

THREE-QUARTERS OF HOLIDAYMAKERS CLUELESS

ABOUT TRAVEL INSURANCE

More than three-quarters of holidaymakers are oblivious as to whether their travel insurance is offering them the right protection.

The majority (78%) of the 2,000 people questioned admitted they were unaware of details in their policy including exclusions and the level of protection offered, according to a report commissioned by Go Travel Insurance.

And it's those that are jetting off on a short break which are the least likely to take out any insurance at all.

Figures from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office show that up to 50% of people going away for a few days are uninsured, compared to 13% of people taking breaks of a week or more.

Christian Young, chief executive of Go Travel Insurance said: "Most people think that the insurance policy is there to cover lost cameras or delayed baggage but the truth is that it's emergency medical assistance and in serious cases repatriation to the UK that are the things policies are there to cover you for.

"If you fall seriously ill or have an accident overseas, medical costs can be huge. Without travel insurance, you would be left to pay the bill personally."

Typical medical costs:

- Gastro-enteritis treatment in the Mediterranean: £400 - £600
- Two days in a general hospital ward in the Mediterranean: £600
- Broken leg in the USA: £10,000
- Scheduled flight in business class with a nurse escort from the west coast of the USA: £9,000 - £12,000
- Air ambulance back to the UK from the Balearics: £10,000 - £12,000
- Bronchitis requiring seven days' in-patient treatment in the Far East: £15,000
- Bronchitis requiring seven days' in-patient treatment in the USA: £20,000

Go Travel Insurance warns that even if travelling within the EU with a European Health Insurance card [which replaced the old E111 form] you may find that you

have to pay a large percentage of the cost of treatments which you may have expected to be free. There is no substitute for a comprehensive travel insurance policy.

"We are aware that travel insurance is often a last minute purchase made grudgingly but at Go Travel Insurance we do all we can to provide customers with easy-to-read and understand literature both on the website and in leaflets sent with policies.

"By following this advice you'll be able to relax and enjoy your holiday safe in the knowledge that you're covered in case of emergency during your trip," said Young.

ENDS

Editors Notes:

- Go Travel Insurance is a division of Drakefield Insurance Services Limited. Drakefield is an experienced operator of established travel insurance websites and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.
- Go Travel Insurance offers a truly end to end service, with claims, call centre and medical screening, all handled in-house in the UK, giving a customer-focused and professional service every time.
- The Go Travel Insurance website has been operating since 2000 providing instant quotes with quick, easy and secure online buying **www.gotravelinsurance.co.uk**
- Go Travel Insurance is committed to customer service, always ensuring that the customer is delivered a quality product at a competitive cost:
 - Single Trip cover from £3.95
 - Annual Multi Trip cover from £31.95
- Drakefield is an AA Group company and works with the following organisations:
 - Financial Services Authority
 - Financial Services Compensation Scheme
 - British Insurance Broker Association (BIBA No. 005340)
 - Association of British Travel Agents (associate member)
 - Institute of Travel and Tourism
 - Association of Travel Insurance Intermediaries

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office 'Know Before You Go' campaign

For more media information call Louise Prior at Prior PR on 07786 227572 or louise@priorpr.com