



**HEALTHIER, LONGER,
BETTER LIVES**

AIA Health Insurance

Bronze Plus Hospital

Effective 9 November 2023.

This information is important, please read thoroughly. For more information please refer to your [Member Guide](#) and [Fund Rules](#) or call us on 1800 333 004.

This is a summary of your cover. It includes important information about what hospital and medical services we pay benefits towards and what you are not covered for.

What's included in your hospital cover

This cover includes private hospital cover for all hospital admissions and procedures recognised by Medicare, other than those that are restricted or excluded in the hospital treatment product list table. AIA Health will also pay benefits towards included emergency ambulance transport by air, land and sea (see page 4).

AIA Vitality

At AIA Health, we believe health insurance should help people live healthier, longer, better lives. That's why we offer our policyholders (and partner where applicable) access to AIA Vitality, the science-backed health and wellbeing program that rewards you for getting to know your health and taking steps to improve it.

As an AIA Vitality member, you start your journey to better health at Bronze Status, with the opportunity to work your way up to Silver, Gold and Platinum by completing points-earning activities. The more points you earn, the higher your AIA Vitality Status and the greater the rewards. For more information regarding AIA Vitality please refer to the AIA Health Member Guide. Please contact us if you would like to discuss obtaining a product without access to AIA Vitality.

Excess

Your excess is the amount that you must contribute towards the cost of any hospital treatment during any calendar year. Bronze Plus Hospital cover has excess options of \$500 and \$750. No excess is payable for any dependants covered under a family or single family policy.

Each person on the policy (other than dependents) only needs to pay one excess per calendar year irrespective of how many hospital admissions that person has in the calendar year.

How do I get a 100% refund on my hospital excess?

AIA Health includes access to AIA Vitality, the science-backed health and wellbeing program that rewards you for looking after your health. If, at the time you are admitted into hospital, you have held an AIA Health policy for a minimum of six months and have an AIA Vitality Status of Silver or above, we will refund your excess. Simply submit a claim, including your receipt to get the excess refunded.

Please note that we must wait for the hospital to process your account before we are able to provide your refund. This can take anywhere between 1–8 weeks depending on the hospital.

	\$500 excess	\$750 excess
Maximum annual excess, per person	\$500	\$750
Dependant excess waiver	Yes	Yes

Important information about your hospital cover

How we communicate with you

As our primary method of communication is email, it is important that your contact details are kept up to date with your current email address to ensure you're able to receive any correspondence.

Going to hospital, out-of-pocket expenses and Access Gap Cover

Being admitted to hospital can be a stressful experience. You should contact us as soon as you know you need to go to hospital. We can help make the experience easier and help to ensure any out-of-pocket expenses you incur are minimised and to avoid any unexpected surprises.

Detailed information regarding going to hospital is included in the Member Guide and found in the FAQs at aia.com.au/health.

The Federal Government sets a schedule of fees for eligible services provided by doctors to inpatients in hospital. Medicare pays 75% of these scheduled fees and health funds like AIA Health pay the remaining 25%.

Doctors and providers are not restricted to charging the scheduled fee and are able to set their own fees, which can be higher than the scheduled fee. If your doctor chooses to charge a higher fee there will be a gap between what the Government and AIA Health will pay, and the total amount owed to the doctor. This is the 'Gap' that can leave you with significant out-of-pocket expenses.

AIA Health's Access Gap Cover

If your doctor participates in AIA Health's Access Gap Cover we'll pay even more than the 25% of the schedule fee for those medical fees and in-hospital diagnostics (including pathology and imaging) – leaving you with reduced, or even eliminated, out-of-pocket expenses. The best way to find out if your doctor is registered for AIA Health's Access Gap Cover is to ask them. Every doctor is different, and some will opt in or out on a patient-by-patient basis. If your doctor participates in AIA Health Insurance's Access Gap Cover they can either choose to participate as a 'no gap' or a 'known gap' charge as follows:

1. 'No Gap' – Your doctor participates in Gap Cover and does not charge you an out-of-pocket fee for the treatment you receive as an inpatient, or
2. 'Known Gap' – Your doctor participates in Gap Cover and charges you a reduced out-of-pocket fee for the treatment you receive as an inpatient. You should be aware of the costs before surgery.

