemination event I met with members of

the Family Planning Association (16th October 2018) and Royal College of General Practitioners (17th October 2018) in Northern Ireland. These experts were able to give some insight into the findings and how they should be interpreted. The results of the study are summarised below:

Objective: To describe the use of prescribed contraceptives in Northern Ireland (NI) and explore how this varies according to a woman's age, the deprivation in the area in which she lives and characteristics of her General Practice (GP).

Design & Methods: A population-based cohort study was conducted including 560,074 females aged 12-49 registered with a General Practitioner in NI 2010-2016 contributing 3,255,500 woman-years. Dispensed contraceptive prescriptions, recorded in the Enhanced Prescribing Database, were linked to demographic details in the GP Patient Registrations Index and the area-based NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017.

Results: A contraceptive prescription was redeemed in 26.2% of woman-years. Those aged 20-24 were most likely (45.7% of woman-years) to have a contraceptive prescribed and those less than 16 least likely (6.8% of woman-years). Practices in the least deprived quintile prescribed 6% more contraception than those in the most deprived quintile. The combined oral contraceptives (CoC) (16.6% of woman-years) and progesterone only pill (PoP) (8.0% of woman-years) were the most commonly used methods with a 12% decrease in dispensation of the CoC in favour of a 23% increase in the PoP during the study period. Dispensation of emergency contraception (1.5% of woman-years) also fell by 5%. Women living in the least deprived areas used 20% less emergency contraception and rural GP practices prescribed 7% less. Choice of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC, overall 2.6% of woman-years) varied with age with younger women most likely to use the contraceptive injection (20-24) and contraceptive implant (25-29) and older women (30-35) the IUD/S. Use of the injection decreased 6% during the study while use of the implant increased 12% and IUD/S increased 6%. Practice size and location impacted on choice of LARC with the smallest practices (0-2,500 patients) dispensing 11% more of the contraceptive injection and 24% less of the IUD/S than practices with 7,001-10,000 patients. Rural

practices dispensed 15-20% more implants and IUD/S than urban practices. Practices in the least deprived areas dispensed the implant 19% less.

Conclusions: This is the first population-based assessment of contraceptive prescription in NI and will be useful for future comparisons and health service planning. Patient and practice level characteristics were found to be related to the specific contraceptive methods prescribed which also changed during the time frame of the study. The impact of practice area-based deprivation, above that of the woman's residence, on prescribed contraceptive use is a new finding that deserves more exploration.

Please provide a final detailed budget on how much you have spent. Was any money not spent? Receipts may be requested.

Grant award in GBP 3,909.52

Spending

Honest Broker Service fees for creating and providing access to the data set £2,850.00.
Overheads £378.00

Budget remaining £681.52

Email correspondence with Peter Erard (dated 14/10/2019) - remaining budget can be spent to attend the Dublin congress.

How will your findings be presented?

Publication in journal

Presentation

Was your paper published? Indicate journal and acceptance date

An article has been drafted and is almost ready for submission to The European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care.

Presentation – note meeting organisation and date

The results were presented to the Family Planning Association (16th October 2018) and Royal College of General Practitioners (17th October 2018) in Northern Ireland.

An abstract has been submitted to the ESC Congress 2020.

A 'round table' event with stakeholders including clinicians and policy makers is being held on the 14th November 2019 in Ulster University.

Add any other information you feel we should have

More details of the results can be provided if need be.

Please let us know whether having a mentor has been helpful or not

I have not had a mentor.

Full Name

Joanne Given

Date

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Questions? ESC Central Office: info@escrh.eu

Type a question

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