



Accurate Risk Managers & Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd.

IRDA INSTRUCTS INSURERS TO COVER MENTAL ILLNESS BY MONTH-END

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has asked all insurance companies furnishing health insurance to confirm compliance with regulations to cover mental illness by all insurance products before October 31.

Issuing a circular, Irdai has reiterated that all insurance products shall cover mental illness and obey with the provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 without any detour. The Act came into force with effect from May 5, 2018. Conforming to the Act, every insurer shall make provision for medical insurance for treatment of mental illness on the same base as is available for treatment of physical illness. The insurance board in August 2018 had directed all insurance companies to obey with the provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act with immediate effect. "Insurers are requested to confirm compliancy before October 31, 2022," Irdai acknowledged in a circular issued on Tuesday.

The Insurance Board has also said it's seen that numerous health insurance products that are retailed by insurers aren't furnishing cover to infant babies with internal natural birth defects from day one, therefore going against the "true spirit" of the guidelines. It was ordered by Irdai earlier this year that internal natural conditions, hereditary conditions or diseases aren't allowed to be incorporated as exclusions in the terms and conditions of the policy contract. The intent of the above provision was to cover infant with internal born birth defects from day one.

It's repeated that all insurance products that cover infant unborn shall comply with the necessary provisions without any deviation and give coverage from day one without putting any waiting periods sub-limits or any other restrictive conditions, Irdai said in its circular dated October 18. "These instructions shall advance into force with instant effect,"