



MEARNS
& COMPANY
CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE Decision Making Guide



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Core cover

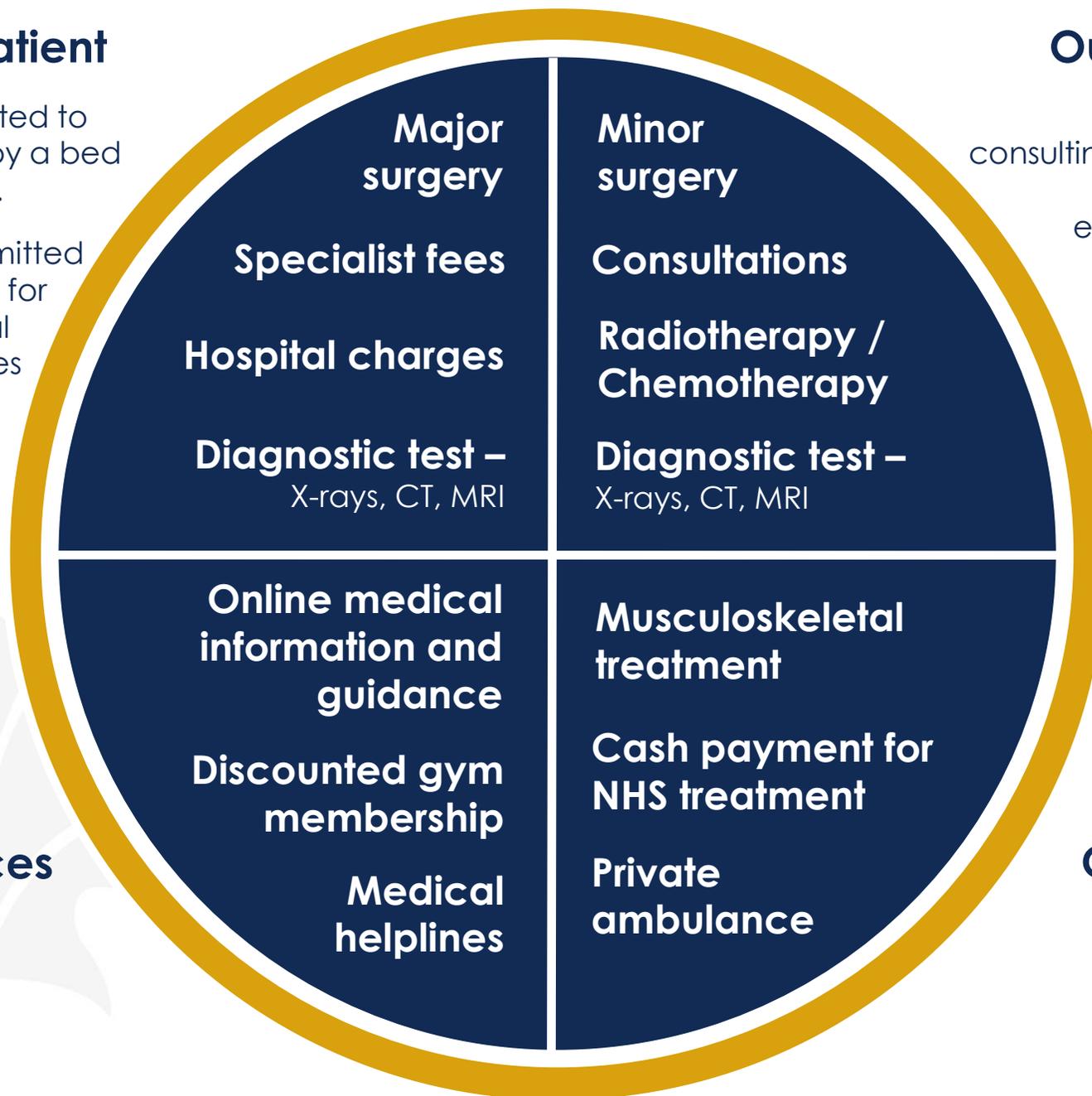
In & Day-patient

'In-patient' – admitted to hospital and occupy a bed overnight or longer.

'Day-patient' – admitted To a hospital or unit for a period of medical supervision, but does not occupy a bed overnight.

