

How to choose an excess

The right excess for you depends on your needs.

We see the excess as a partnership between you and us. A higher excess helps us reduce our spending on medical treatment, and we pass on savings to your premium. So—as a rule of thumb, a higher excess means a lower premium.

Here are a couple of considerations that members typically make when choosing an excess: -

Catastrophe – Some members might choose an extremely high excess (e.g. US\$5,000 per annum). Such an excess means their health plan serves as protection only against the most serious and expensive catastrophic health issues, such as cancer or hospital surgery. Most likely, members with a US\$5,000 or US\$10,000 excess will not be reimbursed for everyday medical care and other low-cost treatments because these medical expenses are unlikely to exceed the excess. As such, a ‘catastrophe’ excess is typically taken with a Bronze plan, which doesn’t have much cover for everyday medical care anyway.

Balanced – Most members opt for somewhere in the middle. They choose an excess that gives an acceptable fixed amount they’ll pay for each medical condition, in exchange for a reasonable saving on their premium.

Maximum cover– For members wanting assurance that all their healthcare costs will be paid in full, both in and out of hospital, the nil excess might be best. Since these members won’t be helping us to reduce our spending on medical treatment, there will be no savings for us to pass onto their premiums. A nil or US\$50 per claim excess is typically taken out with a Silver or Gold plan, which provides full cover for everyday medical care.

Excess options	Bronze	SilverLite	Silver	Gold
Nil	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Per claim options</i>				
US\$50 /£33 /€45		✓	✓	✓
US\$100 /£67 /€90		✓	✓	✓
US\$800 /£530 /€750	✓	✓	✓	✓
US\$1,600 /£1,060 /€1,500	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Per annum options</i>				
US\$250 /£167 /€225	✓	✓	✓	✓
US\$500 /£330 /€450	✓	✓	✓	✓
US\$1,000 /£660 /€1,000	✓	✓	✓	✓
US\$2,500 /£1,660 /€2,500	✓	✓	✓	✓
US\$5,000 /£3,330 /€5,000	✓	✓	✓	✓
US\$10,000 /£6,660 /€10,000	✓	✓	✓	✓