

Jefferson Union High School District

Long Term Disability Coverage



Disclosure Notice

FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS

Prudential's Customer Service Office:

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
Disability Management Services Claim Division
P.O. Box 13480
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19176
1-800-842-1718

If Prudential fails to provide you with reasonable and adequate service, you may contact:

Arkansas Insurance Department
Consumer Services Division
1200 West Third Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1904
1-800-852-5494

FOR ARIZONA RESIDENTS

Notice: This certificate of insurance may not provide all benefits and protections provided by law in Arizona. Please read this certificate carefully.

FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS

THIS IS A SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN THAT IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE REQUIRED BY THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA). UNLESS YOU HAVE ANOTHER PLAN (SUCH AS MAJOR MEDICAL COVERAGE) THAT PROVIDES MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACA, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FEDERAL TAX PENALTY. ALSO, THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS PLAN CANNOT BE COORDINATED WITH THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY OTHER COVERAGE. PLEASE REVIEW THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS PLAN CAREFULLY TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF COVERAGE.

FOR FLORIDA RESIDENTS

The benefits of the policy providing your coverage are governed by the law of a state other than Florida.

FOR INDIANA RESIDENTS

Questions regarding your policy or coverage should be directed to:

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
(800) 842-1718

If you (a) need the assistance of the governmental agency that regulates insurance; or (b) have a complaint you have been unable to resolve with your insurer you may contact the Department of Insurance by mail, telephone or e-mail:

State of Indiana Department of Insurance
Consumer Services Division
311 West Washington Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Consumer Hotline: (800) 622-4461; (317) 232-2395

Complaints can be filed electronically at www.in.gov/idoi.

FOR MARYLAND RESIDENTS

The Group Insurance Contract providing coverage under this certificate was issued in a jurisdiction other than Maryland and may not provide all of the benefits required by Maryland law.

FOR OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS

Notice: Certificates issued for delivery in Oklahoma are governed by the certificate and Oklahoma laws not the state where the master policy was issued.

FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS

THE INSURANCE POLICY UNDER WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED IS NOT A POLICY OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE. YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR EMPLOYER TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR EMPLOYER IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM.

FOR WISCONSIN RESIDENTS

KEEP THIS NOTICE WITH YOUR INSURANCE PAPERS

Problems with Your Insurance? – If you are having problems with your insurance company or agent, do not hesitate to contact the insurance company or agent to resolve your problem.

Prudential's Customer Service Office:

**The Prudential Insurance Company of America
Disability Management Services Claim Division
P.O. Box 13480
Philadelphia, PA 19176
1-800-842-1718**

You can also contact the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, a state agency which enforces Wisconsin's insurance laws, and file a complaint. You can contact the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance by contacting:

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
Complaints Department
P.O. Box 7873
Madison, WI 53707-7873
1-800-236-8517
608-266-0103

THIS NOTICE IS FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS ONLY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To obtain information or make a complaint:

You may contact the Texas Department of Insurance to obtain information on companies, coverages, rights or complaints at:

1-800-252-3439

You may write the Texas Department of Insurance:

P.O. Box 149104
Austin, TX 78714-9104
Fax: (512) 475-1771

Web: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov>

Email: consumerprotection@tdi.texas.gov

PREMIUM OR CLAIM DISPUTES:

Should you have a dispute concerning your premium or about a claim you should contact Prudential first. If the dispute is not resolved, you may contact the Texas Department of Insurance.

ATTACH THIS NOTICE TO YOUR POLICY:

This notice is for information only and does not become a part or condition of the attached document.

AVISO IMPORTANTE

Para obtener información o para someter una queja:

Puede comunicarse con el Departamento de Seguros de Texas para obtener información acerca de compañías, coberturas, derechos o quejas al:

1-800-252-3439

Puede escribir al Departamento de Seguros de Texas:

P.O. Box 149104
Austin, TX 78714-9104
Fax: (512) 475-1771

Web: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov>

Email: consumerprotection@tdi.texas.gov

DISPUTAS SOBRE PRIMAS O RECLAMOS:

Si tiene una disputa concerniente a su prima o a un reclamo, debe comunicarse con Prudential primero. Si no se resuelve la disputa, puede entonces comunicarse con el departamento (TDI).

UNA ESTE AVISO A SU POLIZA:

Este aviso es sólo para propósito de información y no se convierte en parte o condición del documento adjunto.

Benefit Highlights

LONG TERM DISABILITY PLAN

This long term disability plan provides financial protection for you by paying a portion of your income while you have a long period of disability. The amount you receive is based on the amount you earned before your disability began. In some cases, you can receive disability payments even if you work while you are disabled. Benefits start after the elimination period.

Program Date: January 1, 2015

Contract Holder: JEFFERSON UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Group Contract Number: G-51944-CA

Covered Classes: All Employees.

Minimum Hours Requirement: Employees must be working at least 30 hours per week.

Employment Waiting Period: You may need to work for your Employer for a continuous period before you become eligible for the plan. The period must be agreed upon by your Employer and Prudential.

Your Employer will let you know about this waiting period.

Monthly Benefit: 66 2/3% of your monthly earnings, but not more than \$10,000.00.

Your benefit may be reduced by deductible sources of income and disability earnings. Some disabilities may not be covered or may be limited under this coverage.

Maximum Period of Benefits:

Your Age on Date Disability Begins

Your Maximum Benefit Duration

Under age 61	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 60 months
Age 61	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 48 months
Age 62	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 42 months
Age 63	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 36 months
Age 64	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 30 months
Age 65	24 months
Age 66	21 months
Age 67	18 months
Age 68	15 months
Age 69 and over	12 months

***Your normal retirement age is your retirement age under the Social Security Act where retirement age depends on your year of birth.**

No contributions are required for your coverage while you are receiving payments under this plan.

Cost of Coverage: The long term disability plan is provided to you on a non-contributory basis. The entire cost of your coverage under the plan is being paid by your Employer.

The above items are only highlights of your coverage. For a full description please read this entire Group Insurance Certificate.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN STATES:

There are state-specific requirements that may change the provisions under the coverage(s) described in this Group Insurance Certificate. If you live in a state that has such requirements, those requirements will apply to your coverage(s) and are made a part of your Group Insurance Certificate. Prudential has a website that describes these state-specific requirements. You may access the website at www.prudential.com/etonline. When you access the website, you will be asked to enter your state of residence and your Access Code. **Your Access Code is 51944.**

If you are unable to access this website, want to receive a printed copy of these requirements or have any questions, call Prudential at 1-866-439-9026.

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The Prudential Insurance Company of America

Certificate of Coverage

The Prudential Insurance Company of America (referred to as Prudential) welcomes you to the plan.

This is your Certificate of Coverage as long as you are eligible for coverage and you meet the requirements for becoming insured. You will want to read this certificate and keep it in a safe place. Sign your name in the space below when you receive this certificate.

