

Ask

THE EXPERT

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GENERAL INSURANCE

Disclose medical conditions before opting for a health policy

My office has given me a mediclaim of Rs 5 lakh. However, I do know that for the security of my family, I should not depend on the office Mediclaim alone. Due to pre-existing disease, insurers have rejected to give the policy to my mother. In this situation, can I get a family health insurance covering my parents.

—RAJESH MISTRY

Health insurance policies have a waiting period of 1-4 years for pre-existing illnesses. If the elderly parents are suffering from a pre-existing disease then the medical benefit for that illness would be excluded by the insurer from your policy. It is always advisable to disclose the medical adversity if any, while opting for a policy to avoid future consequences. Your mother may require to undergo pre-policy medical check-ups.

I am a 33-year old. At the age of 28, I had bought a health cover of Rs 5 lakh for my family. A couple of years back, I got married. For securing the future of my wife, I want to increase the sum insured. Should I increase the sum of the existing plan or should I opt for a new policy for her.

—S RAMESH

Increase in sum insured of the existing plan would be a better option. The enhancement in sum insured at the renewal is subject to the underwriting guidelines, claims experience and health declarations in the fresh proposal form. Alternatively, you can also opt for an additional sum insured cover under another retail health insurance product eg. top up cover, an affordable health insurance plan.