



Market Figures

There were 2,052,000 people insured with inpatient health insurance plans at the end of December 2013. This represents an increase in the number of insured people of 4,000 over the quarter – the first increase since quarter 4 of 2010. There was a reduction in the number of insured lives of 47,000 in 2013.

In addition to those insured with inpatient plans, there were 99,000 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
Dec 2012	2,099
Mar 2013	2,078
Jun 2013	2,058
Sep 2013	2,048
Dec 2013	2,052

Based on CSO population estimates for April 2013, the percentage of the population with inpatient health insurance plans currently stands at 45%, down from the 2008 peak of 51%.

Product Changes

Aviva Health

Aviva Health will change the child premiums on their Family Value Plan and Family Focus Plan on 2 March 2014. The premium of the Family Value Plan for children aged 5-17 will increase to €199 (all other rates remain the same). The premium of the Family Focus plan for children aged 5-17 will increase from €150 to €300 (all other rates remain the same).

Aviva Health will remove the Day to Day B plan from the market with effect from 2 March 2014.

VHI Healthcare

Vhi's HealthPlus Excess 150 plan will be renamed to Health Access on 1 March 2014.

VHI will also withdraw the following products on 1 March 2014:

WellPlus 1, WellPlus 1 Excess, WellPlus 2, WellPlus 3, PMI 06 11, PMI 17 11, PMI 24 11, PMI 33 12

On 1 February the Bons Secours Cork, Galway and Tralee private hospitals were removed from PMI 08 11. The Blackrock Clinic private hospital was removed from PMI 26 12. Cover for orthopaedic procedures in private hospitals on these plans was reduced from 80% to 60%.

General Price Increases

Vhi Healthcare is increasing premiums on most of its plans in February / March 2014 by 2% to 7% on adult premiums.

Laya Healthcare will increase premiums on most of its plans on 1 March 2014 by 4% to 41% on adult premiums.



Market News

Premiums Paid

Total health insurance premiums paid in 2013, gross of tax relief, amounted to €2,378m, an increase of 7% from 2012. The average premium paid per insured person in 2013 was €1,150, an increase of 10% from 2012.

Market News

The Health Insurance (Amendment) Act 2013 was enacted in December. The Act amended the rates applying in the risk equalisation system. Under the risk equalisation system, insurers receive higher premiums for insuring older people, but the additional part of the premium payable in respect of older people is paid from the Risk Equalisation Fund ("the Fund"), so that all adults are charged the same net amount for a particular level of cover. In this way, adults with a certain level of cover pay the same net amount, but insurers received higher gross premiums in respect of insuring older people. The Fund also pays part of all claims involving an overnight hospital stay. The amount of the claim paid by the Fund is a per diem rate, depending on the length of the stay. All credits paid from the Fund are funded by a community rating health insurance levy paid by health insurers, which varies by level of cover.

All of the money collected under the levy is redistributed to the market in credits, so that the process does not increase or reduce total market costs, rather it redistributes costs of insuring older and less healthy people across the market.

The health credits and community rating health insurance levy that will apply from 1 March 2014 are as follows:

Age Group	Men Non Advanced Contracts	Women Non Advanced Contracts	Men Advanced Contracts	Women Advanced Contracts
60-64	€250	€200	€450	€325
65-69	€575	€400	€1,150	€775
70-74	€925	€625	€1,850	€1,200
75-79	€1,200	€950	€2,500	€1,925
80-84	€1,575	€1,150	€3,200	€2,250
85+	€1,975	€1,325	€4,000	€2,725

In addition, part of each health insurance claim involving an overnight hospital stay is paid from the Fund. From 1 March 2014, the amount paid will be €60 for each night in hospital.

Community Rating Levy	Non-Advanced	Advanced
Adult	€290	€399
Child	€100	€135

GloHealth increased premiums on most of its plans on 31 December 2013 by 5% to 11%.

GloHealth will increase the premiums on most of its plans on 1 March 2014 by 3% to 5% on adult premiums.

Aviva Health changed the premiums on its plans on 1 January 2014. The changes ranged from a reduction of 8% on Health Value Plan to increases of up to 11%.

Aviva Health will increase the premiums on most of their plans on 23 March by 2% -23% on adult premiums.

HSF Health Plan increased the cost of its schemes on 1 January 2014 by 6% to 9% and changed the name of the plans to the "Family Direct Scheme".

New Plans

GloHealth

GloHealth launched a new plan; Better Saver Plan (€860 per adult) on 17 February 2014. This plan provided cover for a private room in a public hospital and a semi-private room in a private hospital, with a private hospital inpatient excess of €500 per policy per year. There is a €2,000 co-payment on certain orthopaedic procedures in private hospitals.

Laya Healthcare

Laya Healthcare released Total Health Complete (€969.56 per adult) on 1 January 2014. This plan provides cover for a private room in a public hospital and a semi-private room in private hospitals with a €50 or €125 excess per private hospital claim.

VHI Healthcare

Vhi released four new plans on 1 January, 2014; Health Cash Plan Individual Level 1 (€195 per year), Health Cash Plan Individual Level 2 (€320 per year), Health Cash Plan Family Level 1 (€415 per year) and Health Cash Plan Family Level 2 (€590 per year). These plans provide benefits such as cash payments for each day in hospital, maternity/adoption grant-in-aid and money back for various practitioners such as GP, consultants, A+E, physiotherapy and alternative practitioners.