

Premium Discount for Young Adults.

Each Member,

The Health Insurance (Amendment) Act 2014 introduced the concept of Mandatory Premium Discounts for young adults from 21 up to 25 years of age. It was introduced to encourage young people to purchase health insurance and also to make it more affordable for hard pressed parents to continue with cover for their adult children. The Act also removed the existing requirement that the young adult is in fulltime education or financially dependant on his/her parents. The subscription fee structure currently applying to 18 to 20 year old children is not affected and remains unchanged.

The Act sets out the minimum and maximum percentage discount on the gross adult premium (currently €33.18pw) within which each insurer is legally required to apply the discounts as follows;

21 years of age – 40% to 49% discount on the adult gross premium
22 years of age – 30% to 39% discount on the adult gross premium
23 years of age – 20% to 29% discount on the adult gross premium
24 years of age – 10% to 19% discount on the adult gross premium
25 years of age – 0% to 9% discount on the adult gross premium.

The Committee after long consideration is pleased to confirm that the Society will apply the **maximum** allowable discount on the adult gross premium at all age brackets, i.e. 21 years – 49%, 22 years – 39%, 23 years – 29%, 24 years – 19% and 25 years – 9%. This mandatory premium discount will result in an increase in premium for 21 and 22 year old young adults as compared to our current pricing structure and substantial reductions for 23, 24 and 25 year old young adults. The table below sets out the new pricing structure for these age groups which will apply from our annual renewal date on the 1st July 2015.

The Committee were also conscious of the serious financial burden that would fall on families with twins, triplets or families where two children were born within the same year. The Committee are pleased to confirm that in such circumstance, the fee will apply as if there was just one young adult in that age bracket resulting in a substantial saving to such families. This concession will cease when the twins, triplets reach 26 years of age.

To comply with legislation and for administrative reasons, the fee applying to each age group will be set based on the age of the young adult on the renewal date of the policy which in the Society's case is the 1st July each year. For example, a young adult who is 21 years of age on the 1st July 2015 will pay the 21 year fee up to 1st July 2016 even though his/her 22nd birthday falls in say August 2015. There is no loss to the member, just a time lapse in the implementation of the rate and this provision applies with all insurers.

Furthermore as a result of these legislative changes, the Committee are now in a position to extend medical insurance cover of your young adult children from the current 27 years of age up to their 29th birthday. As here to fore, the full adult premium will apply from their 26th up to their 29th birthday. You will be alerted by letter from the Society when your child is approaching their 26th birthday when you can decide to opt out of the 27 to 29 years of age scheme if you so wish.

This panel sets out the new pricing structure applying to young adults from 21 to 29 years of age arising from the implementation of the provisions of the Health Insurance (Amendment) Act 2014.

Age	Gross per week before tax relief	Nett per week after tax relief	% Discount
21 years	€16.92pw	€13.53pw	49%
22 years	€20.23pw	€16.38pw	39%
23 years	€23.56pw	€19.71pw	29%
24 years	€26.88pw	€23.03pw	19%
25 years	€30.20pw	€26.35pw	9%
26 to 29 years	€33.18pw	€29.33pw	Adult Rate

If you have adult children between 21 and 29 years of age on cover with the Society the above subscription rates will apply in your pay or pension from 1st July 2015. Please visit the Society's website to view and/or print a copy of the [Members Guide to Benefits & Subscription Rates](#) for detailed information on the benefits provided by the Society and the various subscription rates that apply.

Committee Election Result - 2015.

The election to fill ten positions on the Management Committee concluded on the 10th April 2015. The following members have been elected;

Connaught/Ulster -	Seamus Mimmagh Joseph Dirwan	Leinster -	Brendan Flynn Martin Connolly
Dublin City & County -	Michael Coleman Stephen Sheerin Yvonne Hedderman	Munster -	Donal Cullinane Matthew Givens Sean Moore

The newly elected Management Committee took up office following the Society's Annual General Meeting on 24th April 2015.

Accident and Emergency in Private Hospitals.

The Committee wishes to remind members that the Society contributes €70 towards the cost of attending Accident and Emergency Departments in Public or

Private Hospitals. If you choose to attend A & E in a private hospital – you will have a substantial financial shortfall of at least €100 and up to €300 which you will have to pay compared to a €30 shortfall in A&E in a public hospital. The choice is yours, but all claims must be assessed equally – i.e. we pay €70 towards the cost of A&E in Public or Private Hospitals and you will be responsible for the balance.

Review of Benefits & Subscriptions.

The Committee last applied a general increase in subscriptions on 1st July 2014 with the previous increase being on 1st January 2010 and are hopeful despite difficult trading conditions and ever increasing medical costs particularly in the Public Hospital system to avoid having to apply an increase in 2015. A review will commence in early autumn which will result in some level of increase having to apply in early 2016. You will be aware that all the main insurers have applied increases, two in 2014 and one so far in 2015.

Owen Connell
Secretary.