



## Market Figures

There were 2,025,000 people insured with inpatient health insurance plans at the end of December 2014. This represents an increase in the number of insured people of 7,000 over the quarter – and a decrease of 24,000 over the past 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 100,000 insured with products solely providing outpatient benefits or health insurance cash plans.

In-patient health insurance 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
Dec 2013	2,049
Mar 2014	2,028
Jun 2014	2,017
Sep 2014	2,018
Dec 2014	2,025

Based on CSO population estimates for April 2014, the percentage of the population with inpatient health insurance plans currently stands at 43.9% down from the 2008 peak of 50.9%.

## Market Changes

Vhi Healthcare reduced prices for children on 4 plans on 1st March 2015: One Plan Family (€134 per child), Parents and Kids Excess (€138 per child), Teachers Plan Select (€143.72 per child) and Nurses Plan Select (€143.72 per child).

Aviva Health increased the prices of their plans by an average of 3.5% on 1 January 2015.

Laya Healthcare changed the premiums of 13 plans on 31 December 2014 with adult prices varying from an increase of 3.7% to a reduction of 17%.

Glohealth changed various premiums on 31 December 2014 with adult prices varying from increases of 9.4% to a reduction of 3.1%.

GloHealth will release a new product called Base Plan (€409 per adult) on 28 March 2015. The plan will cover a multi occupancy room and day case cover in selected public hospitals. The plan will operate on a pay and claim basis, the consumer will have to pay the hospital bill and then claim the costs back from GloHealth.

Aviva Select Starter (€425 per adult) will be released on 22 March 2015. This plan covers a private room and day case cover in selected public hospitals.

Vhi Healthcare will release a new product called Start Plan (€449 per adult) on 15 March 2015 which will cover a multi occupancy room and day case cover in selected public hospitals.


Laya Healthcare reduced the price of its Assure Vitality product on 1st March 2015 from €514 per adult to €430.

## Market News

### Lifetime Community Rating

Lifetime community rating is being introduced from 1st May 2015 to encourage people to take out private health insurance before they reach age 35. Anyone aged 35 or older taking out private health insurance for the first time after 30th April 2015 will have a permanent age-related loading of 2% per year of age over 34 applied to their health insurance premium. The Health Insurance Authority is currently running a public information campaign in advance of the 30th April deadline with the theme of "Don't have private health insurance? April 30th matters to you". The campaign will run on the TV, radio, print media and online

This is the print media advertisement.



**April**  
**30**


Lifetime Community Rating

If you don't already have private health insurance, April 30th matters to you.

After April 30th, if you're over 34 when you take out private health insurance for the first time, Lifetime Community Rating means you'll pay an additional charge.

So if you don't have health insurance, but might want it in the future, now is the time to find out how the introduction of Lifetime Community Rating will affect you.

To find out more visit  
**www.hia.ie**  
Lo-Call 1850 929 166

 An tÚdarás Árachas Sláinte  
The Health Insurance Authority

### Health Insurance (Amendment) Act 2014

The Health Insurance Amendment Act 2014 was enacted in December 2014. The following key measures were included in it:

A sliding scale of premium rates for young adults in the age range 18-25 is being introduced from 1 May 2015. Where an insurer chooses to apply

these rates, they must apply the full range of rates from 50% of the adult premium to 100% of the adult premium within the specified age bands.

From 1 May 2015 there is no longer a requirement for a young adult to be a student or dependent in order to qualify for the discounted premium.

The credits applying in the risk equalisation scheme were amended for renewals from 1 March 2015. Insurers will continue to get age credits for all insured lives over the age of 60. They will also get credits in respect of each night spent in a hospital by one of their customers. This hospital credit is increasing for renewals from 1 March 2015 from €60 to €90 for each night spent in hospital.

The community rating stamp duty on non advanced contracts is reducing on 1 March 2015 to €240 for adults from €290 previously and to €80 for children from €100 previously. The community rating stamp duty for advanced contracts will remain at €399 for adults and at €135 for children.

All of the money collected in stamp duty is redistributed to the market in risk equalisation credits, so that the process does not increase or reduce total market costs, rather it distributes the costs of insuring older and less healthy lives across the market.

### Open Enrolment Regulations

New open enrolment regulations were recently signed into law by the Minister for Health resulting in some changes in regulations from 1 May 2015.

The maximum waiting period for claims will be the same irrespective of age i.e.

- Nil for claims from accidents and injury,
- 26 weeks for illnesses that commence after a person purchases insurance,
- 52 weeks for maternity related claims,
- 5 years for claims from pre-existing conditions when the person first purchases insurance and,
- 2 years for upgrades in cover,

The definition of a pre-existing condition will be an ailment, illness or condition where the signs or symptoms existed at any time in the period of 6 months prior to the insurance commencing.

The immediate rights to full cover for infants from their date of birth provided they are added to a policy within 13 weeks of their date of birth will be extended to adopted children added within 13 weeks of their date of adoption.