



Expanding Contraceptive Choice: Webinar on Tubal Ligation

Follow-Up Q&A | December 6, 2018 | 9–10 a.m. EST

What is the estimated relative cost of female versus male sterilization? How are these costs generally covered in developing countries?

In most countries in the Eastern Africa (EA) region, policy states that FP services are categorized as preventive services and are to be provided to clients free of charge. In countries like Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi and to some extent in Kenya, FP services including FS and NSV are free (particularly when it is an outreach organized by NGOs and offered in the public facilities or if it is a service organized by a higher level public facility to a lower level facility). In such instances, the cost of such services is offset by the NGOs who then receive reimbursements from funding agencies supporting the NGOs. While in the public sector, such costs are covered in budgetary allocations earmarked for the outreach activities. Clients may however be expected to pay a small registration fee, which may be less than one dollar.

In Kenya, for example, private sector charges for such procedures are in accordance with guidelines that must be followed by all practitioners and institutions. The range of fees the practitioner/provider should charge for vasectomy are between 12,000/- to 24,000/- Kshs. (equivalent to \$120–240). For minilaparotomy for female sterilization the allowable fees range from 36,000 to 72,000/- (equivalent to \$360–720) for Laparoscopic female sterilization the rates range from 60,000–96,000.00/- (equivalent to \$600–960). These charges exclude the theatre fees that may be up to 10,000/- (\$100.00).

In the private sector, the cost of such services is paid for directly by the client, or if the client or her spouse is a member of a private insurance scheme that also covers FP service then the insurance scheme pays for such services. The National Health Insurance Scheme (or NHIF, in Kenya) had not covered such services but this has changed recently, and family planning is now one of the services listed in the outpatient package, so this agency pays for its members and beneficiaries.

Kenya and several other countries in the EA region have established other payment mechanisms such as the RH vouchers schemes that also cover costs of FP services (including PMS services) for their members and their beneficiaries.