



Optional group
critical illness
insurance

Financial support at a critical time

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Policy No. 168076 and 168002

Medical advances have greatly increased the ability of Canadians to survive a critical illness. However, few of us are prepared for the financial burdens that can threaten both our lifestyle and our security.

Optional Group Critical Illness Insurance is designed to provide financial security when illness puts assets and savings at risk. This valuable coverage allows you to focus on what's important – regaining your health.

What are the chances of incurring a critical illness?

Statistics show that:

- One in two Canadians have been touched by heart disease
- Two in five Canadians will develop cancer
- More than 350,000 Canadians are hospitalized for heart disease or strokes each year

The good news is people often recover or live longer. In fact, 90 per cent of hospitalized heart attack patients survive, and 80 per cent of stroke patients survive the initial event.

How is Optional Group Critical Illness Insurance different from disability insurance?

Disability insurance replaces lost income while Optional Group Critical Illness Insurance provides a tax-free lump sum payment you can use to cover any expenses you choose, such as private nursing or medical care, modifications to your home, or child care costs. Benefit payment is made shortly after diagnosis and is dependent on clear medical definitions.

* Sources: Heart and Stroke Foundation, 2015; National Cancer Institute of Canada: Canadian Cancer Statistics, 2015, Heart and Stroke Foundation, 2014 Report on Health

Coverage highlights

What is covered?

Optional Group Critical Illness offers coverage for the following critical illnesses:

- Alzheimer's disease
- Aortic surgery
- Aplastic anemia
- Bacterial meningitis
- Benign brain tumour
- Blindness
- Cancer*
- Coma
- Coronary artery bypass surgery
- Deafness
- Heart attack
- Heart valve replacement
- Kidney failure
- Loss of independent existence
- Loss of limbs
- Loss of speech
- Major organ transplants
- Motor neuron disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Occupational HIV
- Paralysis
- Parkinson's disease
- Severe burns
- Stroke

Specific criteria are used to define each covered illness.

Coverage for a pre-existing condition may be limited for the first two years after your coverage takes effect.

*Some exclusions apply to cancer based on the severity of the condition and the diagnosis provided by the attending physician.

Who can enrol?

If you are an employee under the age of 65, you are eligible to apply for coverage.*

*Retirees and employees age 65 and over are not eligible for this benefit.

Dependant coverage

Your spouse and dependent children may also be eligible for coverage provided that you, as the employee, are covered under this benefit.

Coverage amounts

Coverage for an employee is \$25,000* and for a spouse is \$10,000. Coverage for a dependent child is \$5,000 per child.

* A person who is insurable as both an employee and a spouse is limited to a \$25,000 maximum benefit.

Benefit payment

The tax-free lump sum benefit is paid following a waiting period of 30 days after the diagnosis of a covered critical illness. For certain covered illnesses, a longer waiting period applies to confirm diagnosis before the benefit will be paid.

Coverage for cancer will not begin until 90 days after your coverage takes effect.

You choose how you benefit

In many instances, treatment options aren't the only kind of financial strain when diagnosed with a critical illness and many expenses associated are not covered by existing private and public health care plans. These costs can impact your financial health and deplete your savings and assets. Some examples of how your lump sum benefit can help include:

Private nursing

Many individuals want to recover from a critical illness in the comfort of their own home. The benefit can be used to hire nursing or other personal staff.

Private medical care

More Canadians are choosing to seek out their own medical care, whether in the United States or elsewhere. This benefit can provide you with funds required for private treatment.

Lifestyle adaptation

Certain critical illnesses, such as a stroke or blindness, can cause physical limitations. This benefit can be used to pay for modifications to your home or the purchase of specially equipped vehicles.

Child care

During a critical illness, the OCI benefit can help provide assistance with child care to ensure that your children receive the attention they need.

How to apply

To apply for coverage, you must complete an application form and health questionnaire, which are available from your plan administrator. Your coverage will take effect once all required medical information is approved by Canada Life.

Optional Group Critical Illness Insurance can help you overcome financial burdens at a critical time. To enrol in the plan or to find out more, talk to your plan administrator.



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