



## Market Figures

There were 2,152,000 people insured with inpatient health insurance plans at the end of December 2016. This represents an increase in the number of insured people of 30,000 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 102,000 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
Dec 2014	2,025
Dec 2015	2,122
Mar 2016	2,126
June 2016	2,133
Sept 2016	2,140
Dec 2016	2,152

Based on CSO population estimates, the percentage of the population with inpatient health insurance plans stands at 46% at end December 2016 compared to the 2008 peak of 50.9%.

## Market News

### Price Changes

#### Laya Healthcare

Laya Healthcare has been providing free cover to the second and subsequent children insured under Essential Connect Family since 1 January 2017. The first child's premiums are €227.24 per year. Adult rates are €1151.79 per adult per year. These premiums will apply to all new and renewing customers from this date.

#### Irish Life Health

Irish Life Health will reduce the premiums of 10 schemes on 1 March 2017; Health Plan 01, Health Plan 13, Health Plan 16.1, Be Fit 2, Be Fit 2.1, Select, Select with Day to Day, Select with Emergency Access pack, Select with Day 2 Day and Emergency packs and Select Starter. Net adult premiums will reduce on average by 9%.

#### Vhi Healthcare

Vhi will end their half price kids offer on the One Plan range on 1 March 2017, although the One Plan Family premium will not change. Vhi will also start a half price kids offer on the Parents and Kids Excess plan on this date. Children's premiums will be €157.77.

Vhi will also change the premiums of HealthSteps Gold, HealthSteps Silver, PMI 43 16 and PMI 44 16 on this date.

Healthsteps Gold will increase from €336 per adult and €140 per child 1-3 to €349.50 per adult and €146.70 per child 1-3.



## Market News

### Public Consultation on Lifetime Community Rating

The Irish private health insurance regulatory system is based on the key principles of community rating, open enrolment, lifetime cover and minimum benefits. Under this system, prior to 1 May 2015, everybody was charged the same premium for a particular plan, irrespective of age, gender and current or likely future state of health (with certain exceptions). From that date, however, the introduction of Lifetime Community Rating regulations have meant that people aged 35 and upwards taking out health insurance for the first time have been charged a late entry loading of 2% of the gross premium for each year in age over 34. This means that a 50-year-old who has held private health insurance since they were aged 30 pays the same premium as a 30-year-old but a 50 year old who purchases private health insurance for the first time at age 50 pays more than a 30-year-old.

The Health Insurance Authority is a statutory regulator for the Irish private health insurance market. The Minister for Health has requested that a review of the Lifetime Community Rating regulations be carried out by the Health Insurance Authority. As a result, the Health Insurance Authority has recently published a consultation paper and invites submissions from stakeholders and interested parties.

Go to <http://www.hia.ie/publication/consultation-papers> for more information.

The closing date for receipt of submissions is 3rd March 2017.

### GloHealth now part of Irish Life 22.02.2017

GloHealth is now fully owned by the Irish Life Group, which has established a new health insurer called Irish Life Health. GloHealth will no longer be open for new or renewing business from 22nd February 2017, but it will remain business as usual for their existing members until their renewal dates.

Nothing will change for existing members, their plan and cover level will remain exactly the same and any claims will be processed as normal. Existing customers will remain GloHealth members until their renewal dates.

If members have given consent, at their renewal, Irish Life Health will invite them to renew their health cover. Irish Life Health will recommend a comparable plan.

For more information please contact GloHealth on 1800 781 781.

Healthsteps Silver will increase from €198 per adult and €84 per child 1-3 to €206 per adult and €88 per child 1-3.

PMI 43 16 will increase from €1,131.64 per adult to €1,171.59 per adult. Young adult rates will also change.

PMI 44 16 will increase from €1,050.46 per adult and €280.10 per child 1-3 to €1,112.98 per adult and €294.10 per child 1-3. Young adult rates will also change.

### GloHealth

GloHealth will reduce the price of the Best Ultimate Active plan on 2 February 2017.

Adult premiums will reduce from €1,739.85 to €1,621.00; children's premiums will reduce from €346.20 to €339.20. Young adult premiums will also reduce.

This change will apply to all new and renewing customers from this date.