Prudential has written this certificate in booklet format to be understandable to you. If you should have any questions about the content or provisions, please consult Prudential's claims paying office. Prudential will assist you in any way to help you understand your benefits.

The benefits described in this Certificate of Coverage are subject in every way to the entire Group Contract which includes this Group Insurance Certificate.

Prudential's Address

**The Prudential Insurance Company of America
751 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102**

Customer Service Office

**The Prudential Insurance Company of America
Disability Management Services Claim Division
P.O. Box 13480
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19176
1-800-842-1718**

Should you have a dispute concerning your coverage you should contact Prudential first. If the dispute is not resolved, you may contact the California Department of Insurance at the following address and phone number:

**California Department of Insurance
Consumer Services Division
300 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90013
1-800-927-HELP**

THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT A MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT CERTIFICATE. If you are eligible for Medicare, review the Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare available from the company.

Signature of Employee

General Provisions

What Is the Certificate?

This certificate is a written document prepared by Prudential which tells you:

- the coverage to which you may be entitled;
- to whom Prudential will make a payment; and
- the limitations, exclusions and requirements that apply within a plan.

General Definitions used throughout this certificate include:

You means a person who is eligible for Prudential coverage.

We, us, and our means The Prudential Insurance Company of America.

Employee means a person who is in active employment with the Employer for the minimum hours requirement.

Insured means any person covered under a coverage.

Plan means a line of coverage under the Group Contract.

When Are You Eligible for Coverage?

If you are working for your Employer in a covered class, the date you are eligible for coverage is the later of:

- the plan's program date; and
- the day after you complete your **employment waiting period**.

Employment waiting period means the continuous period of time that you must be in a covered class before you are eligible for coverage under a plan. The period must be agreed upon by the Employer and Prudential.

When Does Your Coverage Begin?

When your Employer pays the entire cost of your coverage under a plan, you will be covered at 12:01 a.m. on the date you are eligible for coverage, provided you are in **active employment** on that date.

When you and your Employer share the cost of your coverage under a plan, you will be covered at 12:01 a.m. on the latest of:

- the date you are eligible for coverage, if you apply for insurance on or before that date;
- the date you apply for insurance, if you apply within 31 days after your eligibility date; or
- the date Prudential approves your application, if **evidence of insurability** is required.

Evidence of insurability is required if you:

- are a late applicant, which means you apply for coverage more than 31 days after the date you are eligible for coverage; or
- voluntarily canceled your coverage and are reapplying; or
- apply after any of your coverage ended because you did not pay a required contribution; or
- have not met a previous evidence requirement to become insured under any plan the Employer has with Prudential.

An evidence of insurability form can be obtained from your Employer.

Active employment means you are working for your Employer for earnings that are paid regularly and that you are performing with reasonable continuity the substantial and material acts necessary to pursue your usual occupation. You must be working at least 30 hours per week.

Your worksite must be:

- your Employer's usual place of business;
- an alternate work site at the direction of your Employer other than your home unless clear specific expectations and duties are documented; or
- a location to which your job requires you to travel.

Normal vacation is considered active employment.

Temporary and seasonal workers are excluded from coverage.

Individuals whose employment status is being continued under a severance or termination agreement will not be considered in active employment.

Evidence of insurability means a statement of your medical history which Prudential will use to determine if you are approved for coverage. Evidence of insurability will be provided at your own expense.

What If You Are Absent from Work on the Date Your Coverage Would Normally Begin?

If you are absent from work due to injury, sickness, temporary layoff or leave of absence your coverage will begin on the date you return to active employment.

Once Your Coverage Begins, What Happens If You Are Temporarily Not Working?

If you are on a temporary **layoff**, and if premium is paid, you will be covered to the end of the month following the month in which your temporary layoff begins.

If you are on a **leave of absence**, and if premium is paid, you will be covered to the end of the month following the month in which your leave of absence begins.

With respect to leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) or similar state law, continuation of coverage under the plan during such leave will be governed by your Employer's policies regarding continuation of such coverage for FMLA leave purposes and any applicable law. Continuation of such coverage pursuant to this provision is contingent upon Prudential's timely receipt of premium payments and written confirmation of your FMLA leave by your Employer.

If you are working less than 30 hours per week, for reasons other than disability, and if premium is paid, you will be covered to the end of the month following the month in which your reduced hours begin.

Layoff or leave of absence means you are temporarily absent from active employment for a period of time that has been agreed to in advance in writing by your Employer, other than for reasons in connection with any severance or termination agreement. Your normal vacation time, any period of disability or FMLA leave is not considered a temporary layoff.

When Will Changes to Your Coverage Take Effect?

Once your coverage begins, any increased or additional coverage will take effect immediately upon the effective date of the change, if you are in active employment or if you are on a covered layoff or leave of absence. If you are not in active employment due to injury or sickness, any increased or additional coverage will begin on the date you return to active employment. An increase in your long term disability coverage may be subject to a pre-existing condition limitation as described in the plan. Any decrease in coverage will take effect immediately upon the effective date of the change. Neither an increase nor a decrease in coverage will affect a **payable claim** that occurs prior to the increase or decrease.

Payable claim means a claim for which Prudential is liable under the terms of the Group Contract.

When Does Your Coverage End?

Your coverage under the Group Contract or a plan ends on the earliest of:

- the date the Group Contract or a plan is canceled;
- the date you are no longer a member of the covered classes;
- the date your covered class is no longer covered;
- the last day of the period for which you made any required contributions;

- the last day you are in active employment except as provided under the temporary absence from work provisions; or
- the date you are no longer in active employment due to a disability that is not covered under the plan.

Does the Coverage under a Plan Replace or Affect any Workers' Compensation or State Disability Insurance?

The coverage under a plan does not replace or affect the requirements for coverage by workers' compensation or state disability insurance.

Does Your Employer Act as Prudential's Agent?

For purposes of the Group Contract, your Employer acts on its own behalf. Under no circumstances will your Employer be deemed the agent of Prudential.

Does This Certificate Address Any Rights to Other Benefits or Affect Your Employment with Your Employer?

This certificate sets forth only the terms and conditions for coverage and receipt of benefits for Long Term Disability. It does not address and does not confer any rights, or take away any rights, if any, to other benefits or employment with your Employer. Your rights, if any, to other benefits or employment are solely determined by your Employer. Prudential plays no role in determining, interpreting, or applying any such rights that may or may not exist.

How Can Statements Made in Your Application for this Coverage be Used?

Prudential considers any statements you or your Employer make in a signed application for coverage a representation and not a warranty. If any of the statements you or your Employer make are not complete and/or not true at the time they are made, we can:

- reduce or deny any claim; or
- cancel your coverage from the original effective date.

