

WHAT IS INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE?

Individual health insurance covers one person or all the members of a family under one policy. The contract exists solely between the individual and the insurance company. Usually, evidence of good health is required before a policy is issued.

FORMS OF PROTECTION

Major Medical Expense Coverage. Major Medical insurance is designed to cover the high costs of serious injuries or illnesses. Benefits are paid for long periods and dollar limits are higher than basic policies.

Hospital Confinement Indemnity Coverage. Hospital confinement indemnity insurance pays a fixed amount for each day that you are confined to a hospital.

Disability Income Protection Coverage. Disability income insurance provides for weekly or monthly benefit payments while you are disabled as a result of a covered injury or sickness. Coverage may apply to accidents only or to both accidents and sickness.

Accident Only Coverage. Accident only policies will cover losses due to an accident. Benefits vary greatly but coverage may be provided for such things as death, loss of limb or sight, disability or hospital and medical care. These policies will not pay for benefits when you are sick.

Specific Disease or Specified Accident Coverage. Some policies cover a specific disease or a

specific kind of accident. The most common type of specified disease policy is the cancer policy.

Credit Accident and Sickness Coverage. Credit accident and sickness insurance is a special type of disability coverage which you can get when you make a loan or some other form of credit.

Long-Term Care Coverage. Long-term care policies may pay for skilled, intermediate, or custodial care in a nursing home. Long-term care policies may also include home health care benefits.

GOVERNMENT SPONSORED INSURANCE COVERAGES

South Carolina Health Insurance Pool (SCHIP). SCHIP was created in 1990 to provide coverage for persons unable to obtain standard health insurance due to pre-existing health conditions. Although several eligibility requirements must be met. Insurance through SCHIP is intended to be the coverage of last resort for persons otherwise unable to qualify for standard coverage. For more information, contact SCHIP at 800-868-2500, ext. 42757 or in Columbia at 788-0500, ext. 42757.

Medicare. Medicare is a federal health insurance program for persons age 65 or over and certain disabled persons under age 65.

Medicaid. Medicaid is a state and federal program that provides medical aid to the aged, the blind, disabled families with dependent children, and medically needy children.

Workers Compensation. If you are hurt on the job or in a job-related activity, you may qualify for workers compensation benefits. Most employers must have this insurance to pay your medical bills and pay a weekly benefit to replace some of your wages if you are injured at work.

Social Security. Social Security will pay benefits for long term or permanent total disability.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Provisions in your policy that you should become familiar with:

1. A waiting or probationary period is an amount of time, after the policy takes effect, that must elapse before coverage begins.
2. An elimination period is the number of days at the start of each disability or confinement for which the policy will not pay.
3. A pre-existing condition is a health condition you already have when you buy your policy.
4. Reasonable and customary allowances are determined by the insurance carrier.
5. Limitations and exclusions are services not covered under the policy.

RENEWAL PROVISIONS

The renewal provision, usually found on the first page of the policy, defines how the policy can be renewed. The basic types of renewal provisions are:

Noncancellable. The insurance company cannot change, cancel or refuse to renew the policy as long as premiums are paid on time.

Guaranteed Renewable. The insured has the right to renew until a specified age.

Conditionally Renewable. The insured can renew until a specified age, subject to the insurance company's right to decline renewal, under conditions specified in the contract.

Term or Non-renewal. These policies cannot be renewed.

If you have any questions regarding health insurance you can call the Department of Insurance at the number listed on the front of this brochure.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

SOUTH CAROLINA HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDE

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