



Title:Constitution of Committee on Health Insurance for Senior Citizens

Reference No.:--

Date:22/05/2007

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NOTICE

Re: Constitution of Committee on Health Insurance for Senior Citizens

Issues relating to health insurance for Senior Citizens of the country need a special focus, as they are more vulnerable, due to which they also fall in a higher risk category. Concerns have also been voiced by Senior Citizens across the country on matters relating to policy issuance and claims servicing of health insurance policies. The IRDA has received representations relating to entry barriers for the aged, refusal of renewals, imposition of harsh terms without justification, sharp increase in premium rates, delays in claims service, etc.

Health insurance for Senior Citizens requires a careful study by all stakeholders involved – the Regulator, the Government, the insurance industry, the medical service provider, the TPAs, etc. In the backdrop of the concerns voiced by the Senior Citizens and in order to study issues involved as well as make recommendations thereon, the IRDA has decided to constitute a Committee on Health Insurance for Senior Citizens. The Committee comprises of

Sri K.S.Sastry - **Chairman**, I.A & A S (Retd.) & former Chairman, National Housing Bank

Sri V.Hariharan Fasteners - Former President, M/s Sundaram

Sri A.N.Sood - President, Delhi Federation of Association of Senior Citizens,

Sri K.N.Bhandari - Secretary General, General Insurance Council of India & former CMD of The New India Assurance Co Ltd

Sri B.D.Banerjee - Former CMD of The Oriental Insurance Co Ltd and former Insurance Ombudsman, Mumbai

Sri C.Chandrasekhar - Chief Marketing Officer, M/s Apollo DKV Insurance Co Ltd,

Sri Nimish R.Parekh - CEO, M/s Parkh Health Management (Pvt.) Ltd,

as Members.

The terms of reference for the Committee is given below:-

1. Suggest commercially viable health insurance schemes for the senior citizens taking care to see that they do not spiral into a high cost healthcare system.

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2. Identify the problems in extending health insurance to senior citizens without age limit and at affordable cost and suggest possible solutions.

3. Examine the pros and cons of separate health insurance schemes for the senior citizens considering the profitability and claim ratios of different segments of health insurance.
4. Examine the issues connected with "portability" of health insurance by the senior citizens from one scheme to another and from one insurer to another and suggest the manner and conditions in which such portability is achieved.
5. Examine the feasibility of offering a menu of options to the senior citizens in terms of the type of diseases (including "pre-existing diseases") to be covered, the proportion of expenses to be paid, and the quantum of "deductible".
6. Suggest streamlining of procedures such that medical treatment is on "cashless" basis and is rendered promptly.
7. Suggest ways to incorporating alternative systems of medicine into the health insurance system.
8. Suggest possible incentives to the senior citizens for adopting healthier life styles.
9. Examine the feasibility of incorporating the concept of "family doctor" into the health insurance schemes for the senior citizens.
10. Examine the feasibility of integrating travel insurance such as "Overseas Medclaim" policy into the health insurance schemes of senior citizens.
11. Any other relevant issue.

Members of the public and other stakeholders involved, who wish to offer their advice/views may send their communication to Shri R.Srinivasan, Officer on Special Duty, whose e-mail ID. is given below:

R.Srinivasan, OSD to the Committee : rsrinivasan@irda.gov.in
Tel: 040-66514888

(P.C.JAMES)
CONVENER OF THE COMMITTEE