If a statement is used in a contest, a copy of that statement will be furnished to you or, in the event of your death or incapacity, to your eligible survivor or personal representative.

A statement will not be contested after the amount of insurance has been in force, before the contest, for at least two years during your lifetime.

We will use only statements made in a signed application as a basis for doing this.

If the Employer gives us information about you that is incorrect, we will:

- use the facts to decide whether you have coverage under the plan and in what amounts; and
- make a fair adjustment of the premium.

Long Term Disability Coverage

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who Is in the Covered Class(es) for the Insurance?

The Covered Classes are:

All Employees.

How Many Hours Must You Work to be Eligible for Coverage?

You must be working at least 30 hours per week.

What Is Your Employment Waiting Period?

You may need to work for your Employer for a continuous period before you become eligible for the coverage. The period must be agreed upon by your Employer and Prudential.

Your Employer will let you know about this waiting period.

Who Pays for Your Coverage?

Your coverage is paid for by your Employer.

Long Term Disability Coverage

BENEFIT INFORMATION

When Are You Disabled?

You are disabled when you are either ***totally disabled*** or ***partially disabled***.

The loss of a professional or occupational license or certification does not, in itself, constitute disability.

Physical Examination:

Prudential, at our expense, shall have the right and opportunity to examine you when and as often as we may reasonably require during the pendency of a claim.

Refusal to be examined may result in denial or termination of your claim.

When Are You Totally Disabled?

You are totally disabled when as a result of your ***sickness*** or ***injury***:

- you are unable to perform with reasonable continuity the ***substantial and material acts*** necessary to pursue your ***usual occupation***; and
- you are not working in your usual occupation.

After 24 months of payments, you are totally disabled when, as a result of the same sickness or injury, you are unable to engage with reasonable continuity in any occupation in which you could reasonably be expected to perform satisfactorily in light of your age, education, training, experience, station in life, and physical and mental capacity.

Sickness means any disorder of your body or mind, but not an injury; pregnancy including abortion, miscarriage or childbirth. Disability must begin while you are covered under the plan.

Injury means physical harm or damage to the body. Injury which occurs before you are covered under the plan will be treated as a sickness. Disability must begin while you are covered under the plan.

Substantial and material acts means the important tasks, functions and operations generally required by employers from those engaged in your usual occupation that cannot be reasonably omitted or modified. In determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue your usual occupation, we will first look at the specific duties required by your Employer or job. If you are unable to perform one or more of these duties with reasonable continuity, we will then determine whether those duties are customarily required of other employees or individuals engaged in your usual occupation. If any specific, material duties required of you by your Employer or job differ from the material duties customarily required of other employees or individuals engaged in your usual occupation, then we will not consider those duties in determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue your usual occupation.

Usual occupation means any employment, business, trade or profession and the substantial and material acts of the occupation you were regularly performing for your Employer when the disability began. Usual occupation is not necessarily limited to the specific job you performed for your Employer.

When Are You Partially Disabled?

You are partially disabled when:

- you are not totally disabled; and
- while actually working in your usual occupation, and as a result of your sickness or injury, you are unable to earn 80% or more of your **indexed monthly earnings**.

After 24 months of payments, you are partially disabled when:

- you are not totally disabled; and
- while actually working in an occupation, and as a result of the same sickness or injury, you are unable to engage with reasonable continuity in that or any other occupation in which you could reasonably be expected to perform satisfactorily in light of your age, education, training, experience, station in life, and physical and mental capacity.

Indexed monthly earnings means your monthly earnings as adjusted on each July 1 provided you were disabled for all of the 12 months before that date. Your monthly earnings will be adjusted on that date by the current annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. Your indexed monthly earnings may increase or remain the same, but will never decrease.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) is published by the U.S. Department of Labor. Prudential reserves the right to use some other similar measurement if the Department of Labor changes or stops publishing the CPI-W.

Indexing is only used to determine your percentage of lost earnings while you are disabled and working.

Can You Satisfy Your Elimination Period If You Are Working?

Yes. If you are working while you are disabled, the days you are disabled will count toward your elimination period.

When Will You Begin to Receive Disability Payments?

You will begin to receive payments when we receive due written proof of loss, providing the elimination period has been met. We will send you a payment each month for any period for which Prudential is liable.

How Much Will Prudential Pay If You Are Disabled and Not Working?

We will follow this process to figure out your **monthly payment**:

1. Multiply your monthly earnings by 66 2/3%.
2. The maximum **monthly benefit** is \$10,000.00.
3. Compare the answer in item 1 with the maximum monthly benefit. The lesser of these two amounts is your **gross disability payment**.
4. Subtract from your gross disability payment any **deductible sources of income**.

That amount figured in item 4 is your monthly payment.

After the elimination period, if you are disabled for less than 1 month, we will send you 1/30th of your payment for each day of disability.

Monthly payment means your payment after any deductible sources of income have been subtracted from your gross disability payment.

Monthly benefit means the total benefit amount for which you are insured under this plan subject to the maximum benefit.

Gross disability payment means the benefit amount before Prudential subtracts deductible sources of income and disability earnings.

Deductible sources of income means income from deductible sources listed in the plan that you receive while you are disabled. This income will be subtracted from your gross disability payment.

What Are Your Monthly Earnings?

Monthly earnings means your gross monthly income from your Employer in effect just prior to your date of disability. It does not include income received from commissions, bonuses, overtime pay, any other extra compensation, or income received from sources other than your Employer.

What Will We Use to Determine Monthly Earnings If You Become Disabled During a Covered Layoff or Leave of Absence?

If you become disabled while you are on a covered layoff or leave of absence, we will use your monthly earnings from your Employer in effect just prior to the date your absence begins.

How Much Will Prudential Pay If You Work While You Are Disabled?

If you work while you are disabled, we will follow this process to figure out your monthly payment:

1. Multiply your monthly earnings by 66 2/3%.
2. The maximum monthly benefit is \$10,000.00.
3. Compare the answer in item 1 with the maximum monthly benefit. The lesser of these two amounts is your gross disability payment.
4. Subtract from your gross disability payment any deductible sources of income. This is your monthly payment.
5. Your monthly payment will be adjusted by any **disability earnings** as follows:
 - (a) During the first 12 months of payments, while working, add your monthly disability earnings to your gross disability payment.

If the answer from 5(a) is less than or equal to 100% of your indexed monthly earnings, Prudential will not further reduce your monthly payment.

If the answer from 5(a) is more than 100% of your indexed monthly earnings, Prudential will subtract the amount over 100% from your monthly payment.

- (b) After 12 months of payments, while working, we will subtract 66 2/3% of your monthly disability earnings from your monthly payment.

Prudential may require you to send proof of your monthly disability earnings on a monthly basis. As part of your proof of disability earnings, we can require that you send us appropriate financial records, including copies of your IRS federal income tax return, W-2's and 1099's, which are necessary to substantiate your income.

