Hospital Cover

Bronze Plus Starter

(Not available to new members and existing members seeking to change to this product)

Bronze Plus Starter Hospital is our basic-level cover option for singles, couples and families.

It's a smart choice if you're younger and not likely to require things like pregnancy cover, heart surgery or joint replacements yet.

What's included, not included or restricted?

Ambulance services[1]	✓
Rehabilitation	R
Hospital psychiatric services	R
Palliative care	R
Brain and nervous system	✓
Eye (not cataracts)	✓
Ear, nose and throat	✓
Tonsils, adenoids and grommets	✓
Bone, joint and muscle	✓
Joint reconstructions	✓
Kidney and bladder	✓
Male reproductive system	✓
Digestive system	✓
Hernia and appendix	✓
Gastrointestinal endoscopy	✓
Gynaecology	✓
Miscarriage and termination of pregnancy	✓
Chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy for cancer	✓
Pain management	✓
Skin	✓
Breast surgery (medically necessary)	✓

Diabetes (excluding insulin pumps)	✓
Heart and vascular systems	✘
Lung and chest	✓
Blood	✓
Back, neck and spine	✓
Plastic and reconstructive surgery (medically necessary)	✘
Dental surgery[2]	✓
Podiatric surgery[3] (provided by a registered surgical podiatrist)	✓
Implantation of hearing devices	✓
Cataracts	✘
Joint replacements	✘
Dialysis for chronic kidney failure	✘
Pregnancy and birth	✘
Assisted reproductive services	✘
Weight loss surgery	✘
Insulin pumps	✘
Pain management with device	✓
Sleep studies	✓

Key ✓ = included R = restricted ✘ = not included

[1] *Not covered for*
- *Transportation from a hospital to your home, nursing home or other hospital.*
- *Transportation for ongoing medical treatment.*
- *Off road or air ambulance (e.g. plane, helicopter or boat).*

[2] *Please note: If you undergo surgery by a recognised dentist in a hospital, you may be able to claim benefits for theatre, accommodation and anaesthetist costs. Benefits towards your dentist's fees will only be paid if you also hold a suitable Extras product and have served all relevant waiting periods in addition to your Hospital cover.*

[3] *Limited benefits apply to Podiatric Surgery, and you may incur significant out of pocket expenses. Please refer to the Health Cover Guide for more information.*

Also included on this policy:

- Unlimited cover for both Emergency and Non-Emergency Ambulance ($50 co-payment per trip)
- Your choice of treating doctor or specialist
- Private and shared room accommodation in an HIF-contracted private hospital (subject to availability of private room)
- Shared room accommodation in a public hospital, with the exception of public hospitals in New South Wales (NSW) where private and shared room coverage is available (subject to availability of a private room)
- AccessGap Cover for eligible inpatient medical services
- Benefits for surgically implanted Medical Devices and Human Tissue Products and other items on the Federal Government's Prescribed List of Medical Devices and Human Tissue Products
- Inpatient pharmacy drugs – charges vary between hospitals depending on the contract that's in place. Please check with the hospital or HIF.

What does restricted mean?

The term 'restricted' means that you can claim benefits for accommodation at basic hospital default rate only for the services listed as restricted. However, full AccessGap coverage applies for inpatient medical procedures, and benefits will be paid towards Medical Devices and Human Tissue Products in accordance with the Federal Government's Prescribed List of Medical Devices and Human Tissue Products.

What about excluded benefits?

No benefits will be payable for services that are not included in your cover.

Other situations where you may not be covered by HIF include for cosmetic surgery, your membership is not financial or waiting periods not served. For a more comprehensive list please read our Health Cover Guide.

Does a hospital excess apply?

For Bronze Plus Starter Hospital, a standard excess applies:

Single memberships:

- $250 per calendar year

Couple/family policies:

- $250 per person up to a policy maximum of $500 per calendar year

You'll only need to pay the excess per-person per calendar year if admitted to hospital for same-day or overnight stays. No excess applies to dependants under the age of 18.

Hospital waiting periods

A waiting period refers to the period of time you have to wait (after purchasing or upgrading Hospital Cover) before you're entitled to receive benefits for services or items included on your chosen level of cover.

For Bronze Plus Starter Hospital, the applicable waiting periods are:

- **Emergency Ambulance:** 1 day
- **Non-Emergency Ambulance**: 30 days
- **General hospitalisation:** 2 months
- **Psychiatric care, rehabilitation and palliative care:** 2 months
- **Pre-existing conditions:** 12 months

What's a pre-existing condition?

The Pre-existing Condition Rule is a 12-month waiting period for hospital treatment relating to a pre-existing condition – it's a rule that applies whether the ailment, illness or condition was known to the member or not.

A pre-existing condition is defined as, *'Any ailment, illness, or condition where, in the opinion of a medical adviser appointed by the health insurer, the signs or symptoms of that illness, ailment or condition existed at any time in the period of six months ending on the day on which the person became insured under the policy.'*

The pre-existing condition waiting period applies to new members and existing members upgrading their cover. The test applied relies on the presence of signs or symptoms of the illness, ailment or condition, not on a diagnosis (i.e. it's not necessary for the member or their doctor to know what their condition is or for it to be diagnosed).

In forming an opinion about whether or not an illness is a pre-existing condition, an HIF-appointed medical practitioner will take into account information provided by the member's treating doctor/specialist.

Make sure you read our Health Cover Guide

Our Health Cover Guide is your need-to-know resource for all things about health insurance.

The Health Cover Guide also outlines more information about your coverage as well as situations in which you might not be covered by HIF, so please read the guide carefully and retain a copy for your records.

Visit **hif.com.au/guide** to access a copy online.

Got a question?

Visit our handy online knowledge base for 24/7 access to a wealth of information.

Visit **hif.com.au/help** to get started or call us on **1300 134 060**

Information correct as at 5 October 2026.