

Goodhealth Worldwide International Healthcare Plan

Contact 0870 442 7376 or www.goodhealth.co.uk

The company:

Specialist international medical insurance provider **Goodhealth Worldwide** is Bermuda-based and currently provides cover for over 55,000 expats worldwide. Established almost 25 years ago, it is now becoming part of the giant international Aetna group's global benefits business. Aetna has around 35m customers worldwide.

The product:

From the start of September 2007, a number of key changes and improvements have been introduced to the existing flagship product including:

- Routine management of chronic conditions benefit changed from a lifetime to an annual limit (£9,375 a year).
- Also now covers renal dialysis.
- AIDS benefit changed from lifetime to £6,250 a year.
- Routine maternity benefit increased from £5,300 to £6,250 on Lifestyle Plus.
- Podiatrists and recognised traditional Chinese Practitioners (practicing outside China) added to the list of alternative treatments.
- Outpatient psychiatric care now limited to £3,125 per period of cover per person.
- Post-hospital outpatient cover under Major Medical extended to cover pre-hospitalisation costs up to £1,000 in aggregate.
- Innocent bystanders now covered for all war-related risks, not just acts of terrorism, up to \$50,000 for bodily injury.

In addition, two new benefit sections have been added:

- A specific benefit for organ transplant, outlining the specific transplants covered.
- Rehabilitation – up to 120 days per medical condition.

And one new benefit:

- Ancillary charges (e.g. wheelchairs and crutches) – up to £625 per medical condition.

As before, to the core Foundation plan can be added Major Medical; Lifestyle; Lifestyle Plus; USA Elective Treatment; Semi-Private Room



Restriction; China Private Room Restriction; Direct Settlement Network; Extended Evacuation; Medical History Disregarded; and Extension to Lifestyle Plus options. Options can either increase or decrease the cost, depending on the cover provided.

Goodhealth has also made some detailed changes to its definitions, exclusions and claims procedures as part of its regular review of its products. The plan is available in most territories but not in Abu Dhabi at present.

Competitiveness and price:

A 37 year old living in the Middle East could pay £582 a year for Major Medical, £1,409 for Lifestyle and £1,824 for Lifestyle Plus, all based on a nil annual excess. Premiums and benefits can be in other currencies too.

Literature:

Full details on the website.

What they say:

Group managing director Martin Garcia said: "The changes to our flagship plan reflect the excellent feedback we get from brokers and we aim to make the International Healthcare Plan a true class leader that is also very marketable too."

What we say:

The latest changes to Goodhealth's flagship International Healthcare Plan will help ensure that it remains attractive and suited to the market's needs. Like many other international insurers, its approach is evolutionary – changing the product as the market's needs change.

Moving from lifetime to annual limits for some benefits should be beneficial in many cases, but for some it could mean less cover.

Becoming part of Aetna should also be a positive move, bringing additional resource and expertise.

Pros

- Comprehensive cover available via a range of options
- Can be tailored to business, personal and geographic needs
- Evolution of an already well-established product from a market specialist, now with the backing of Aetna

Cons

- Some benefits could be lower than before in practice
- Can get expensive, especially as you add options
- Like all menu plans can be complex

Health Insurance rating: 8 out of 10

