**People over the age of 65 are paying 43% more on average for health insurance, the Health Insurance Authority finds**

**03.04.2024**

The Health Insurance Authority (HIA) has today [Wednesday] published its 2023 Market Report which shows that people over the age of 65 are paying 43% more on average for health insurance. Orthopaedic/joint replacement cover is one of the main reasons that this age group is paying more, 66% of over 65s are on high orthopaedic cover compared with only 27% under 65-year-olds on a high orthopaedic cover plan. Just under ¾ of those under 65 are on restricted orthopaedic cover.

The report also finds that 47% of the population have health insurance – the growth in people taking up policies has slowed and there has been an increase of only 1.6% since 2022. The average cost of health insurance has increased by 10% since 2022 to €1,594, and price increases throughout 2023 by all three health insurers as well as the cost-of-living crisis have led the HIA to conclude that lack of affordability is the main reason for the slowing growth in the number of people buying health insurance.

The report identifies other key health insurance trends and provides important insights into the health insurance market, including:

* There are 350 plans and three insurers in the health insurance market, but 50% of people are on 1 of just 30 plans.
* 18-39 year olds have the lowest level of health insurance coverage.
* Total premium income for the three health insurers is €3.2 billion.
* There has been a 15% increase in claims since 2022.
* Hospital day admissions continue to increase at a faster rate than overnight stays.

Ray Dolan, CEO of the Health Insurance Authority, said:

“This annual market report informs the HIA, the regulator for private health insurance, as to the state of play in the market. It is very useful to see the landscape of the sector and means we are able to assess and monitor trends in the industry and inform policy on that basis”.

The full report is available on the HIA website: https://www.hia.ie/publications/market-reports-and-bulletins.

**/ENDS**

**For more information contact:**

Marie Lynch, Account Director, Carr Communications, marie@carrcommunications.ie, 087 973 0522 or Éabha Griffin Kelly, Account Executive, Carr Communications, egriffinkelly@carrcommunications.ie, 087 671 6394.

**Notes to the editor**

For more information health insurance policies and finding the policy most suitable for your needs, visit [www.hia.ie](http://www.hia.ie) to use our free comparison tool.

**About the Health Insurance Authority (HIA)**

The role of the HIA is to ensure consumers are aware of their rights and insurers know their responsibilities in relation to health insurance in Ireland. The HIA enables a functioning health insurance market for the benefit of consumers, providers, and policy makers that underpins an accessible health service.

The HIA is responsible for effectively monitoring the compliance of registered undertakings with the Health Insurance Acts and accompanying regulations and taking measures to secure such compliance.

The Health Insurance Act 1994, as amended provides the legislative basis for the Risk Equalisation Scheme and the Risk Equalisation Fund, the mechanisms used to implement and support Lifetime Community Rating in the Irish health insurance market.