After the elimination period, if you are disabled for less than 1 month, we will send you 1/30th of your payment for each day of disability.

Disability earnings means the earnings which you receive for work performed while you are disabled and working for:

- your Employer; or
- another employer, but only if you became employed after your disability began.

Salary continuance paid to supplement your disability earnings will not be considered payment for work performed.

What Are Deductible Sources of Income?

Prudential will deduct from your gross disability payment the following deductible sources of income:

1. The amount that you receive as temporary disability benefits under a workers' compensation law.
2. The amount that you receive under an occupational disease law, or any other **act** or **law** with similar intent, other than workers' compensation.
3. The amount that you receive as loss of time disability income payments under any state compulsory benefit act or law.
4. The amount that you receive as loss of time disability income payments under any governmental retirement system as the result of your job with your Employer.
5. The amount that you, your spouse and children receive as loss of time disability payments because of your disability under:
 - (a) the United States Social Security Act;
 - (b) the Railroad Retirement Act;
 - (c) the Canada Pension Plan;
 - (d) the Quebec Pension Plan; or
 - (e) any similar **plan** or **act**.

Amounts paid to your former spouse or to your children living with such spouse will not be included.

6. The amount that you receive as retirement payments or the amount your spouse and children receive as retirement payments because you are receiving payments under:
 - (a) the United States Social Security Act;
 - (b) the Railroad Retirement Act;
 - (c) the Canada Pension Plan;
 - (d) the Quebec Pension Plan; or
 - (e) any similar plan or act.

Amounts paid to your former spouse or to your children living with such spouse will not be included.

7. The amount that you receive as disability payments under your Employer's **retirement plan**. These payments will be those benefits which are paid due to disability and do not reduce the retirement benefit which would have been paid if the disability had not occurred.

No reductions will be made for amounts rolled over or transferred to an eligible retirement plan. Prudential will use the definition of eligible retirement plan as defined in Section 402 of the Internal Revenue Code including any future amendments which affect the definition.

8. The amount that you receive as retirement benefits, to the extent they are funded by Employer contributions, if they are from an insurance, annuity or pension contract, or a welfare or other employee benefit plan. However, this does not include benefits for any month before you reach normal retirement age, as defined in your Employer's retirement plan, unless you choose to receive benefits for that month. Disability benefits which reduce the retirement benefit under the plan will also be considered as retirement benefits.
9. The amount you receive under the maritime doctrine of maintenance, wages and cure. This includes only the "wages" part of such benefits.
10. The amount of loss of time benefits that you receive under any **salary continuation or accumulated sick leave**.

With the exception of retirement payments, Prudential will only subtract deductible sources of income which are payable as a result of the same disability.

We will not reduce your payment by your Social Security income if your disability begins after age 65 and you were already receiving Social Security retirement payments.

If you are eligible for benefits under items 3 or 5 above, your payments will be reduced by an estimated benefit amount as described in the "What If You Qualify for Deductible Income Benefits?" section.

Law, plan or act means the original enactment of the law, plan or act and all amendments.

Retirement plan means a defined contribution plan or defined benefit plan. These are plans which provide retirement benefits to employees and are not funded entirely by employee contributions.

Salary continuation or accumulated sick leave means continued payments to you by your Employer of all or part of your monthly earnings, after you become disabled as defined by the Group Contract. This continued payment must be part of an established plan maintained by your Employer for the benefit of an employee covered under the Group Contract. Salary continuation or accumulated sick leave does not include compensation paid to you by your Employer for work you actually perform after your disability begins. Such compensation is considered disability earnings, and would be taken into account as such, in calculating your monthly payment.

What Are Not Deductible Sources of Income?

Prudential will not deduct from your gross disability payment income you receive from, but not limited to, the following sources:

- 401(k) plans;
- profit sharing plans;
- thrift plans;
- tax sheltered annuities;

- stock ownership plans;
- non-qualified plans of deferred compensation;
- pension plans for partners;
- military pension and disability income plans;
- credit disability insurance;
- franchise disability income plans;
- a retirement plan from another Employer;
- individual retirement accounts (IRA);
- motor vehicle insurance.

What If Subtracting Deductible Sources of Income Results in a Zero Benefit? (Minimum Benefit)

The minimum monthly payment is the lesser of (a) 10% of the gross disability payment otherwise payable and (b) \$100.00.

What Happens When You Receive Certain Increases from Deductible Sources of Income?

Once Prudential has subtracted any deductible source of income from your gross disability payment, Prudential will not further reduce your payment:

- due to a cost of living increase from that source; or
- by the amount of any increase in your Social Security income.

What If You Qualify for Deductible Income Benefits?

If you are eligible for benefits under items 3 or 5 in the deductible sources of income section, you are obligated to apply for such benefits. If you have not applied for those benefits, or if you have failed to pursue them with reasonable diligence, and Prudential has a reasonable, good faith belief that you are entitled to such benefits, your payments will be reduced by an estimated benefit amount.

For item 3, Prudential will use the state disability statutes as a means of reasonably estimating the amount payable. For item 5, Prudential will use the Social Security tables as a means of reasonably estimating the amount payable.

If your payment has been reduced by an estimated amount, your payment will be adjusted when we receive proof:

- of the amount awarded; or
- that benefits have been denied and all required appeals have been completed. In this case, a lump sum refund of the estimated amount will be made to you.

What Happens If You Receive a Lump Sum Payment?

If you receive a lump sum payment from any deductible source of income, the lump sum will be pro-rated on a monthly basis over the time period for which the sum was given. If no time period is stated, we will use a reasonable one.

How Long Will Prudential Continue to Send You Payments?

Prudential will send you a payment each month up to the **maximum period of payment**. Your maximum period of payment is:

Your Age on Date Disability Begins	Your Maximum Period of Benefits
Under age 61	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 60 months
Age 61	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 48 months
Age 62	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 42 months
Age 63	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 36 months
Age 64	To your normal retirement age*, but not less than 30 months
Age 65	24 months
Age 66	21 months
Age 67	18 months
Age 68	15 months
Age 69 and over	12 months

***Your normal retirement age is your retirement age under the Social Security Act where retirement age depends on your year of birth.**

We will stop sending you payments on the date you fail to submit proof of continuing disability in accordance with the rules in the CLAIM INFORMATION section.

We will stop sending you payments and your claim will end on the earliest of the following:

1. The end of the maximum period of payment.
2. The date you are no longer disabled under the terms of the plan.
3. The date your monthly disability earnings exceed 80% of your indexed monthly earnings. But, if your disability earnings are expected to fluctuate widely from month to month, then, for the purpose of this item 3, your monthly disability earnings means the average of your disability earnings over the most recent 3 months.
4. The date you die.

Maximum period of payment means the longest period of time Prudential will make payments to you for any one period of disability.

