

Providers' perspectives in Nigeria: Qualitative results

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LEAP LNG-IUS Learning Agenda

- 01 - Describe LNG-IUS acceptors and rejecters;
- 02 - Estimate potential demand in 3 countries;
- 03 - Measure continuation rates at 6 and 12 months; assess client satisfaction
- 04 - Evaluate cost-effectiveness compared to other LARCs
- 05 - Describe providers' experiences with method
- 06- Identify potential strategies to accelerate national regulatory approvals

Provider perspectives in Nigeria

Objective: To understand providers' perspectives and experiences offering the LNG-IUS across five introduction programs

Methods: In-depth interviews (IDIs) conducted in July 2018 with 20 providers across four states

LNG-IUS products in programs:

- Four introduction programs using **donated products from the ICA Foundation:**
 - Society for Family Health, Marie Stopes International, Rotary and the University College Hospital Ibadan
- DKT introducing **Eloira**, Pregna's LNG-IUS, which was recently registered



Profile, capacity and resources



Respondent profile

- 60% female
- Average age: 49 years old
- Average experience offering copper IUD: 15 years
- Average experience offering LNG-IUS: 27 months

Provider estimates of time spent for (minutes):

	Insertion	Removal
LNG-IUS	11	5*
Copper IUD	11	5
One-rod implant	7	11
Two-rod implant	10	16

**Among those having performed a removal*

- One quarter of providers reported insertion challenges, including loading the first time and inserting in women with fibroids. Others reported no challenges, and a third found loading simpler compared to the copper IUD.
- All providers had protocols in place for infection prevention.
- Reported challenges include procurement of consumables, time requirements for autoclaving and equipment wear and tear.

Providers' perceptions of LNG-IUS



- **No heavy bleeding compared to copper IUD**
- **Treatment of menorrhagia**
- **Other therapeutic benefits***
- **Reduced bleeding or amenorrhea**
- Less or minimal side effects
- Reduced cramping

** For fibroids, endometriosis, and/or anemia*



- No disadvantages reported by most providers
- Initial spotting
- Not suitable when active infections
- Extensive counseling required

Providers reported dislikes or fears among clients related to:

- Uterine placement
- Hormones
- Amenorrhea

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The health benefit that I said, reduction in bleeding, very, very good in correcting bleeding and even anemia, it even reduces the length of your menstrual cycle, if you are bleeding for 5 days, it reduces to 3 which is better, if you're bleeding more, there's tendency for anemia. So the health benefits really, really outpower the other ones like the copper T.

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One [disadvantage] is the issue of prolonged spotting, which is common to most of our clients at the initial period...when we were counseling them, we prepare their minds, so psychologically they know what to expect and they are not panicky, and most times with time, it resolves without any treatment or management.

Opportunities for continued introduction and scale-up

All providers said they wanted to continue offering the LNG-IUS. However, providers identified barriers related to the lack of opportunity for LNG-IUS administration:



- Some providers said that price was not an issue since they charged little or nothing. However, about half of providers felt that cost remained a barrier.



- Most providers highlighted a lack of awareness of the LNG-IUS among women.
- Providers recommended building awareness at the community level through media outlets and health education, and making affordable LNG-IUS products available at more service delivery points.