



Market Figures

There were 2,018,000 people insured with inpatient health insurance plans at the end of September 2014. This represents an increase in the number of insured people of 1,000 over the quarter – and a decrease of 29,000 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.

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
Sep 2013	2,047
Dec 2013	2,049
Mar 2014	2,028
Jun 2014	2,017
Sep 2014	2,018

Based on CSO population estimates for April 2014, the percentage of the population with inpatient health insurance plans currently stands at 43.8% down from the 2008 peak of 50.9%.

Market Changes

GloHealth

GloHealth released 4 new plans on the 1 September 2014 in their Activate range; Activate Hospital (€747 per adult), Activate More Hospital (€1,267.75 per adult), Activate Cash (€395 per year) and Activate More Cash (€645 per year).

GloHealth also released Better Plan Select Cash on 13 November which provides cover at the level of semi-private room in a private hospital with day to day outpatient expenses.

Aviva Health

Aviva Health released Health Plan 28 on 1 September 2014 (€1,393.30 per adult) which provided cover at the level of a private room in a private hospital with a €150 excess per private hospital claim.

Laya Healthcare

Laya Healthcare released ConnectCare 100 (€1,186 per adult) on 1 September 2014, which is the same as their existing ConnectCare plan (€1408.75 per adult) but with a €100 excess per private hospital claim.

Vhi Healthcare

Vhi reduced the inpatient psychiatric benefit for PMI 34 13 from 180 days to 100 days on 1 November. A prescription benefit of €144 per month with an excess of €50 per year was also added to this plan on this date.



Market News

Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2014

The Department of Health published the Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2014 on 6 November 2014. The following key measures were included:

- The Bill proposes a sliding scale for young adults in the age range of 18-20 of not more than 50% of the adult premium and in the age range of 21-25 of 50-100% of the adult premium. Where an insurer chooses to apply these rates, they must apply the full range of rates within the specified age bands.
- There is no longer a requirement for a young adult to be a student or dependent on an adult on the policy in order to qualify for the discounted premium.
- Lifetime Community Rating (LCR) will be applied from 1 May 2015. Late entry loadings will be applied to premiums of customers over 34 who have not bought health insurance before 1 May 2015, at a loading of 2% per year attained over 35, up to a maximum loading of 70% at age 69.
- Additional provisions have been made to clarify that people transferring from an insurance policy with their own insurer or another insurer, cannot have additional waiting periods applied except in the case of upgrade waiting periods.

The Bill also proposes changes in risk equalisation credits and stamp duties from 1 March 2015 to provide further support for community rating in the health insurance market.

Special Offers

HSF

HSF Health Plan is waiving new condition waiting periods for new customers to the health insurance market from 1 September to 30 November 2014 inclusive. This does not include waiting periods for maternity related benefits.

Laya Healthcare

Laya Healthcare is continuing to waive the waiting periods for new conditions for new customers until further notice.

Laya Healthcare's special offer of half price child premiums on Essential Connect Family finished on 1 November 2014.

Aviva Health

Aviva Health's special offer of reduced child rates on their Family Focus plan finished on 1 September 2014 bringing premiums back up to €310 for 0-4 year olds and €300 for 5-17 year olds. The special offers for child premiums on Aviva's Health Plan 16 and Hospital Focus were discontinued on 1 October.

Aviva Health have also reduced child premiums for children aged 0-4 years on Family Value plan from €282.20 to €262 per child 1-3 and for children aged 5-17 from €219.70 to €169 per child 1-3 on 1 November.

Four additional plans will have their premiums reduced on 1 November by 5-10% on adult premiums; Be Fit 1, Health Plan 13, Health Plan 04 and Health Plan 09.

VHI Healthcare

Vhi Healthcare's special offer of half price children and student premiums on all their plans, which commenced on 1 August on their PMI plan range and on 1 July on all other plans, finished on 1 November 2014.