What Disabilities Have a Limited Pay Period Under Your Plan?

Disabilities which are primarily due to **mental illness** have a limited pay period during your lifetime.

The limited pay period for disabilities which are primarily due to mental illness is 24 months during your lifetime.

Prudential will continue to send you payments for disabilities primarily due to mental illness beyond the 24 month period if you meet one or both of these conditions:

1. If you are **confined** to a **hospital or institution** at the end of the 24 month period, Prudential will continue to send you payments during your **confinement**.

If you are still disabled when you are discharged, Prudential will send you payments for a recovery period of up to 90 days.

If you become reconfined at any time during the recovery period and remain confined for at least 14 days in a row, Prudential will send payments during that additional confinement and for one additional recovery period up to 90 more days.

2. In addition to item 1, if, after the 24 month period for which you have received payments, you continue to be disabled and subsequently become confined to a hospital or institution for at least 14 days in a row, Prudential will send payments during the length of the confinement.

Prudential will not pay beyond the limited pay period as indicated above, or the maximum period of payment, whichever occurs first.

Prudential will not apply the mental illness limitation to dementia if it is a result of:

- stroke;
- trauma;
- viral infection;
- Alzheimer's disease; or
- other conditions not listed which are not usually treated by a mental health provider or other qualified provider using psychotherapy, psychotropic drugs, or other similar methods of treatment as standardly accepted in the practice of medicine.

Mental illness means a psychiatric or psychological condition regardless of cause. Mental illness includes but is not limited to schizophrenia, depression, manic depressive or bipolar illness, anxiety, somatization, substance related disorders and/or adjustment disorders or other conditions. These conditions are usually treated by a mental health provider or other qualified provider using psychotherapy, psychotropic drugs, or other similar methods of treatment as standardly accepted in the practice of medicine.

Confined or confinement for this section means a hospital stay of at least 8 hours per day.

Hospital or institution means an accredited facility licensed to provide care and treatment for the condition causing your disability.

What Disabilities Are Not Covered Under Your Plan?

Your plan does not cover any disabilities caused by, contributed to by, or resulting from your:

- intentionally self-inflicted injuries;
- active participation in a riot; or
- commission of a felony for which you have been convicted under state or federal law.

Your plan does not cover a disability caused by or substantially contributed to by a **pre-existing condition** or medical or surgical treatment of a pre-existing condition.

Your plan does not cover a disability due to war, declared or undeclared, or any act of war.

Prudential will not make a payment for any period of disability during which you are incarcerated as a result of a conviction.

What Is a Pre-Existing Condition?

You have a pre-existing condition if both 1. and 2. are true:

1. (a) You received medical treatment, care or services for a diagnosed condition or took prescribed medication for a diagnosed condition in the 3 months just prior to your effective date of coverage; or

(b) You suffered from a physical or mental condition, whether diagnosed or undiagnosed, which was misrepresented or not disclosed in your application: (i) for which you received a doctor's advice or treatment within the 3 months just prior to your effective date of coverage; or (ii) which caused symptoms within the 3 months just prior to your effective date of coverage for which a prudent person would usually seek medical advice or treatment.
2. the disability caused by or substantially contributed to by the condition begins within 12 months of the date your coverage under the plan becomes effective.

How Does the Pre-Existing Condition Work If You Were Covered Under Your Employer's Prior Plan?

Special rules apply to pre-existing conditions, if this long term disability plan replaces your Employer's prior plan and:

- you were covered by that plan on the day before this plan became effective; and
- you became covered under this plan within thirty-one days of its effective date.

The special rules are:

1. If the Employer's prior plan did not have a pre-existing condition exclusion or limitation, then a pre-existing condition will not be excluded or limited under this plan.
2. If the Employer's prior plan did have a pre-existing condition exclusion or limitation, then the limited time does not end after the first 12 months of coverage. Instead it will end on the date any equivalent limit would have ended under the Employer's prior plan.
3. If the change from your Employer's prior plan to this plan of coverage would result in an increase in your amount of benefits, the benefits for your disability that is due to a pre-existing sickness or injury will not increase. Instead the benefits are limited to the amount you had on the day before the plan change.

What Happens If You Return to Work Full Time and Your Disability Occurs Again?

If you have a **recurrent disability**, we will treat your disability as part of your prior claim and you will not have to complete another elimination period if:

- you were continuously insured under this plan for the period between your prior claim and your current disability; and
- your recurrent disability occurs within 6 months of the end of your prior claim.

Your recurrent disability will be subject to the same terms of the plan as your prior claim. Any disability which occurs after 6 months from the date your prior claim ended will be treated as a new claim. The new claim will be subject to all of the plan provisions.

If you become covered under any other group long term disability plan, you will not be eligible for payments under the Prudential plan.

Recurrent disability means a disability which is:

- caused by a worsening in your condition; and
 - due to the same cause(s) as your prior disability for which Prudential made a Long Term Disability payment.
-

Long Term Disability Coverage

OTHER BENEFIT FEATURES

What Benefits Will be Provided to Your Family If You Die? (Survivor Benefit)

When Prudential receives proof that you have died, we will pay your **eligible survivor** a lump sum benefit equal to 3 months of your gross disability payment if, on the date of your death:

- your disability had continued for 180 or more consecutive days; and
- you were receiving or were entitled to receive payments under the plan.

If you have no eligible survivors, payment will be made to your estate.

However, we will first apply the survivor benefit to any overpayment which may exist on your claim.

Eligible survivor means your spouse or Registered Domestic Partner, if living; otherwise, your children under age 25.

Your Registered Domestic Partner means a person whose domestic partnership with you has been validly registered by the California Secretary of State; or a person with whom you have established a union other than marriage, recognized under California law as the equivalent of a Registered Domestic Partner.

What Insurance Is Available If You End Employment? (Conversion)

If you end employment with your Employer, your coverage under the plan will end. You may be eligible to purchase insurance under Prudential's group conversion policy. To be eligible, you must have been insured under your Employer's group plan for at least 12 consecutive months. We will consider the amount of time you were insured under the Prudential plan and the plan it replaced, if any.

You are not eligible to apply for coverage under Prudential's group conversion policy if:

- you are or become insured under another group long term disability plan within 60 days after your employment ends;
- you are disabled under the terms of the plan;
- you are age 70 or more when your employment ends;

- your coverage under the plan ends for any of the following reasons:
 - the plan is canceled;
 - the plan is changed to exclude the group of employees to which you belong;
 - you are no longer in an eligible group;
 - you retire;
 - you fail to pay the required premium under this plan.

You must apply for insurance under the conversion policy and pay the first premium to Prudential within 60 days after the date your employment ends. Evidence of insurability will be required for certain higher amounts of monthly payments.

Prudential will determine the coverage you will have under the conversion policy. The conversion policy may not be the same coverage we offered you under your Employer's group plan. It may be any form of conversion plan that we then make available. The benefits will comply with any state laws or regulations that may apply.

