

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE



Do you need it? Do your parents?

There is a one-in-three chance that you (and your parents) will spend an average of 2.5 years in a nursing home. With current costs between \$3,000 and \$6,000 a month, how are you going to pay for it?

- If you have a small monthly income and total assets of under \$2,000, Medicaid will pay the difference between your income and the cost of nursing home care. You don't need Long-term Care (LTC) insurance unless you want more care options.
- If you have assets of more than \$2,000, you may have to pay for your own care.
- The average cost for 2.5 years in a nursing home today is \$180,000, and that number will continue to rise. Few of us have the disposable income to afford that kind of expense, and even those who do would see their savings erode very quickly in such a situation.

If you would rather spend your money in other ways, you need long-term care insurance.



LONG-TERM CARE Q&A

Q Does regular healthcare insurance or Medicare pay for Long-term Care?

A No. Medicare only pays in very limited circumstances and for a maximum of 20 days.

Q Are nursing homes that take Medicaid as good as those that don't?

A It depends on your city or state; sometimes they are not. Certainly Medicaid limits your choices for care. It generally does not pay for in-home care or an assisted living facility, both of which are often better and more comfortable choices.

Q I'm young; why should I start paying for LTC so early?

A The younger you are when you enroll, the lower your premiums will be over the course of your life. If you enroll during your open enrollment opportunity, you are guaranteed coverage. Later on, you might not qualify.

Q Will I really save money by buying LTC insurance now?

A Yes, you really will save. Often the total premiums paid can be recovered in just a few months of nursing home care.

Q Should I speak with my parents now about their plans for old age care?

A Yes, if they are comfortable talking about it. By finding out ahead of time what their wishes and expectations are, you will be better able to carry out their wishes when the time comes.

Q Can I enroll in Costco's LTC program even if I missed my open enrollment period? Can my parents or other relatives enroll?

A Yes. Benefit-eligible employees and their spouses, domestic partners, parents, grandparents (including in-laws) and siblings can enroll any time by providing evidence of good health.

Don't let nursing home care bankrupt your family.

Long-term Care Open Enrollment
July 1 – 31: **Enroll now!**

The open enrollment period allows employees who qualify under either of the following two guidelines to obtain guaranteed-issue LTC insurance without providing evidence of good health:

- Employees who first became benefit-eligible between 7/1/07 and 6/30/08
- Employees who reached their 10-year anniversary between 7/1/07 and 6/30/08

Those qualifying under these guidelines should have already received information at home by mail.

For more information, call UNUM at 1-877-403-9348 or, on the Web, go to costcobenefits.com and click on "LTC Open Enrollment."