

## Critical Illness Insurance

### What is Critical Illness Insurance

Whereas life insurance has been readily available for literally hundreds of years, critical illness insurance is a relatively recent development.

There are a wide range of Canadian insurance companies who **offer a critical illness policy**. The terms and conditions will vary from company to company, but the following ailments are insurable by virtually all insurers (Base Coverage):

- Heart Attack
- Coronary Bypass Surgery
- Prostate Cancer
- Stroke
- Breast Cancer
- Other life threatening cancer

In Addition, the following conditions are insured, depending on which insurance company is chosen (Enhanced Coverage):

- Multiple Sclerosis
- Kidney Failure
- Major Organ Transplant
- Aorta Graft Surgery
- Benign Brain Tumour
- Coma
- Heart Valve Surgery
- Pre Senile Dementia (Alzheimer's)
- HIV Assault with Needle
- Loss of Independent Existence
- Loss of Speech
- Parkinson's Disease
- Paralysis/Paraplegia
- Severe Burns
- Balloon Angioplasty
- Blindness in both eyes
- Coronary Artery Disease
- HIV through Blood Transfusion
- HIV Medical Profession
- Loss of Hearing
- Loss of Limb
- Motor Neurone Disease

## Why The Need For Critical Illness Insurance

Almost everyone has a relative or friend who has suffered from a major, possibly fatal, illness. It is a sad truth. Protect yourself and your family. The numbers, speak for themselves:

### Critical Illness Statistics

- **Of 10 Healthy male adults, 3 will have a critical illness before age 65**
- **Of 10 healthy female adults, 2.7 will have a critical illness before age 65**

### Insure against Heart Attack

(From the Heart and Stroke Foundation)

- 1 in 4 Canadians will contract some form of heart disease
- 75,000 Canadians suffer heart attacks each year
- Heart disease costs the Canadian economy approximately \$19 billion every year in medical services, hospitalization expenses, loss of income and loss of productivity
- The rate of death among patients hospitalized for heart attacks has been decreased by half, from 16 per cent to 8 per cent
- 1 in 2 heart attack victims are under the age of 65

### Insure against Stroke

(From the Heart and Stroke Foundation)

- 50,000 Canadians suffer a stroke each year
- 75% survive the initial event
- strokes are the leading cause of neurological disability
- 1/3 of stroke victims are under the age of 65
- 60% of stroke victims will be left with a disability

## Insure against Cancer

(From the Canadian Cancer Society)

- more than 130,000 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer this year
- over 60,000 people in Canada will die this year from the disease
- 1 in 3 Canadians will develop cancer in their lifetime
- 1 in 9 women will develop breast cancer
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 2.5 men will develop cancer in their lifetime.

## Insure against Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery

(From the the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario/Canada)

- bypass surgery is performed more on men than women by a ratio of nearly 4 to 1
- there are approximately 11,000 bypass surgeries performed in Canada each year
- the rate at which bypass surgery is performed on people age 65 and older has increased

## Insure against Multiple Sclerosis

(From the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada)

- More than 50,000 Canadians have Multiple Sclerosis
- MS is the most common neurological disease among young Canadians
- Canadians have one of the highest rates of MS in the world.
- Women are twice as likely to develop MS as men

## Insure against Parkinsons Disease

(From the Parkinson's Foundation of Canada)

- 30% of all Parkinson's patients are under 50

- 20% of all Parkinson's patients are under 40
- there are approximately 80,000 - 100,000 Canadians suffering from Parkinson's

### Insure against Paralysis

(From the National Spinal Cord Injury Association of Canada)

- There is an estimated 900 Canadians who sustain a spinal cord injury each year
- More than 30,000 Canadians suffer from paralysis of 2 or more limbs
- Most persons who suffer spinal cord injury are between 16 and 30 years of age
- The most common causes of spinal cord injury are car collisions and falls

### Insure against Alzheimers Disease

(From the Canadian Alzheimer Society)

- Alzheimer Disease is the fourth leading cause of death in Canada
- Every year approximately 10,000 Canadians die from Alzheimer's
- Approximately 1 in 100 Canadians suffer from Alzheimer's disease
- There are approximately 22,000 people in Metro Toronto with Alzheimer's
- The disease occurs in 8% of the general population over 60

### Insure against Kidney Failure

(From the Kidney Foundation of Canada)

- Kidney disease ranks sixth among diseases causing death in Canada
- Each day an average of 8 Canadians learn that their kidneys have failed
- Approximately 2000 Canadians are on a waiting list for kidney transplant
- 351 kidney transplants were performed in Ontario in 1995
- 1 in 10 will develop kidney stones at some point in their lives

## Insure against Deafness

(From the Canadian Hearing Society)

- 280,000 Canadians are deaf
- 1,120,000 Canadians are hard of hearing
- 1,400,000 do not use amplification
- There are more than 2,800,000 Canadians with hearing loss

## Insure against Occupational HIV

(From the Canadian Aids Society)

- Approximately 4.4 million health care workers suffer 800,000 needle sticks and other injuries from sharp objects annually
- An estimated 16,000 of these objects are contaminated with HIV