Just remember to check your out-of-pocket fees with your doctor before agreeing to any treatment. Access Gap Cover does not apply for pathology/imaging and outpatient services.

Inpatient vs outpatient

For AIA Health to pay benefits towards treatment under your hospital cover, you'll need to be treated as a private inpatient. An inpatient is someone who has been admitted into hospital for a medical service. Outpatient services are medical services provided without a hospital admission, such as a consultation with a Specialist, Surgeon, General Practitioner (GP) or visits to an Emergency Department. Pathology and diagnostic imaging are also considered outpatient services where there is no admission. Health funds are unable to provide cover for outpatient services, however you may be eligible to receive a benefit from Medicare.

Participating hospitals

AIA Health has agreements with most private hospitals and day surgeries across Australia. When treated for an included service as a private patient in one of our participating hospitals, we'll generally pay benefits towards all hospital accommodation charges as part of our agreement with that hospital. This means your out-of-pocket expenses will be limited to your excess, any expenses related to your medical provider's fees, any gap for a medical device/human tissue product, high cost drugs and inpatient pathology/imaging.

To find out if your treating hospital has an agreement with AIA Health, please contact our Member Services team.

Private patient in a public hospital

AIA Health will only pay for same day or overnight accommodation in a public hospital shared room or ward, up to the minimum rate as set by the Australian Government. As a private patient you could be charged extra for private room accommodation in a public hospital. There may be other charges imposed by the public hospital if being treated as a private patient and the member will be required to pay any difference between the benefit AIA pays and the amount the hospital charges (in addition to private room accommodation and any applicable excess and/or co-payment).

Bronze Plus Hospital – Hospital treatment list

Hospital treatments	Included, Restricted or Excluded	Waiting periods ¹
Rehabilitation	R	We will recognise waiting periods already served for equivalent services with your previous insurer when you switch to AIA Health. If you are new to private health insurance, you will need to serve any applicable waiting periods. Waiting periods may also apply if you have upgraded your cover or have not fully served your waiting periods for those services with your previous insurer.
Hospital psychiatric services	R	
Palliative care	R	
Brain and nervous system	✓	The following waiting periods apply:
Eye (not cataracts)	✓	
Ear, nose and throat	✓	12 months
Tonsils, adenoids and grommets	✓	Pre-existing conditions, ailments or illnesses.
Bone, joint and muscle	✓	2 months
Joint reconstructions	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation • Hospital psychiatric services • Palliative care • All other hospital admissions included on your cover.
Kidney and bladder	✓	1 day
Male reproductive system	✓	Accidents and emergency ambulance.
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 management (excluding insulin pumps)	✓	
Accidental injury ²	✓	
emergency ambulance ³	✓	
Lung and chest	✓	
Blood	✓	
Plastic and reconstructive surgery (medically necessary)	✓	
Dental surgery	✓	
Podiatric surgery (provided by a registered podiatric surgeon)	✓	
Heart and vascular system	×	
Back, neck and spine	×	
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	×	
Travel and accommodation	×	

R Restricted service

✓ Included

× Excluded

Minimum required to be covered under Bronze cover

Your hospital cover explained

1. Waiting periods

Waiting periods are the period of time during which a member is not entitled to the benefits of the policy. Waiting periods can apply when changing your cover to include new or upgraded services. If you're switching to AIA Health from another equivalent policy, you won't need to re-serve waiting periods already served with your previous health insurer. Waiting periods may apply if you have upgraded your cover with AIA Health. If you have transferred from another health insurer without a break in cover, you do not need to re-serve hospital waiting periods you have previously served. However, if you are adding to or upgrading your hospital cover, you do need to serve waiting periods for the new or upgraded services.