Your amount of coverage under the conversion plan will not be more than your amount under this plan when your coverage ends. It may be lower than under this plan.

Your rates for the conversion plan will be based on Prudential's rate as it applies to the form and amount of insurance it provides, the premium period and your age at the time of conversion. Your premiums will not be due less often than quarterly, unless you agree to another frequency.

Long Term Disability Coverage

CLAIM INFORMATION

When Do You Notify Prudential of a Claim?

You must send Prudential written notice of your claim within 20 days after the date your disability begins. If it is not possible to give notice within 20 days, it must be given as soon as is reasonably possible.

We encourage you to notify us of your claim as soon as possible, so that a claim decision can be made in a timely manner.

The claim form is available from your Employer, or you can request a claim form from us. If you do not receive the form from Prudential within 15 days of your request, send Prudential written proof of claim without waiting for the form.

You must notify us immediately when you return to work in any capacity.

How Do You File a Claim?

You and your Employer must fill out your own section of the claim form and then give it to your attending doctor. Your doctor should fill out his or her section of the form and send it directly to Prudential.

What Information Is Needed as Proof of Your Claim?

You must send Prudential written proof of your claim no later than 90 days after the end of the period for which Prudential is liable. If it is not possible to give proof within 90 days, it must be given no later than 1 year after the time proof is otherwise required except in the absence of legal capacity.

Your proof of claim, provided at your expense, must show:

1. That you are under the **regular care** of a **doctor**.
2. The appropriate documentation of your monthly earnings.
3. The date your disability began.
4. Appropriate documentation of the disabling disorder.
5. The extent of your disability, including restrictions and limitations preventing you from performing your usual occupation or any occupation in which you could reasonably be expected to perform satisfactorily in light of your age, education, training, experience, station in life, and physical and mental capacity.
6. The name and address of any **hospital or institution** where you received treatment for your disability, including all attending doctors.

7. The name and address of any doctor you have seen regarding your disability.

We may request that you send satisfactory proof of continuing disability. Prudential will determine whether satisfactory proof of disability has been submitted in accordance with the rules in this section and applicable California law. This proof, provided at your expense, must be received no later than 90 days after the end of each monthly period for which Prudential is liable. If it is not possible to give proof within 90 days, it must be given no later than 1 year after the time proof is otherwise required except in the absence of legal capacity.

If necessary to determine your eligibility for benefits, you will be required to give Prudential authorization to obtain additional medical information, and to provide non-medical information as part of your proof of claim, or proof of continuing disability. Prudential will deny your claim or stop sending you payments if the required information is not submitted and such failure to submit the required information is unreasonable.

Regular care means:

- you personally visit a doctor as frequently as is medically required, according to generally accepted medical standards, to effectively manage and treat your disabling condition(s); and
- you are receiving appropriate treatment and care, which conforms with generally accepted medical standards, for your disabling condition(s) by a doctor whose specialty or experience is appropriate for your disabling condition(s), according to generally accepted medical standards.

Doctor means a person who is performing tasks that are within the limits of his or her medical license, and:

- is licensed to practice medicine and prescribe and administer drugs or to perform surgery; or
- has a doctoral degree in Psychology (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) whose primary practice is treating patients; or
- is a legally qualified medical practitioner according to the laws and regulations of the governing jurisdiction.

Prudential will not recognize any relative including, but not limited to, you, your spouse, or a child, brother, sister, or parent of you or your spouse as a doctor for a claim that you send to us.

Hospital or institution means an accredited facility licensed to provide care and treatment for the condition causing your disability.

How Will Prudential Determine Your Eligibility for Benefits?

Prudential, and not your Employer or plan administrator, has the responsibility to fairly, thoroughly, objectively and timely investigate, evaluate and determine your eligibility for benefits for any claim you make under the Group Contract. Prudential will:

1. consider and interpret the Group Contract and all information obtained by us and submitted by you that relates to your claim for benefits; and

2. make our determination of your eligibility for benefits based on that information and in accordance with the Group Contract and applicable law.

Who Will Prudential Make Payments To?

Prudential will make payments to you.

What Happens If Prudential Overpays Your Claim?

Prudential has the right to recover any overpayments due to:

- fraud;
- any error Prudential makes in processing a claim; and
- your receipt of deductible sources of income.

You must reimburse us in full. We will determine the method by which the repayment is to be made.

Prudential will not recover more money than the amount we paid you.

What Are the Time Limits for Legal Proceedings?

You can start legal action regarding your claim 60 days after proof of claim has been given and up to 3 years from the time proof of claim is required, unless otherwise provided under federal law.

How Will Prudential Handle Insurance Fraud?

Prudential promises to focus on all means necessary to support fraud detection, investigation and prosecution.

Any person who knowingly presents a false or fraudulent claim for the payment of a loss is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in state prison.

Prudential will pursue all appropriate legal remedies in the event of insurance fraud.

Long Term Disability Coverage

OTHER SERVICES

How Can Prudential Help Your Employer Identify and Provide Worksite Modification?

A worksite modification might be what is needed to allow you to perform with reasonable continuity the substantial and material acts necessary to pursue your usual occupation with your Employer. At your option, one of our designated professionals will assist you and your Employer to identify a modification we agree is likely to help you remain at work or return to work. This agreement will be in writing and must be signed by you, your Employer and Prudential.

When this occurs, Prudential will reimburse you for the cost of the modification up to the greater of:

- \$1000; or
- the equivalent of 2 months of your monthly benefit.

This benefit is available to you on a one time only basis.

How Can Prudential's Rehabilitation Program Help You Return to Work?

If you are eligible for and choose to participate in a Qualified Rehabilitation Program, Prudential will pay for the cost of the program. If you are eligible to participate, either Prudential will propose a program or you may propose a program that meets the criteria for a Qualified Rehabilitation Program indicated below.

You are eligible to participate in a Qualified Rehabilitation Program if:

1. you are disabled; and
2. you are or may become, entitled to benefits under this coverage for that disability.

A Qualified Rehabilitation Program is a program which meets all of the following criteria:

1. It is reasonably necessary to provide you with the opportunity to return to work.
2. After being in such a program, you can reasonably be expected to support yourself.
3. It has an anticipated completion date and is developed and implemented by a **qualified rehabilitation specialist** who has been selected by Prudential or you.
4. The cost of the program is reasonable in relation to the gross disability payment which is or may be provided.

The Qualified Rehabilitation Program may include, but is not limited to, the following services:

- coordination with your Employer to assist you to return to work;
- evaluation of adaptive equipment to allow you to work;
- child care during your Qualified Rehabilitation Program;
- vocational evaluation to determine how your disability may impact your employment options;
- job placement services;
- resume preparation;
- job seeking skills training;
- retraining for a new occupation; or
- assistance with relocation that may be part of a Qualified Rehabilitation Program.