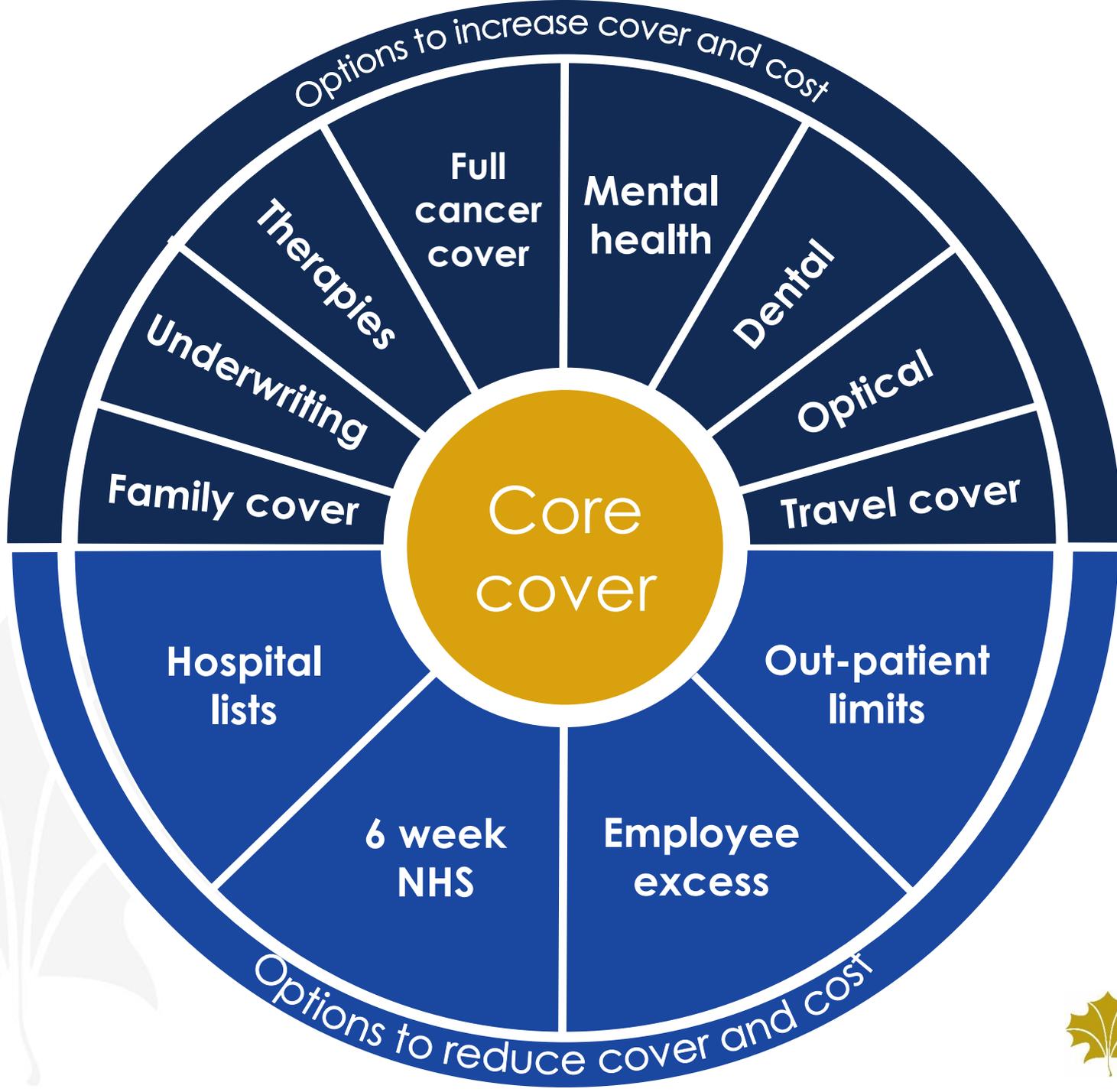
Out-patient

Attends a hospital, consulting room or clinic, but is not admitted either as an in or day-patient.



Support services

Other benefits



Options to increase cover and cost

Family cover	Underwriting	Therapies	Full cancer cover
<p>Cover can be provided for spouse/partner and/or dependent children.</p> <p>Different providers set different age limits for children (21-30)</p>	<p>New schemes typically set up on a moratorium basis – no cover for medical conditions in the last five years until free of symptoms or treatment for two years.</p> <p>Alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full medical underwriting- Medical history disregarded	<p>Cover for out-patient treatment from:</p> <p>For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Physiotherapists- Acupuncturists- Homeopaths- Osteopaths- Chiropractors	<p>In-patient, day-patient, and out-patient cancer treatment. Not normally affected by any out-patient limits applied.</p> <p>Other treatment examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cancer drugs- Experimental treatment- Palliative care
Mental health	Dental	Optical	Travel cover
<p>In-patient, day-patient, and out-patient psychiatric treatment</p>	<p>Typically covers a proportion of routine dental treatment, not 100%.</p> <p>Also cover for accidental injury.</p>	<p>Typically covers a proportion of routine optical treatment, not 100%.</p>	<p>Emergency medical cover for overseas travel – limited to a set number of days per trip.</p> <p>Some providers can also include full travel insurance cover (e.g. cancellation, lost baggage).</p>

Options to reduce cover and cost

Hospital lists

Some insurers have different categories of hospitals. These are graded based on fees charged – typically where the insurer has a fee agreement in place. Some Central London hospitals are only available on the comprehensive and, therefore, most expensive list.

6 weeks NHS

If the NHS can provide the treatment required within six weeks of when it is required, treatment must be received from the NHS.

This does not mean that an employee must wait six weeks to find out if the NHS can provide treatment; if the waiting period is longer than six weeks, they can get private treatment straightaway.

Out-patient limits

Typically a monetary limit on out-patient consultations, tests and treatments. Some providers do use a 'number of treatments' limit at the lowest level rather than a monetary amount. This is broadly comparable with a monetary amount.

The limits are typically:

£0
£1,000
£1,500

Employee excess

If employees make a claim, they will be responsible for paying a monetary amount. This typically only applies on a 'per member, per year' basis.

The allowable amounts vary by provider, but are typically around:

£100
£200
£500