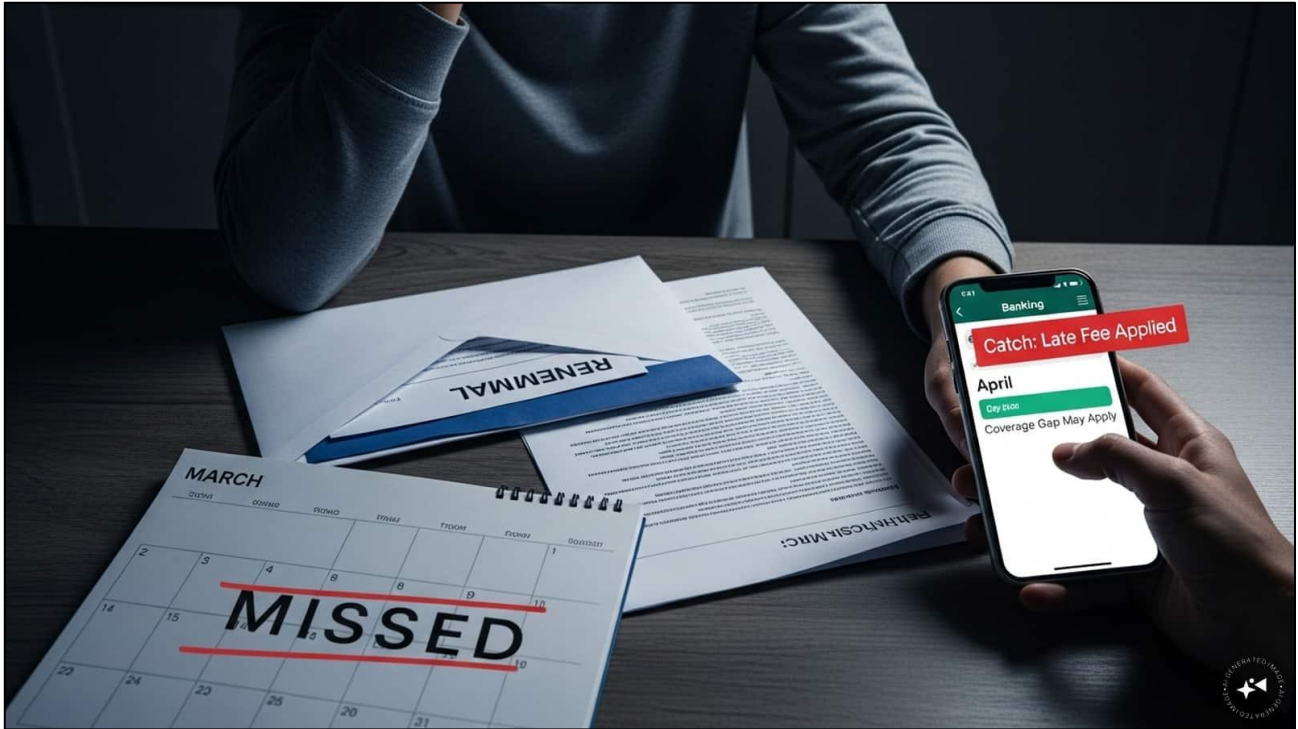


Article Date	Headline / Summary	Publication
06 Apr 2026	Missed March renewal? You can pay in April and keep health insurance cover, but there's a catch	Moneycontrol

[Missed March renewal? You can pay in April and keep health insurance cover, but there's a catch](#)



Many people worry about missing their health insurance renewal date. This is a common concern among policyholders, particularly when renewal timelines overlap with other commitments. Even a brief lapse can impact accrued benefits, which is why understanding renewal timelines and continuity provisions is essential for making responsible financial decisions.

In India, most health insurance policies include a built-in grace period after the renewal due date. This is a specific window of time after your policy's due date during which you can still pay your renewal premium without losing your accumulated policy benefits.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) mandates this grace period to ensure policyholders are not penalised for minor delays. Typically, the grace period is 15 days for policies with monthly premiums and 30 days for policies renewed quarterly, half-yearly, or annually.

"If you make your payment within this stipulated grace period, your policy remains active, and you retain all its accrued benefits. Even if the grace period lapses, you may request the insurer to continue your benefits, provided no claims were made during the lapsed period. In such cases, the insurer may require a health declaration or even a fresh proposal form to evaluate your request for continued coverage," said Dr Tapan Singhel, MD and CEO, Bajaj General Insurance Limited (formerly known as Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited).

This simply means that you can pay a premium in April, but full continuity of cover is only protected if you renew within the grace period. However, even then, the gap days remain uninsured.

What is continuity of benefits?

Renewing within the grace period ensures that the continuity of your policy remains intact. This is significant because all waiting periods you have already served, whether for pre-existing conditions, maternity benefits, or specific treatments, continue to be recognised without reset. In addition, accumulated benefits such as the No Claim Bonus or cumulative bonus remain protected.

The grace period is therefore designed as a regulatory buffer, allowing policyholders to regularise a short delay without losing the long-term advantages built into their health cover.

It is equally important to understand how claims are treated during this period. While the grace period protects your continuity benefits, coverage is not considered fully active until the renewal premium is paid.

Singhel says, "If a medical expense arises during the grace period, the claim is typically processed only after the outstanding premium is received and the policy is reinstated. For this reason, policyholders should not view the grace period as an extension of active coverage, but rather as a limited window to regularise payment."

This makes it prudent to renew your policy as soon as possible to avoid any interruption in coverage, ensuring you and your family members remain covered by health insurance.

If the premium is not paid within the stipulated grace period, the policy may lapse, and that can materially alter the value you have built over the years.

Bottom line

Check your policy document for the exact grace period, and pay the premium immediately if it is still within that window.