

SBI Health Assist Scheme:

SBI Health Assist Scheme is now designed by SBI to cover pensioners including e-Abs Pensioners and Family Pensioners. This is only an improved form of erstwhile Medical Insurance **Policy B** applicable for SBI pensioners till now.

Attention of the members is drawn that **CEABRO the earlier version of SBRA** had been demanding to cover e-AB retirees and family pensioners also under **Plan B of SBI**. The letters addressed to Chairman in this regard are placed in the web site. We have communicated in our letter to Chairman on 16/12/2019 the inadequacies of IBA policy and sought coverage of Plan B to e-AB retirees also.

We are happy that State Bank of India has considered our request favourably and has allowed e-Abs retirees and Family Pensioners to join **Plan B with effect from 16/01/2020 as the connected policy is due for renewal from that date.**

As the improvements now brought into erstwhile Policy B , which from now onwards called SBI Health Assist Scheme , has many beneficial features vis- a-vis the policy under IBA Scheme , we suggest all our members to join the “ SBI Health Assist Scheme” without any hesitation and act fast to join the scheme by paying the premium.

The salient features of the scheme circulated vide circular no. CDO /P^HRD-PPFG/65/2019 dated 27/12/2019 are :

- The Scheme is now called “ Annual Payment Plan-SBI Health Assist “
- Retirees of e- Abs and their surviving spouses and Family Pensioners are eligible to join the scheme with a waiting period of 30 days, in addition to retirees of SBI.
- Those who were dismissed/ discharged / compulsorily retired / terminated are not eligible to join the scheme. All others categories of retirees are eligible to join.
- The basic limits and premium thereof are as under:

Sum Insured.	Premium.	GST.	Total premium to be paid by retiree
Rs. 3 lacs.	Rs. 16,542.	Rs.2978.	Rs. 19,520.
Rs. 5 lacs.	Rs. 36,771.	Rs.6619	Rs. 43,390

The retirees can choose either 3 lacs or 5 lacs as per their need and requirements. However, it is suggested that 3 lacs limit will be ideal for many of the retirees.

- Super top- up limit of Rs. 6 lacs is also available to all members with no additional premium burden to retirees as the bank will bear the cost of premium for super top up limit. Thus for a gross premium of Rs 19,520/- , a total coverage of 9lacs is available and for a gross premium of Rs.43,390/- , a total coverage of 11 lacs is available to members under the scheme. **Here the beneficial part is that the retirees paid a premium of Rs. 39,327/- for a coverage of 9 lacs under IBA Medical Policy, whereas now under the Present Health Assist scheme the members need to pay Rs.19,520/- only while pensioners with 70 years or more and family pensioners need to pay only 11,249/- because the bank is providing subsidy to these aged pensioners to the extent of Rs. 8,271/-**
- Dental treatment covered for Root Canal Treatment upto a maximum of Rs. 7500/- per anum per family. This will be an important additional benefit , which is not available in IBA policy.
- With an additional premium of Rs.16,253/- over and above the premium in the above table , the needy members are provided with Critical Illness cover of Rs.5 lacs covering 14 ailments. Only those who are 65 years of Age or less are only eligible to be covered under the critical illness cover. This critical illness cover is only optional.

- Room Rent and ICCU rent are also revised
- As given above, bank is allowing under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs 8271/- to all family pensioners and to those Retirees who are 70 years and above as on 16/01/2020. However, members would be required to make payment of premium in full and after completion of process, the Corporate Centre will reimburse the subsidy directly to the pension accounts of members. The subsidy is only Rs 8271/- for both basic plans of Rs.3 lacs and Rs.5 lacs.
- The scheme is also providing for Domiciliary Facility (e- Pharmacy Tie – Up) outside the insurance policy as a measure of support to members to meet domiciliary medical expenses by providing e- Pharmacy Facility upto Rs.18000 with an own contribution of Rs. 6000/- . Bank will make arrangement with a Pharma Company for providing such service. Thus with a contribution of Rs 6000/- , a members gets medicines upto 18000/- and this gives an additional substantial benefit.
- SBI General Insurance Company will be servicing this policy for a period of 3 years with the same terms and conditions. The premium will not undergo any upward revision during the 3 year period , if the policy is with SBI General Insurance Co.

To illustrate this by example :

A) for Retiree below 70 years of age as on 16/01/2020

Premium paid for 3 lacs. Rs. 19,520/- (including GST)

While the premium is far less compared to IBA policy , the member gets 6 lacs super top up free of payment and also gets Rs 12,000/- benefit of domiciliary expenditure if he opts for domiciliary facility with a payment of Rs. 6000/-.

B) for Retiree Aged 70 years & above as on 16/01/2020

Premium paid for 3 lacs. Rs. 19,520/-

Less subsidy. Rs. 8,271/-

Net premium payable by member. Rs. 11,249/-

Thus for a premium of 11,249/-, the member gets 6 lacs super top up cover of 6 lacs cover free of payment . Thus he gets 9 lacs cover against a payment of Rs. 11,249/-, besides he also gets Rs. 12,000/- benefit of domiciliary expenditure by opting domiciliary facility with a payment of 6000/-.

It is strongly suggested to our members to join the scheme in view of several improvements made in the scheme and more favourable terms exist in the scheme compared to IBA policy. Notwithstanding the fact that we are members in the existing current IBA policy , we suggest to take this policy also, for current year because the bank may or may not give admission if we wait for next year. For those who are aged 70 and above the cost is negligible and they may take without any hesitation. For those less than 70 years age, we suggest to take a prudent decision as there are many beneficial features in the scheme and we appeal not to be complacent in taking quick decision and we feel it may prove to be a costly miss if we cannot join the scheme now.

In view of the above, all the office bearers of SBHREA are suggested to guide all pensioners from e-SBH to join the scheme immediately. It is suggested that the necessary formalities like submission of consent in the proforma together with authority to debit premium/ cheque be promptly given to the pension paying branch and complete the formalities in the first week of January 2020 without fail.

V. Sombabu

