

IRDAI cuts down exclusions in health cover

Says travel portals should not make travel insurance a pre-selected option

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In a customer-friendly move, the insurance regulator has said that insurers must make sure that travel portals do not make travel insurance a pre-selected option. It has also announced guidelines on standardisation in health insurance, mandating that insurers should try to extend health insurance coverage to persons who disclose a pre-existing disease.

Now, artificial life maintenance, internal congenital diseases, age-related macular degeneration, puberty and menopause-related disorders and mental illnesses will no longer be allowed to be excluded from health covers, the IRDAI has said.

"If a person makes a proper declaration about pre-existing diseases on proposal while buying a health

insurance policy, these guidelines provide the much-needed clarity to insurers in terms of which diseases can be permanently excluded and also bring in transparency as customers will know what will be covered under the policy," said Gurdeep Singh Batra, Head, Retail Underwriting, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

Travel insurance

"Insurers shall ensure that any portal or app that provides the travel insurance coverage shall not pre-select the option of buying the travel cover as a default option," the IRDAI had said in a recent circular.

IRDAI has stressed that the traveller shall be able to specifically choose whether or not to buy the coverage. "Where selected to buy, an option shall be provided for

opting out or de-selecting the option before concluding the transaction," it further said in the circular on travel insurance products and operational matters.

The norms, which come into effect from today, also mandate that there shall be a provision to let the person buying a travel cover go through the benefits, terms and conditions offered under the travel insurance cover on the screen itself, and consent shall be obtained in the form of selecting a radio button by the prospect/policyholder in confirmation of having read and understood the terms and conditions.

It has also said that premium should not be received more than 90 days in advance to the date of commencement of the risk covered in case of domestic travel, or along with the ticket while purchasing the travel tickets. However, the cover for overseas travel can be issued any time.