

# “SAMPLE ONLY”

## SOVEREIGN ESSENTIALS

### APPENDIX

## CRITICAL ILLNESS BENEFIT

### **1. When Sovereign will pay a critical illness benefit**

The critical illness benefit is a one-off lump sum amount. Sovereign will pay you a critical illness benefit in accordance with this policy if the life assured suffers any of the following *conditions*:

- *Cancer*
- *Coronary artery bypass surgery*
- *Heart attack*
- *Stroke*

and meets **all** of the following criteria:

- the life assured suffers from one of the *conditions* for the first time;
- the life assured suffers the *condition* not less than 6 months after the *risk commencement date*;
- the life assured survives for at least 56 days after first suffering the *condition*;
- the life assured is
  - prevented from undertaking active employment by the *condition* for at least 56 days; or
  - if unemployed at the time of suffering the *condition*, is, as a result of the *condition*, for at least 56 days after first suffering from the *condition*, unable to perform at least three of the following activities without assistance:
    - Bathing and showering
    - Dressing and undressing
    - Eating and drinking
    - Using a toilet
    - Moving from place to place by walking, in a wheel chair or with a walking aid.
- the life assured is under medical treatment and following the advice of a *Registered Medical Practitioner* at the time you make the claim.

Sovereign will only make one payment for a critical illness benefit for each life assured.

### **2. The effect of a critical illness benefit on life cover**

The critical illness benefit will be treated as an early payment of your life cover benefit. When Sovereign pays a critical illness benefit, the life cover benefit for that life assured will decrease by the amount paid for the critical illness benefit.

The maximum combined amount payable under the life cover benefit, bereavement support benefit, critical illness benefit and if applicable total permanent disablement benefit is the amount of the life cover benefit for that life assured.

### **3. When Sovereign will not pay a benefit**

Sovereign will not pay any benefit where the life assured participates in any criminal act, which (either directly or indirectly) causes or contributes to the *condition* of the life assured.

### **4. Making a critical illness claim**

To make a claim for a critical illness benefit, please call the Sovereign claims team on 0800 500 103 for assistance.

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Sovereign will require information from you including:

- a completed claim form; and
- medical evidence and reports, showing proof of the *condition* giving rise to the claim.

Sovereign may also require the life assured to have an examination by a *Registered Medical Practitioner* appointed by Sovereign before accepting the claim.

Sovereign is under no obligation to pay a critical illness benefit until we have received all the information we have requested.

## **5. Definitions of medical conditions**

### *Cancer*

The presence of one or more malignant tumours, characterised by uncontrolled growth and spread of malignant cells, with the invasion and destruction of normal tissue for which major interventionist treatment or surgery is considered medically necessary.

In addition, the following tumours are covered:

- Intra-ductal carcinoma of the breast where mastectomy has been performed to arrest spread of malignancy.
- Malignant melanoma, which is covered if it is at least a Clark level 3, or greater than 1.5mm thickness as measured using the Breslow histological classification.

The following tumours are excluded:

- Tumours classified as carcinoma in situ (including intraepithelial neoplasia).
- Prostate tumours with a Gleason score of less than 6. (If the Gleason score is unavailable, we will use the TNM classification and tumours classified as T1 or its equivalent will be excluded).
- All skin cancers unless there is evidence of metastases.
- Papillary micro-carcinoma of thyroid or bladder.
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia less than RAI stage 3.

### *Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery*

Open heart bypass surgery to correct or treat coronary artery disease.

### *Heart attack*

The death of a portion of the heart muscle arising from the inadequate blood supply to the relevant area. The diagnosis shall be based on the following criteria being present and consistent with a heart attack:

- Clinical features (including but not limited to chest pain, nausea and dizziness); and
- Confirmatory new electrocardiogram (ECG) changes; and
- A diagnostic rise and fall (other than as a result of cardiac or coronary intervention) in either Troponin I in excess of 2.0microgram/L or Troponin T in excess of 0.6microgram/L or cardiac enzyme CK-MB.

If any of the above criteria are not met then we will consider a claim based on evidence that the event produced a permanent

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reduction in the Ejection Fraction to 50% or less (as measured one year after the event).

### *Stroke*

A cerebrovascular incident producing neurological sequelae and causing at least 25% continuous impairment of *whole person functioning*, as measured at 6 months after diagnosis. This requires evidence of:

- Infarction of brain tissue; or
- Intracerebral or subarachnoid haemorrhage.

Excluded from this definition are transient ischaemic attacks (TIA), reversible ischaemic neurological deficit (RIND), cerebral symptoms due to migraine, cerebral injury from trauma or systemic hypoxia and vascular disease affecting the eye or optic nerve.

## **6. Key Terms**

### *appendices*

The *appendix* or *appendices* that forms part of the policy document and contains the terms of any benefit you have chosen.

### *condition(s)*

A treatment, illness, surgical procedure or event as specified in this *appendix* which leads to a claim being paid under the specified definition.

### *whole person functioning*

As defined in the “Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition”(or subsequent editions), produced by the American Medical Association.

### *Registered Medical Practitioner(s)*

A person, acceptable to Sovereign, who is registered and practising as a medical practitioner in New Zealand or Australia, other than:

- You;
- The life assured;
- A member of the life assured’s family or your immediate family;
- The life assured’s or your business partner or associate.

### *risk commencement date*

The commencement date of the policy, being the date on which the policy was issued.