

Media Release

THE HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY (HIA) WELCOMES NEW MEASURES INTRODUCED BY INSURERS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

16 April 2020: The Health Insurance Authority (HIA), having worked closely with the Department of Health, health insurers, the HSE and the Central Bank over the last number of weeks welcomes the measures now put in place by insurers in relation to Covid-19. The new measures include a range of supports for consumers and the HIA advises individuals to check with their own insurance company to find out the measures that will be available to them.

The HIA will continue to work to ensure consumers are aware of their rights and any financial measures which may be introduced by insurers as a result of the Covid-19 crisis and information will be made public on the Authority's website hia.ie. Consumers who have concerns about their individual policies can contact our consumer advisors at info@hia.ie where we will be happy to help answer any questions consumers may have.

Commenting on the Covid-19 health insurance measures, Don Gallagher, HIA Chief Executive said:

"Having been a part of the discussions with the Department of Health, health insurers, the HSE and the Central Bank over the last number of weeks, we welcome the measures put in place today. It is important to have this range of supports in place for consumers as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. We will provide information as and when measures are made available on our website www.hia.ie to assist consumers in obtaining information on these measures and as regulator we will continue to work with insurance companies to ensure that rights of, and responsibilities to consumers are the priority".

The role of the HIA is to ensure consumers are aware of their rights and insurers know their responsibilities in relation to health insurance in Ireland. The HIA enable a functioning health insurance market for the benefit of consumers, providers and policy makers that underpins an accessible health service.

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For further information or to arrange an interview with a HIA spokesperson please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About the Health Insurance Authority (HIA)

The role of the HIA is to regulate the Irish health insurance market with reference to the Health Insurance Acts including to ensure consumers are aware of their rights and health insurers know their responsibilities. The HIA facilitates a functioning community rated health insurance market in

Ireland for the benefit of consumers, providers and policy makers that underpins an accessible health service.

For more information about the Health Insurance Authority and their services, please visit: <https://www.hia.ie/>.