

for a specified number of days/hours in case of hospital cash policies which will apply before any benefits are payable by the insurer. A deductible does not reduce the Sum Insured.

Coverage of pre-existing diseases

In view of regulatory requirement, pre-existing diseases which were excluded earlier are specifically mentioned with a waiting period of four years. Few high end products by some insurance companies have reduced the period to 2 and 3 years

Renewability

Lifelong renewability was introduced by few insurers. Now, this has been made compulsory by IRDAI for all policies.

Zone wise premium

Normally, the premium would depend on the age of the insured person and the sum insured selected. Premium differential has been introduced in certain zones with higher claims cost e.g. Delhi and Mumbai form part of highest premium zone for certain products by some insurers.

Coverage for Day care procedure

Advancement of medical science has seen inclusion of large number of procedures under day care category. Earlier only seven procedures were specifically mentioned under daycare - Cataract, D and C, Dialysis, Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy, Lithotripsy and Tonsillectomy. Now, more than 150 procedures are covered and the list keeps growing.

Cost of pre policy check up

Cost of medical examination was earlier borne by prospective clients. Now insurer reimburses the cost, provided the proposal is accepted for underwriting, the reimbursement varying from 50% to 100%. Now this has also been mandated by IRDAI that insurer would bear at least 50% of health checkup expenses.

Duration of pre and post hospital cover

Duration of pre and post hospital coverage is extended to 60 days and 90 days by most insurers especially in their high end product. Few insurers have also capped these expenses linked to certain percentage of claim amount, subject to a maximum limit.

Add on covers

Various new additional covers called Add-on covers have been introduced by some of the insurers. Some of them are:

- **Maternity cover:** Maternity was not offered earlier under retail policies but is now offered by most insurers, with varying waiting periods.