

March 2018

Welcome to our 2018 MPF Newsletter, where we share with you all relevant information about your MPF Membership for the forthcoming year.

Benefits

The Trustees are pleased to announce that there are no changes to benefits at this time. This is against a backdrop of rising costs from medical inflation. The trustees will continue to monitor this but we can confidently say the MPF continues to provide first class cover at a competitive price.

Comparison to other funds

Mercer recently carried out an appraisal of MPF versus comparable plans from other insurers. The premium plan was found to be competitive when compared to comparable plans from other insurers whilst the Premium Plus plan was found to be extremely competitive when compared to other insurers: the cheapest comparable plan was almost €1,000 more expensive.

Our expertise for your care

For over 60 years the ESB Staff Medical Provident Fund has been providing first class private medical insurance exclusively to ESB employees. We are committed to continuing that level of service and to provide peace of mind for you and your family when it comes to your medical care. We are available to discuss you and your family medical needs and requirements and can be contacted via any of the options below:

T: 061 430561 E: mpf@esb.ie

**MPF – Always available for our members –
Locations visited in the last year**



- Athlone
- Galway
- Dublin (various locations)
- Portlaoise
- Killarney
- Waterford
- Limerick
- Mullingar
- Finglas
- Dundalk
- Drogheda

Subscription Rates

The Trustees recently met to decide on subscription rates for 2018. As always, they strove to keep rates as affordable as possible as they are keenly aware of the financial pressure on all members.

The main factors to impact on rates are as follows:

1. The issue of Public Hospitals charging private patients even while they're being treated in public wards continues to have a significant impact on the fund (in excess of €1.5m per annum). The charge for anyone who opts to be treated as a private patient rather than as a public patient can be up to €813 per night compared to a charge of €80 per night if you elect to be treated as a public patient. (See overleaf for more info).
2. The average claim cost per MPF Member is on the rise:
 - a. 2015 - €1,602
 - b. 2016 - €1,727
 - c. 2017 - €1,796
3. Private hospital contracts are up for renewal, with the indications being that costs will increase as a result.

For these reasons, the Trustees approved a 2.5% increase in gross subscription rates from April 2018. To put the cost in context, an adult member of the MPF Premium scheme (ie over 25 years of age) will be paying an extra €0.72 per week. For a child, the increase in cost works out at €0.22 per week. The Member's Guide to Benefits and Subscriptions Rates booklet provides full details of all subscription rates and is an excellent document setting out the details of your cover etc.

If you are admitted to a public hospital via A&E and you have private health insurance, you will be asked to sign a Private Insurance Patient Form. Here is what you need to know.

Private Insurance Patient Form To sign or not to sign

The decision is yours, but what does it mean?



If I **DO** sign the form

If I **DON'T** sign the form



I receive a standard service



Same bed, same medical treatment and the same food

I receive a standard service



My insurer pays up to **€813** per night for my visit



My insurer pays **€80** per night for my visit



Total cost per 3-night stay: **€2439**

All Irish residents are entitled to public healthcare at a charge of €80 per night

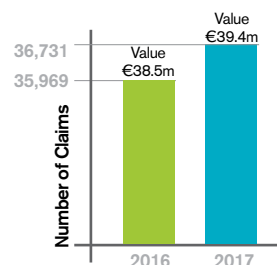


Total cost per 3-night stay: **€240**

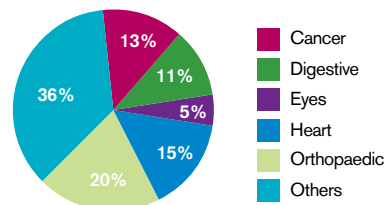
THE IMPACT

INSURANCE PREMIUMS ARE RISING AS INSURERS HAVE TO PAY OUT MORE MONEY TO PUBLIC HOSPITALS FOR NO ADDITIONAL SERVICES

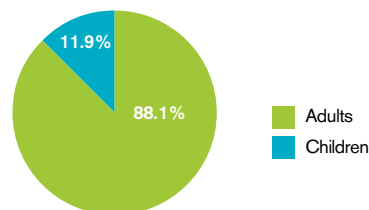
CLAIMS VS COSTS: WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY



€39.4m SPEND BY ILLNESS:



TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 21,944



ADMISSION TO A PUBLIC HOSPITAL VIA A & E - Know Your Rights!

Do you know that by signing the Private Insurance Patient Form in this instance you are paying over 10 times more for the same service as someone who has no private health insurance? Same treatment, no additional services but MPF is charged €813 a day on your behalf instead of €80 a day (which is fully covered on your policy). Patients are being advised by the hospitals that the charge is fully covered by their insurers, and there will be no cost to them at all. But this is completely misleading, as you are paying for this indirectly through higher premiums. It is estimated this charge alone could be adding as much as 5pc a year to the cost of private health cover.

There is evidence that Public Hospitals are insisting that patients admitted through A&E departments must use their private health insurance. This is not correct or lawful. Please realise that you are under no obligation to sign this form. When you are asked to sign the form to switch to private patient status, you should ask what additional services are you going to receive. If you are being treated as a public patient, with no private or semi-private bed and no treatment from a consultant of your choice, then there is no benefit in signing this form. Know your rights – it is your choice.

If you require any further information or clarification on this matter please don't hesitate to contact the MPF office.