

Frequently Asked Questions



Short-Term Disability Policy

Do You Have Insurance for Your House and Your Car?

The answer is yes because you know how important it is to be able to replace them if something bad happened to them. You can't go without them. What if you lost your income? This policy insures your paycheck. Depending on your current income and your monthly needs, you can receive up to \$5,000 per month from this policy to help when your paycheck stops due to an off-the-job disability. You can qualify for up to \$1,500 under the Guaranteed Issue provisions and up to \$5,000 under the Simplified Issue provisions.

I'm Pretty Healthy and Not a Big Risk Taker, Why do I Need This Insurance?

According to the Council for Disability Awareness, 1 in 4 workers will experience a period of disability before they retire. On top of that, 46% of Americans wouldn't be able to cover a \$400 emergency expense without resorting to credit card debt or a family loan.

What Does "Guaranteed Issue" (GI) Mean?

GI means that you are not required to answer health questions, undergo a medical exam, and the insurance company is not allowed to review your medical and prescription records. If you are between the ages of 18 – 64 you are guaranteed to be accepted once you complete the application and submit your premium. If you need a monthly benefit over \$1,500 then you will need to go the Simplified Issue route which has three basic health questions and qualifications. In other words, it is much easier to medically qualify for a Simplified Issue policy versus a fully underwritten policy.

How Much Benefit Will I Qualify For?

You can cover up to 60% of your total Gross Income with a maximum paid out benefit of \$5,000 per month

How Long do These Benefit Payments Last?

The two benefit options you can choose between are 3 months or 6 months. The 6-month benefit will cost more than the 3-month benefit.

What Kind of Disability Triggers the Benefit Payment?

The American National definition of their short-term disability policy, is that if you are unable to perform duties of your current job, due to off-the-job disability, then you would be eligible for benefits.

Once the Doctor Tells Me I can't Work, Do My Payments Start that Day?

When the policy pays out is based on the Elimination Period. The plan offers 3 different Elimination Periods of 0/7, 0/14 and 0/30. The first number of let's say 0/14, represents the Elimination Period for any off-the-job accidents. So, if there is 0, there is no Elimination Period, or Waiting Period, and the benefits start paying out the first day someone misses work due to an off-the-job accident. The 14 represents how many work days, (calendar days), must be missed due to an illness before the plan starts paying. The shorter the Elimination Period, the quicker the policy starts paying you. The quicker the policy starts paying you the more expensive the premium will be.

How Do I Know Which Elimination Period is Right for Me?

Choose your Elimination Period based on how long you can go without a paycheck. The shorter the elimination period, the quicker it starts paying benefit.

Outside of Normal Disability, Are There Any Other Good Reasons to Purchase This Policy?

If you are planning on starting a family, one of the benefits of the short-term disability plan is that it also covers taking time off for childbirth. As long as the plan has been in force for 10 months, then the plan would cover up to six weeks of time off for a normal delivery. If a C-Section is medically required, then it will pay eight weeks of missed work. If individual to be covered is currently pregnant at the effective date of policy, and there is a medical need for C-Section, then policy will pay as a normal sickness.

How do I make the Short-term Disability plan cost less?

If you need to have a short Elimination Period, so that it starts paying as quickly as possible, choose a short Benefit Period. Choose a 3 month benefit period versus a 6 months benefit period. Most claims last less than 3 months. However, depending on the situation, a claim could potentially last much longer. Just be aware of that and choose the Elimination Period and Benefit Period that fits your budget and your needs.