

Critical Illness Insurance

One of the great advantages of modern technology is that it's allowing more people to survive once-fatal medical conditions. However, the unfortunate reality is that many survivors must bear a heavy financial burden for things like medical treatment outside Canada, or ongoing care at home or in a facility. What can prevent depletion of your savings if you should fall ill? Critical Illness (CI) insurance can stop loss and protect your assets.

Protect Your Financial Health

You've worked hard to save and have made wise investment decisions to ensure financial security for you and your family in the future. An unexpected change in your health situation could entail a high cost for recovery. CI insurance can help protect your financial health when what you hope doesn't happen, does.

Upon diagnosis of a critical illness, a CI policy imposes a waiting period. Once the waiting period has expired, the policy owner is provided a tax-free lump-sum benefit, unlike traditional life insurance that pays a beneficiary upon death. CI helps to meet the high costs associated with serious illness and to avoid tax implications or loss of returns if you were to prematurely withdraw your investments. This lump sum benefit can be used as you wish, including to:

- Take advantage of private or alternative medical treatment, both in Canada and outside the country.
- Make RRSP contributions that may have lapsed during recovery.
- Replace lost income.
- Pay off a mortgage or other debts.
- Modify your home or vehicle to meet any new mobility.
- Continue to fund your children's present or future education needs.
- Allow a spouse or family member to take a leave of absence from work.
- Help your business endure while you recover.

Summary

Thanks to medical advances, the chances of surviving major illnesses such as a stroke, heart attack or cancer are significantly higher today than they were a decade or two ago. Having Critical Illness insurance in place ensures that if you do fall ill, financial concerns will not compound your health concerns. You can concentrate on that which is more important: getting well.

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