Qualified rehabilitation specialist means a person capable of developing and implementing a vocational rehabilitation plan and whose experience and regular duties involve the evaluation, counseling, or placement of disabled persons. This may include persons who are Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC) as defined by the national Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).

How Can Prudential's Social Security Claimant Assistance Program Help You With Obtaining Social Security Disability Benefits?

Prudential can arrange for expert advice regarding your Social Security disability benefits claim. If you agree to this program, the experts will assist you with your application or appeal, as long as you are disabled under the plan.

Receiving Social Security disability benefits may enable:

- you to receive Medicare after 24 months of disability payments;
- you to protect your retirement benefits; and
- your family to be eligible for Social Security benefits.

We can assist you in obtaining Social Security disability benefits by:

- helping you find appropriate legal representation;
- obtaining medical and vocational evidence; and
- reimbursing pre-approved case management expenses.

Glossary

Active employment means you are working for your Employer for earnings that are paid regularly and that you are performing with reasonable continuity the substantial and material acts necessary to pursue your usual occupation. You must be working at least 30 hours per week.

Your worksite must be:

- your Employer's usual place of business;
- an alternate work site at the direction of your Employer other than your home unless clear specific expectations and duties are documented; or
- a location to which your job requires you to travel.

Normal vacation is considered active employment.

Temporary and seasonal workers are excluded from coverage.

Individuals whose employment status is being continued under a severance or termination agreement will not be considered in active employment.

Confined or confinement for the "What Disabilities Have a Limited Pay Period Under Your Plan?" section means a hospital stay of at least 8 hours per day.

Contract holder means the Employer to whom the Group Contract is issued.

Deductible sources of income means income from deductible sources listed in the plan that you receive while you are disabled. This income will be subtracted from your gross disability payment.

Disability earnings means the earnings which you receive for work performed while you are disabled and working for:

- your Employer; or
- another employer, but only if you became employed after your disability began.

Salary continuance paid to supplement your disability earnings will not be considered payment for work performed.

Doctor means a person who is performing tasks that are within the limits of his or her medical license, and:

- is licensed to practice medicine and prescribe and administer drugs or to perform surgery; or
- has a doctoral degree in Psychology (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) whose primary practice is treating patients; or
- is a legally qualified medical practitioner according to the laws and regulations of the governing jurisdiction.

Prudential will not recognize any relative including but not limited to you, your spouse, or a child, brother, sister, or parent of you or your spouse as a doctor for a claim that you send to us.

Eligible survivor means your spouse or Registered Domestic Partner, if living; otherwise, your children under age 25.

Your Registered Domestic Partner means a person whose domestic partnership with you has been validly registered by the California Secretary of State; or a person with whom you have established a union other than marriage, recognized under California law as the equivalent of a Registered Domestic Partner.

Elimination period means a period of continuous disability which must be satisfied before you are eligible to receive benefits from Prudential.

Employee means a person who is in active employment with the Employer for the minimum hours requirement.

Employer means the Contract Holder, and includes any division, subsidiary or affiliate who is reported to Prudential in writing for inclusion under the Group Contract, provided that Prudential has approved such request.

Employment waiting period means the continuous period of time that you must be in a covered class before you are eligible for coverage under a plan. The period must be agreed upon by the Employer and Prudential.

Evidence of insurability means a statement of your medical history which Prudential will use to determine if you are approved for coverage. Evidence of Insurability will be provided at your own expense.

Gross disability payment means the benefit amount before Prudential subtracts deductible sources of income and disability earnings.

Hospital or institution means an accredited facility licensed to provide care and treatment for the condition causing your disability.

Indexed monthly earnings means your monthly earnings as adjusted on each July 1 provided you were disabled for all of the 12 months before that date. Your monthly earnings will be adjusted on that date by the current annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. Your indexed monthly earnings may increase or remain the same, but will never decrease.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) is published by the U.S. Department of Labor. Prudential reserves the right to use some other similar measurement if the Department of Labor changes or stops publishing the CPI-W.

Indexing is only used to determine your percentage of lost earnings while you are disabled and working.

Injury means physical harm or damage to the body. Injury which occurs before you are covered under the plan will be treated as a sickness. Disability must begin while you are covered under the plan.

Insured means any person covered under a coverage.

Law, plan or act means the original enactment of the law, plan or act and all amendments.

Layoff or leave of absence means you are temporarily absent from active employment for a period of time that has been agreed to in advance in writing by your Employer, other than for reasons in connection with any severance or termination agreement. Your normal vacation time, any period of disability or FMLA leave is not considered a temporary layoff.

Maximum period of payment means the longest period of time Prudential will make payments to you for any one disability.

Mental illness means a psychiatric or psychological condition regardless of cause. Mental illness includes but is not limited to schizophrenia, depression, manic depressive, or bipolar illness, anxiety, somatization, substance related disorders, and/or adjustment disorders or other conditions. These conditions are usually treated by a mental health provider or other qualified provider using psychotherapy, psychotropic drugs, or other similar methods of treatment as standardly accepted in the practice of medicine.

Monthly benefit means the total benefit amount for which you are insured under this plan subject to the maximum benefit.

Monthly earnings means your gross monthly income from your Employer as defined in the plan.

Monthly payment means your payment after any deductible sources of income have been subtracted from your gross disability payment.

Part-time basis (LTD) means the ability to work and earn 20% or more of your indexed monthly earnings.

Payable claim means a claim for which Prudential is liable under the terms of the Group Contract.

Plan means a line of coverage under the Group Contract.

Pre-existing condition means:

- you received medical treatment, care or services for a diagnosed condition or took prescribed medication for a diagnosed condition in the given period of time as stated in the plan; or
- you suffered from a physical or mental condition, whether diagnosed or undiagnosed, which was misrepresented or not disclosed in your application: (i) for which you received a doctor's advice or treatment within the given period of time as stated in the plan; or (ii) which caused symptoms within the given period of time as stated in the plan for which a prudent person would usually seek medical advice or treatment.

Qualified rehabilitation specialist means a person capable of developing and implementing a vocational rehabilitation plan and whose experience and regular duties involve the evaluation, counseling, or placement of disabled persons. This may include persons who are Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC) as defined by the national Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).

Recurrent disability means a disability which is:

- caused by a worsening in your condition; and
- due to the same cause(s) as your prior disability for which Prudential made a Long Term Disability payment.

Regular care means:

- you personally visit a doctor as frequently as is medically required, according to generally accepted medical standards, to effectively manage and treat your disabling condition(s); and

- you are receiving appropriate treatment and care, which conforms with generally accepted medical standards, for your disabling condition(s) by a doctor whose specialty or experience is appropriate for your disabling condition(s), according to generally accepted medical standards.

