

10 Things You Should Know Before Buying Cancer Insurance

- 1. Cancer Insurance Is Not a Substitute for Comprehensive Coverage**
Cancer treatment only accounts for a small percentage of the American public's health care bill. That is why it is essential to have insurance coverage for all conditions, not just cancer.
- 2. Consider a Major Medical Policy if Your Family is not Protected**
If you and your family are not protected against catastrophic medical costs, consider a major medical policy. These policies pay a large percentage of your covered costs after a deductible is paid.
- 3. You May Not Need Extra Coverage**
Ask yourself these three questions: Is my current coverage adequate for these costs? How much will the treatment cost if I do get cancer? How likely am I to contract the disease?
- 4. Duplicate Coverage is Expensive and Unnecessary**
Buy basic coverage first, and then make sure a cancer policy will meet any needs not covered by your primary plan. Don't assume that double coverage will result in double benefits.
- 5. Some Expenses May Not be Covered by This Policy**
Cancer patients often face large, non-medical expenses that are not usually covered by cancer insurance. Examples are home care, transportation and rehabilitation costs.
- 6. The Odds are Against You for Developing Cancer**
While 3 in 10 Americans will get cancer over a lifetime, 7 in 10 will not.
- 7. Check the Policy's Limitations**
Some policies pay only for hospital care. Many treatments, including radiation, chemotherapy and some surgery are often given on an outpatient basis.
- 8. No Policy Will Cover Cancer Diagnosed Prior to Policy Application**
Some policies will deny coverage if you are later found to have had cancer at the time of purchase, even if you did not know it.
- 9. Most Cancer Insurance Does Not Cover Cancer-Related Illnesses**
Cancer or its treatment may lead to other physical problems, such as infection, diabetes or pneumonia.
- 10. Many Policies Contain Time Limits**
Some policies require waiting periods of 30 days or even several months before you are covered. Others stop paying benefits after a fixed period of two or three years.