



Market Figures

There were 2,047,000 people insured with inpatient health insurance plans at the end of September 2013. This represents a reduction in the number of insured people of 11,000 over the quarter and 62,000 over the previous 12 months. The market peaked at almost 2.3 million at the end of 2008.

In addition to those insured with inpatient plans, there were 101,000 insured with products solely providing outpatient benefits or health insurance cash plans.

Private health insurance in-patient plans	Total Insured 000's
Dec 2008	2,297
Dec 2009	2,260
Dec 2010	2,228
Dec 2011	2,163
Sep 2012	2,109
Dec 2012	2,099
Mar 2013	2,078
Jun 2013	2,058
Sep 2013	2,047

Based on CSO population estimates for April 2013, the percentage of the population with inpatient health insurance plans currently stands at 44.6% down from the 2008 peak of 50.9%.

Product Changes

Aviva Health

On 1 September Aviva Health increased the premiums of Health Plan 02 and Health Plan 08 by an average of 10%. Aviva Health altered the premiums on 9 plans on 1 November ranging from a 3% reduction to a 6% increase. Aviva Health's Business Plan Hospital's premium was reduced on 2 November by 8% and its Health Plan 03 premium was reduced by 17%.

Aviva will change the premiums on their plans on 1 January 2014 by -8% to 11%.

Glohealth

Glohealth will increase the premiums of their core plans on 31 December 2013. The adult premiums will increase by 0% to 11%.

VHI Healthcare

On 1 September Vhi removed 5 hospitals from the PMI 15 11 Plan and 4 hospitals from the PMI 19 11 Plan. Vhi Healthcare increased the PMI 18 12 premium on 22 October by 7%. On 1 November, Vhi Healthcare increased premiums on its PMI 15 11 and PMI 19 11 plans by 16%.

Vhi will change the premiums of Company Plan Extra Level 3, PMI 01 11, PMI 02 11, PMI 28 12, PMI 33 12, PMI 36 13 and PMI 37 13 on 28 December. The adult premiums will change by -6% to 9%.



Market News

Budget 2014

The budget reduced the tax relief at source on private health insurance. The tax relief (of 20% premium) has been restricted to €1,000 gross premium in respect of adults and to €500 gross premium for children and full time dependant students aged 18 – 22 paying a discounted student premium. This applies to policies commencing or renewing on or after 16 October 2013. For policies commencing prior to 16 October 2013, full tax relief at 20% continues to apply.

New Plans

Aviva Health

Aviva Health released six new plans in early November; Health Plan 13 (€1,066.50 per adult), Health Plan 16 (€1,049.70 per adult), Health Plan 17 (€977.50 per adult), Health Plan 18 (€1,022.10 per adult), Health Plan 19 (€1,036 per adult) and Health Plan 23 (€1,055.40 per adult). All provide cover for a semi-private room in both public and private hospitals with varying excesses in private hospitals. Health Plan 13, Health Plan 16 and Health Plan 23 also provide cover for a private room in a public hospital.

HSF Health Plan

HSF Health Plan released 3 new cash plans on 1 November; Irish Distillers Essential (€35 per family per month), Irish Distillers Advanced (€50 per family per month) and Irish Distillers Ultimate (€70 per family per month).

Laya Healthcare

Laya Healthcare released two new plans on 1 September; Essential Value and Essential Value 500.

Essential Value 500 (€655 per adult) provides cover for a semi-private room in a public hospital and a semi-private room and day case cover in a private hospital with a €500 excess per private hospital claim.

Essential Value (€775 per adult) provides cover for a semi-private room in selected public hospitals and a semi-private room in selected private hospitals with a €175 excess per private hospital claim. The product has a co-payment of €1,800 on certain orthopaedic procedures in private hospitals.

Vhi Healthcare

VHI Healthcare released PMI 34 13 (€2,999 per adult) on 10 October, which provides cover for a private room in both public and private hospitals and full cover for the three hi-tech hospitals, except for non-listed procedures in the Blackrock Clinic. They also released PMI 36 13 (€1036.11 per adult) and PMI 37 13 (€931.95 per adult) on 28 October 2013. Both plans provide cover for a private room in a public hospital and for a semi-private room in private hospitals with varying excesses.

Website Nomination

The Authority's website was nominated for the finals of the Web Awards 2013 in the category of Best Government and Local Government Website and also Best Financial Services Website.

Vhi will change the premiums of Healthsteps Silver, Healthsteps Gold and PMI 05 11 on 1 January 2014. The adult premiums will increase by 1% to 3%.

Vhi will change the premiums of PMI 21 11, PMI 22 11, PMI 23 11 and PMI 25 11 on 1 January 2014. The adult premiums will decrease by -2% to -6%.

Special Offers & Price Reductions

Glohealth

Glohealth will offer half price premiums for children between the ages of 3 and 4 on the following plans:

- Better Plan (€130 per child)
- Best Plan (€140 per child)
- Ultra Plan (€237.50 per child)
- Ultimate Plan (€237.50 per child)
- Better Plan Excess Cash (€150 per child)
- Better Plan Ultra Cash (€207.50 per child)
- Best Plan Ultimate Cash (€227.50 per child)
- Children under 3 remain free

HSF Health Plan

HSF are waiving new condition waiting periods for new customers from 1 September 2013 to 30 November 2013.

Laya Healthcare

Laya Healthcare is currently waiving new condition waiting periods for new customers.

VHI Healthcare

Vhi will offer half price children on the following plans from 28 December 2013:

- One Plan Family (€131 per child)
- Parents and Kids excess (€131.88 per child)
- Teachers Plan Select (€136.87 per child)
- Nurses Plan Select (€136.87 per child)