

# Portability (Health Insurance)

## What does this mean?

**Portability** in health insurance allows you to **switch from one insurance company to another without losing the benefits of your existing policy.**

This means you can move to a new insurer while **retaining continuity benefits** such as waiting periods, no claim bonus, and credit for time already spent in the old policy.

Portability is regulated by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

## Why is this Important?

### Freedom to change insurers

You are not locked into one insurer if you are unhappy with services.

### Keep accumulated benefits

Waiting period credits and bonuses are carried forward.

### Access better plans

You can upgrade to better coverage, features, or lower premiums.

### Improves customer service

Encourages insurers to offer better service and products.

## How does it Work in Insurance?

1. You apply for portability **at least 45–60 days before renewal.**
2. The new insurer reviews your existing policy details and medical history.
3. If approved, the policy is issued with **continuity benefits.**
4. The new policy starts from the renewal date.

There should be **no break in coverage** during the switch.

## What Benefits Can Be Carried Forward?

You can retain:

- Waiting period credit
- No Claim Bonus (NCB)
- Pre-existing disease waiting period benefits
- Policy tenure benefits

These are transferred up to the **existing sum insured**.

## Where is Portability Useful?

Portability helps when:

- You are unhappy with claim settlement or service
- Premiums become too expensive
- You want better features or higher coverage
- Your current policy has limited network hospitals

## Which Policies Can Be Ported?

You can port:

- Individual health insurance policies
- Family floater policies
- Group health insurance (when leaving employer, if insurer allows migration)

## When Should You Use Portability?

Ideal time to consider portability:

- At policy renewal
- After comparing better plans
- When claim experience is poor
- When coverage becomes insufficient

Portability is allowed **only during renewal**, not mid-policy.

## Simple Example

Amit has been insured with Company A for 5 years.

He wants better coverage and service from Company B.

He applies for portability before renewal and switches successfully.

His waiting period benefits and No Claim Bonus continue in the new policy.

## Key Points to Remember

- Must apply before renewal (45–60 days prior)
- No break in policy allowed
- Benefits transfer up to existing coverage
- New insurer decides acceptance based on underwriting

## Simple Summary

Portability lets you **change insurers without losing your insurance history and benefits.**