

What type of health insurance?



There are three main types of health insurance in New Zealand:

Comprehensive

Comprehensive health insurance products provide cover for both major surgery and day-to-day medical expenses.

Major medical

Major medical policies typically provide cover for elective surgery, major treatments and the cost of specialist visits, but do not cover day-to-day medical expenses.

Minor medical

Minor medical insurance products provide cover for day-to-day medical treatments, but provide little or no cover for more significant major surgery or treatment costs.

Major medical policies are the most popular, accounting for around 69 percent of all policies. These typically cover only health conditions which require surgical treatment and related expenses. This means you still pay for day-to-day costs like doctor's visits and prescription charges.

Minor medical policies are the least popular – and represent just 3 percent of policies. Because the level of cover is limited, it is a good idea if considering such a policy to find out more about whether policies have an upgrade path in the future to include surgical cover.

Most insurers offer a range of plan levels – from extensive cover through to basic core policies covering surgical treatment only. Often insurers offer plans with add-ons for services such as diagnostic, optical or dental cover. In addition to the plan type, most insurers will provide a range of excess options, with higher excesses linked to lower premiums. This means you can tailor the level of cover you need to your particular circumstances.

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