

Abstracts

Impact of the Introduction of NORPLANT Implants into the National Family Planning Program of Thailand

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This paper analyzes the impact of the planned introduction of NORPLANT implants as an additional method of contraception in the family planning service delivery system in Thailand. Results of the analysis indicate that NORPLANT implants may contribute to the increase in contraceptive prevalence rate of currently married women in reproductive age but not significantly. As for its impact on the acceptance of existing non-permanent contraceptive methods, approximately 25, 12 and 7 percent of current pill, IUD and injectable users are estimated to switch to NORPLANT implants had this contraceptive method been made available nationally. Its potential impact on the acceptance of permanent contraceptive in methods is unestimable due to the lack of necessary information. The highest proportion of resources needed to include NORPLANT implants as an additional method of contraception is the cost of supplies. Consequently the paper recommends that the study on cost effectiveness of NORPLANT implants be contemplated. The paper also recommends a series of important social science and operations research issues needed to be addressed for the purpose of policy formulation and program planning.