Retirement plan means a defined contribution plan or defined benefit plan. These are plans which provide retirement benefits to employees and are not funded entirely by employee contributions.

Salary continuation or accumulated sick leave means continued payments to you by your Employer of all or part of your monthly earnings, after you become disabled as defined by the Group Contract. This continued payment must be part of an established plan maintained by your Employer for the benefit of an employee covered under the Group Contract. Salary continuation or accumulated sick leave does not include compensation paid to you by your Employer for work you actually perform after your disability begins. Such compensation is considered disability earnings, and would be taken into account as such, in calculating your monthly payment.

Sickness means any disorder of your body or mind, but not an injury; pregnancy including abortion, miscarriage or childbirth. Disability must begin while you are covered under the plan.

Substantial and material acts means the important tasks, functions and operations generally required by employers from those engaged in your usual occupation that cannot be reasonably omitted or modified. In determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue your usual occupation, we will first look at the specific duties required by your Employer or job. If you are unable to perform one or more of these duties with reasonable continuity, we will then determine whether those duties are customarily required of other employees or individuals engaged in your usual occupation. If any specific, material duties required of you by your Employer or job differ from the material duties customarily required of other employees or individuals engaged in your usual occupation, then we will not consider those duties in determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue your usual occupation.

Usual occupation means any employment, business, trade or profession and the substantial and material acts of the occupation you were regularly performing for your Employer when the disability began. Usual occupation is not necessarily limited to the specific job you performed for your Employer.

We, us, and our means The Prudential Insurance Company of America.

You means a person who is eligible for Prudential coverage.

**The Claims and Appeals section
is not part of the
Group Insurance Certificate.**

CLAIMS AND APPEALS

Plan Benefits Provided by

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
751 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

This Group Contract underwritten by The Prudential Insurance Company of America provides insured benefits. For all purposes of this Group Contract, the Employer/Policyholder acts on its own behalf or as an agent of its employees. Under no circumstances will the Employer/Policyholder be deemed the agent of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, absent a written authorization of such status executed between the Employer/Policyholder and The Prudential Insurance Company of America. Nothing in these documents shall, of themselves, be deemed to be such written execution.

Claim Procedures

1. Determination of Benefits

Prudential shall notify you of the claim determination within 45 days of the receipt of your claim. This period may be extended by 30 days if such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan. A written notice of the extension, the reason for the extension and the date by which the plan expects to decide your claim, shall be furnished to you within the initial 45-day period. This period may be extended for an additional 30 days beyond the original 30-day extension if necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan. A written notice of the additional extension, the reason for the additional extension and the date by which the plan expects to decide on your claim, shall be furnished to you within the first 30-day extension period if an additional extension of time is needed. However, if a period of time is extended due to your failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the period for making the benefit determination by Prudential will be tolled (i.e., suspended) from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to you until the date on which you respond to the request for additional information.

If your claim for benefits is denied, in whole or in part, you or your authorized representative will receive a written notice from Prudential of your denial. The notice will be written in a manner calculated to be understood by you and shall include:

- (a) the specific reason(s) for the denial,
- (b) references to the specific plan provisions on which the benefit determination was based,
- (c) a description of any additional material or information necessary for you to perfect a claim and an explanation of why such information is necessary,
- (d) a description of Prudential's appeals procedures and applicable time limits, and
- (e) if an adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination will be provided free of charge upon request.

2. Appeals of Adverse Determination

If your claim for benefits is denied or if you do not receive a response to your claim within the appropriate time frame (in which case the claim for benefits is deemed to have been denied), you or your representative may appeal your denied claim in writing to Prudential within 180 days of the receipt of the written notice of denial or 180 days from the date such claim is deemed denied. You may submit with your appeal any written comments, documents, records and any other information relating to your claim. Upon your request, you will also have access to, and the right to obtain copies of, all documents, records and information relevant to your claim free of charge.

A full review of the information in the claim file and any new information submitted to support the appeal will be conducted by Prudential, utilizing individuals not involved in the initial benefit determination. This review will not afford any deference to the initial benefit determination.

Prudential shall make a determination on your claim appeal within 45 days of the receipt of your appeal request. This period may be extended by up to an additional 45 days if Prudential determines that special circumstances require an extension of time. A written notice of the extension, the reason for the extension and the date that Prudential expects to render a decision shall be furnished to you within the initial 45-day period. However, if the period of time is extended due to your failure to submit information necessary to decide the appeal, the period for making the benefit determination will be tolled (i.e., suspended) from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to you until the date on which you respond to the request for additional information.

If the claim on appeal is denied in whole or in part, you will receive a written notification from Prudential of the denial. The notice will be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the applicant and shall include:

- (a) the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination,
- (b) references to the specific plan provisions on which the determination was based,
- (c) a statement that you are entitled to receive upon request and free of charge reasonable access to, and make copies of, all records, documents and other information relevant to your benefit claim upon request,
- (d) a description of Prudential's review procedures and applicable time limits,
- (e) a statement that you have the right to obtain upon request and free of charge, a copy of internal rules or guidelines relied upon in making this determination, and
- (f) a statement describing any appeals procedures offered by the plan.

If a decision on appeal is not furnished to you within the time frames mentioned above, the claim shall be deemed denied on appeal.

If the appeal of your benefit claim is denied or if you do not receive a response to your appeal within the appropriate time frame (in which case the appeal is deemed to have been denied), you or your representative may make a second, voluntary appeal of your denial in writing to Prudential within 180 days of the receipt of the written notice of denial or 180 days from the date such claim is deemed denied. You may submit with your second appeal any written comments, documents, records and any other information relating to your claim.

Upon your request, you will also have access to, and the right to obtain copies of, all documents, records and information relevant to your claim free of charge.

Prudential shall make a determination on your second claim appeal within 45 days of the receipt of your appeal request. This period may be extended by up to an additional 45 days if Prudential determines that special circumstances require an extension of time. A written notice of the extension, the reason for the extension and the date by which Prudential expects to render a decision shall be furnished to you within the initial 45-day period. However, if the period of time is extended due to your failure to submit information necessary to decide the appeal, the period for making the benefit determination will be tolled from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to you until the date on which you respond to the request for additional information.

Your decision to submit a benefit dispute to this voluntary second level of appeal has no effect on your right to any other benefits under this plan. If you elect to initiate a lawsuit without submitting to a second level of appeal, the plan waives any right to assert that you failed to exhaust administrative remedies. If you elect to submit the dispute to the second level of appeal, the plan agrees that any statute of limitations or other defense based on timeliness is tolled during the time that the appeal is pending.

If the claim on appeal is denied in whole or in part for a second time, you will receive a written notification from Prudential of the denial. The notice will be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the applicant and shall include the same information that was included in the first adverse determination letter. If a decision on appeal is not furnished to you within the time frames mentioned above, the claim shall be deemed denied on appeal.