A newborn, adopted child, step child or fostered child can be added to a family/single parent membership without waiting periods provided that the policyholder has held the policy for more than two months, and that child is added within six months of birth/adoption fostering, or within six months of the step child's biological parent being added as a partner under the main policyholder's policy. The join date will be effective as at the newborn's date of birth.

Other child dependants added to a policy will be subject to new waiting periods. This includes children added more than six months after birth, adopted children, foster children and step children. Normal portability rules will apply in the case where a child is transferring from another health insurer.

Mental health waiting period exemption

Members with limited cover for psychiatric care are able to upgrade their cover to access higher benefits for in-hospital treatment without serving a waiting period. Members are only able to use this exemption from the existing two-month waiting period once in their lifetime.

2. Accidental injury

All AIA Health products include cover to be treated in an agreement private hospital or as a private patient in a public hospital for injuries sustained through an accident. An accident is an unforeseen event – occurring by chance and caused by an external force or object – which results in involuntary injury to the body requiring immediate treatment. The accident must occur after the time of joining or upgrading your cover. An accident does not include any unforeseen conditions, the onset of which are due to medical causes nor does it include pre-existing conditions, falling pregnant or accidents arising from surgical procedures. For AIA Health to pay benefits towards an accident, treatment must be sought through a Doctor or an Emergency Department within 48 hours of sustaining the injury.

3. Included emergency ambulance treatment

AIA Health will pay benefits towards clinically necessary emergency ambulance services where you are transported directly to a hospital in Australia, or require on-site treatment only. AIA Health does not pay benefits towards transfers between hospitals (including in an emergency).

Included emergency ambulance services requiring on-site treatment only is limited to two call outs per calendar year, per insured person.

Emergencies are circumstances when immediate hospital treatment is required for a serious and acute injury or condition where the viability or function of an organ or body part is threatened.

Note: Tasmania and Queensland have State schemes to cover ambulance services for residents of those States. AIA Health will not pay benefits towards ambulance services where it is provided by the State.

We recommend members purchase state-based ambulance membership where applicable to ensure they are fully protected against the cost of ambulance transport and treatment by paramedics. This is not required for Queensland and Tasmanian residents where ambulance services are provided under State schemes. It may also not be required for New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory residents as when members have Hospital cover in those States, they pay a government-imposed ambulance levy as part of their health insurance premium. Check with your state Ambulance authority to ensure you have the right level of cover for emergency treatment and non-emergency ambulance transport by paramedics within Australia. Without the right level of cover, members may face significant out-of-pocket costs for ambulance transport.

What is a pre-existing condition?

A pre-existing condition (PEC) is one where signs or symptoms of your ailment, illness or condition, in the opinion of a medical practitioner appointed by AIA Health (not your own doctor), existed at any time during the six months preceding the day on which you purchased or upgraded your hospital cover.

Restricted services

Restricted services are hospital claims which are limited to a minimum (default) benefit. This is a minimum dollar amount set by the Federal Government for accommodation as a private patient in a shared room of a public hospital.

A restricted service does not pay any money towards the cost of intensive and coronary care, or theatre fees in a private hospital or private day centre. The minimum default benefit is unlikely to cover other costs such as the cost of accommodation in a private hospital. Therefore you may incur a large out-of-pocket expense if you receive a restricted service in a private hospital, private day centre or private room in a public hospital.

Excluded services

If a service is excluded, this means that AIA Health does not pay any benefits towards the hospital, medical or other costs relating to that service.

This also excludes hospital treatments for which Medicare pays no benefit – such as cosmetic surgery.

Pharmacy benefits

Provided a hospital admission is not related to an excluded treatment, AIA Health will pay benefits towards certain pharmaceuticals administered while admitted to a participating private hospital. This includes both Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and non-PBS items. Medications dispensed upon being discharged from hospital, high-cost medications and experimental drugs are excluded.

AIA Health may make changes to this cover from time to time, including adding or reducing the benefits or services available to you, and notice of such changes will be provided via email in accordance with the PHI Act, Code of Conduct and Australian Consumer Law. If you are unhappy with those changes, you are able to switch to a different level of cover with us, or cancel your membership.