

## **ISI Voluntary Critical Illness Program**

### **Did you know?**

Your employer offers a Voluntary Critical Illness program whereby you and your spouse are eligible for coverage up to \$50,000 each with no medical evidence required. The program offers 21 illnesses at competitive rates. You must apply within 31 days of your hire date. If you are not a new hire, but wish to apply for coverage, you are considered a late applicant and proof of insurability will be required.

For additional information, or to obtain an enrolment form, kindly contact your Human Resources Department.

### **What amounts are available?**

**Answer:** Employees and eligible spouses have the option to buy any amount of benefits in units of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$150,000. Proof of insurability is required for amounts in excess of \$50,000.

### **How do I enrol?**

**Answer:** An enrolment form may be obtained by contacting your Human Resources Department.

You and your spouse may enrol and purchase up to the Guarantee Issue Limit of \$50,000 without submitting proof of insurability. You must apply within 31 days of your hire date. If you are not a new hire, but wish to apply for coverage, you are considered a late applicant and proof of insurability will be required. Simply complete the enrolment form and return to your Human Resources Department.

Coverage for the Guarantee Issue Limit of \$50,000 will take effect on the first of the month coincident with or next following the date the enrolment form is received by your Human Resources department. Coverage for any amount over the Guarantee Issue Limit will take effect on the date the application is approved by SSQ.

**What if I want to apply for higher maximum than the Guarantee Issue Limit?**

**Answer:** the maximum amount you can apply for is \$150,000, in units of \$10,000. However, evidence of insurability is required and a medical questionnaire must be completed and sent to SSQ's Medical Underwriting department, for amounts greater than \$50,000.

Contact your Human Resources Department for the application form.

**What does Guarantee Issue Limit mean?**

**Answer:** The Guaranteed Issue Limit is the amount you are eligible to have without proof of good health (you must apply within 31 days of your hire date). The amount of \$50,000 in Critical Illness coverage is available to you at enrolment.

**What is a pre-existing medical condition?**

**Answer: *Pre-existing condition*** means: a) the existence of symptoms which would cause an ordinarily prudent person to seek diagnosis, care or treatment within twelve (12) months period preceding the Insured Person's effective date of coverage, or b) an illness or condition for which the Insured Person, during twelve (12) months prior to the effective date of his coverage incurred medical expenses, received medical treatment, took prescribed drugs or medicine or consulted a physician.

**SSQ will not pay a Critical Illness Claim for the following:**

Benefits will not be paid if a Critical Illness results directly or indirectly from any one or more of the following causes:

- 1) Within ninety (90) days following the effective date of coverage of the Insured Person a) Diagnosis of Cancer is made, or b) any symptoms or medical problems commenced and initiated investigations leading to the subsequent Diagnosis of Cancer.
- 2) An intentionally self-inflicted injury or sickness, whether the Insured Person is sane or insane.
- 3) The use of illicit drugs other than as prescribed and administered by or in accordance with the instruction of a legally licensed medical practitioner.

- 4) From a Pre-existing Condition except if such Critical Illness is diagnosed twelve months after the Insured Person's effective date of coverage.

### **When does Insurance Coverage Stop?**

You or your spouse's insurance coverage will stop on the earliest of the following dates:

- on the date this policy is terminated;
- On the premium due date if your employer fails to pay the required premium, except as the result of an inadvertent error;
- On the premium due date next following the date you give notice of cancellation to your employer;
- On the premium due date next following the date you or your spouse reach seventy (70) years of age;
- On the premium due date next following the date you cease to be an active employee on account of resignation, dismissal or retirement;
- On the premium due date next following the date your spouse ceases to be an eligible person;
- On the date the Principal Sum payment has been paid.

## Facts

- Critical Illness insurance provides a non-taxable lump sum benefit to the employee.
- 40% of Canadian women and 45% of men will develop cancer during their lifetimes. (*Canadian Cancer Society, 2009*)
- 80% of all heart attack and stroke victims will survive. (*Canadian Institute of Health Information – Health Care in Canada, 2006*)
- Canadians are living longer. Overall life expectancy increased from age 79 to 81 over the past decade (*CIA World Factbook, March 2010*)
- Canadian debt ratio has been on the rise and is now at its highest at 148%. (*Stats Canada, 2010*)

## Most Commonly Claimed Illnesses

