

Article Date	Headline / Summary	Publication	Edition
22 Apr 2024	Irdai pushing cos to give health cover to all age groups	The Times of India	New Delhi Ahmedabad Hyderabad

Irdai pushing cos to give health cover to all age groups

Mumbai: Insurance regulator Irdai is pushing companies to ensure health cover is available to all age groups, as well as those with pre-existing diseases, mental health issues and women, to ensure there is greater coverage and no one is denied the facility, reports **Mayur Shetty**.

While the regulations have been tweaked, many are interpreting it to mean a mandate from the regulator to ensure that those over 65 are not denied health insurance. Sources told **TOI** without mandating detailed norms, Irdai is going to monitor how firms are going to respond to the new regulations issued recently. "The idea is to ensure that appropriate products should come in the market. The regulator has left it to the market to decide the premium and other elements to address the requirements of wider public," said a source familiar with deliberations in regulatory agency.

► **'More inclusive', P 11**

'New regulation intends to make insurance more inclusive'

► **Continued from P1**

So far, insurers have often denied health covers to first-time buyers who are over 60 years and very often refuse to renew insurance once a claim is made, even for the younger segment. While insurers are mandated to provide lifelong renewability of health insurance, they are not forced to offer insurance to first-time buyers beyond the age of 65. Many insurers have a maximum age of entry at 65, although some such as Star Health accept new proposals from even older people.

Besides, several prospective buyers are turned away citing "pre-existing disease", leaving such consumers to fend for themselves without any insurance.

"Most citizens shy away from health insurance because they find the terms and conditions confusing... The new regulation intends to make health insurance even more inclusive, especially for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and persons with chronic ailments," said Tapan Singhel MD & CEO Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.