

Dear friends,

HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY FOR RETIREES- IBA POLICY VIS-A-VIS OTHER POLICIES

We are getting numerous queries from our dear members regarding the IBA health insurance policy, and many are seeking our advice whether to continue in the IBA scheme or go for any other policy, especially the one which is floated by KM Dastur company, which appears to be competitive compared to IBA policy with almost similar terms and conditions.

It is a very difficult choice for all of us and especially for CBROA to give a call which is uniformly applicable to all the members.

Presently, in our Bank only 23000 (36%) employees/officers out of 64000 are in the IBA scheme. Coming to our members, it is much less, around 3500 members out of 12000 are in IBA medical insurance scheme. In other words, around 8500 are out of the purview of IBA scheme and they might have taken various other health insurance policies floated by plethora of insurance companies in the market.

Friends, Insurance is a business of solicitation, purchasing a health insurance cover for self and family members at affordable cost is the desire of every individual, especially senior citizens. There cannot be any ideal health insurance policy which suits all persons due to varying needs of health cover which depends on various factors like health condition, age, premium, paying capacity, terms and conditions in the policy etc.

IBA renewal policy 2023-24 has come as a rude shock for all retirees due to steep increase in the premium rates, drastic changes made in the policy and stipulations of harsh terms and conditions.

However, despite the above, for many of our retirees, who are already in the IBA scheme, the choices are very limited.

Hence, taking into all aspects, *we feel that it is prudent for our retirees, who are already in the IBA scheme, to continue int IBA health policy of our Bank*. Depending upon their paying capacity and other needs, they can choose *base policy plus a minimum of 1 lakh top up policy (in order to circumvent the caps in base policy)* and go for super top policy from other insurers.

We also understand that in many tier 2 and 3 cities, the room rents and other hospitalisation costs are within the caps indicated in the base policy. Such of those persons located in such towns and cities, after enquiring from the hospitals of their area, may opt for base policy of 2 lakhs and then go for super top policies from other insurers. (but threshold limit for super top is Rs. 3 lakhs)

As far as Super top policy floated by K M Dastur company is concerned , we had conducted a meeting on 16.10.2023 with the representatives of Dastur company in Bengaluru just to understand the scheme and also feedback from our members and requested the company to come out with FAQs along with the modalities of claim settlement etc.

Though there are no age restrictions, caps on treatments, no waiting period etc (except Single room AC), the major deterrent is that cashless facility is not available since the TPAs of IBA health insurance and SBI General are different. Hence, those who opt for super top have to go for claim reimbursement after the threshold limit of Rs. 3 lakhs. Further, the policy should be continued for minimum 3 years else reentry is possible only after 5 years from leaving the policy.

Further, we have requested them to provide us a copy of understanding/agreement with SBI General in respect of their offer of super top policy for Retirees of various associations/organisations.

We have been in constant touch with the company officials and also talking to **SBI General insurance officials on the veracity of the super top policy offered by Dastur company.**

Besides, we have lot of logistics to cover! and huge workload to bear with since we have to collect the premium through our account from our members, pool it, reconcile it and also get other details and then send it to SBI General through KMD.

Hence, we are looking at all pros and cons and will let you know in couple of days regarding the same. Incidentally, we are seeking a month's time from the company to enable our members to take a judicious decision.

Jagadeesh J S
General Secretary
17.10.2023