

# Contact Us

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A photograph of a family of three—a man, a woman, and a young child—sitting around a wooden dining table. They are all smiling and appear to be in a bright, sunlit room. The man is on the left, the woman is on the right, and the child is in the center. The image is slightly faded to serve as a background for the text.

# Life insurance after health problems — How it really works

Many people believe that life insurance is out of reach once they have faced health problems. The reality is very different: **coverage is still possible**, even if you have already been declined or if you live with a medical condition. This guide clearly explains how no-medical-exam life insurance products work, what they cover, their limitations, and who they are designed for — so you can make the best decision for you and your family.

# How no medical exam life insurance works

Rather than requiring blood tests, urine samples, or doctor visits, these policies rely on a **simplified application process**. They were designed to make coverage accessible to people whose health conditions make it harder to get traditional insurance. In Canada, there are **two main categories** of this type of product, each suited to different health profiles.

## Simplified issue insurance

- No medical exam required
- Short health questionnaire (yes/no questions)
- Approval often in 24 to 48 hours
- Coverage can reach **\$250,000 to \$500,000** depending on age and answers



## Guaranteed issue insurance

- No medical exam required
- **No health questions** at all
- Guaranteed approval (based on age criteria)
- Lower coverage amounts (generally **\$5,000 to \$50,000**)

Simplified issue insurance is ideal for people with mild to moderate health conditions — such as controlled diabetes, high blood pressure, anxiety or depression, or past medical issues that are now stable. The insurer accepts a higher level of risk by skipping medical exams and sets premiums accordingly. Guaranteed issue insurance, on the other hand, is intended for people with more serious or multiple conditions, a history of insurance refusals, or an urgent need for coverage.

# Guaranteed Issue Insurance — What You Need to Know

Guaranteed issue insurance represents a safety net for those who have been turned down everywhere else. As the name suggests, approval is **guaranteed** — there are no medical questions, no records to provide, and no risk of denial based on your health condition. It is a solution designed for people in complex situations who still deserve protection for their family.

It is important to understand how the **waiting period** works, which applies to most of these policies. In general, if death occurs within the first two years after purchase, the insurer does not pay the full death benefit. Instead, it refunds the premiums paid, often with interest added. Once that two-year period has passed, full coverage takes effect. In some cases, accidental death may be covered immediately, even during this waiting period.

## Ideal if you have...

- Serious or multiple health conditions
- A history of denied applications
- An urgent need for coverage without a long processing delay

## The waiting period — in brief

- Generally **2 years** before full benefits take effect
- Refund of premiums + interest if death occurs during this period
- Accidental death often covered immediately

This structure allows the insurer to manage risk while offering an entry point to financial protection for those who need it most. For many, this coverage — even if only partial at first — represents a crucial first step toward peace of mind.

# What can this coverage be used for?

Once your policy is in force, no medical exam life insurance works **exactly like traditional life insurance**. Your designated beneficiary receives a tax-free lump sum at the time of your death. The way you obtained the coverage does not change the way the benefit is paid. What matters is that your family is protected.



## Mortgage or rent

Help your family stay in their home without the financial pressure of monthly payments.



## Everyday expenses

Cover day-to-day living costs — food, utilities, transportation, and children's education.



## Funeral and final expenses

Keep your loved ones from having to cover funeral and estate costs on their own, which can exceed \$15,000.



## Outstanding debts

Pay off credit cards, personal loans, or other financial obligations that could burden your loved ones.

The protection is very real. The main difference between these policies and traditional insurance lies in **how you qualify**, not in how the policy pays out. For Canadian families, knowing these funds will be available — tax-free — provides invaluable peace of mind.

# Important limitations to know

Although these policies open access to vital protection, it is essential to approach their purchase with a clear understanding of the trade-offs. Choosing the right solution — not just *a* solution — requires transparency. Here are the three main factors to consider before buying.



## Coverage limits

Simplified issue insurance generally offers lower amounts than fully underwritten insurance. Guaranteed issue insurance is primarily designed to cover final expenses, with more modest coverage limits. If you need significant protection to replace income or pay off a large mortgage, these products may not be enough on their own.




## Higher cost per dollar of coverage

Premiums are **higher per dollar of coverage** compared with traditional insurance. The insurer factors unknown medical risk into pricing because it does not have exam results to assess your health precisely. That does not mean the coverage is not worth it — but it is important to be aware of it when comparing options.



## Waiting periods (guaranteed issue)

Most guaranteed issue policies include a waiting period, generally of **two years**, before the full benefit is payable. During this period, only the premiums paid (plus interest) are refunded in the event of death. A notable exception: accidental death is often covered from day one. It is important to read your policy terms carefully.

-  Being well informed about these limitations allows you to make an informed choice — and choose the **right** coverage for your situation, not just the first one available.

# Cost comparison: No medical exam vs traditional insurance

To make an informed decision, it helps to understand how the different policy types compare in terms of cost, eligibility process, and coverage potential. The table below summarizes the three main categories of life insurance available in Canada for adults evaluating their options.

Type of insurance	Medical exam	Premium cost	Coverage potential
Traditional (fully underwritten)	Yes	\$ Lowest	💰💰💰 Highest
Simplified issue	No exam, short questionnaire	\$ \$ Moderate	💰💰 Medium to high
Guaranteed issue	No exam, no questions	\$ \$ \$ Higher	💰 Low (final expenses)

People in good health will always pay less with fully underwritten coverage. However, for someone facing health challenges, **no medical exam coverage may be the only realistic option** — and it is often far better than having no protection at all. Think of this table not as an indicator of value, but as a navigation tool: each policy type serves a different need, and the best choice is the one that fits *your* situation.

## For people in good health

Traditional insurance with full underwriting offers the lowest premiums and the highest coverage. If you qualify, it is almost always the best value.

## For those with health challenges

No medical exam insurance provides a practical path to protection. The higher cost reflects access, not a drawback — it is often the only available option.

# Who is this type of insurance best suited for?

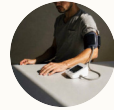
No-medical-exam life insurance is not designed for everyone — but for those who need it, it can turn a situation that seemed hopeless into a real opportunity for protection. Here are the profiles for which these products are particularly well suited.



## People who have already been declined

A previous insurance decline is not a permanent verdict.

Guaranteed issue insurance in particular does not consider your medical history — approval is guaranteed based on age criteria.



## People managing a medical condition

Controlled diabetes, hypertension, anxiety disorders, stable heart disease — many conditions that lead to declines in traditional insurance are accepted under simplified issue coverage.



## Seniors looking for simple, fast coverage

For Canadians in their 60s, 70s, or even 80s, coverage for final expenses can be obtained quickly without medical stress. It is a practical and dignified way to protect one's estate.



## Families needing immediate protection

When life is unpredictable, waiting is not an option. These policies offer fast coverage — often approved in 24 to 48 hours — for families who need security right away.

✔ In summary: if you have health concerns and think life insurance is out of reach for you, these products exist precisely to show you that **you are wrong** — in the best possible way.

# What to Remember

Your medical history does not define your family's future.

Modern life insurance products were designed for **real people in real situations** — not just those with a perfect medical record. Whether you are managing a chronic illness, have been through a difficult health episode, or have been declined in the past, options exist for you in Canada today.

The key lies in three fundamental steps: choose the *right* type of coverage for your health profile, honestly understand its limits and benefits, and structure your policy so it truly serves your goals. Imperfect coverage — but real and in force — is infinitely better than no coverage at all.

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## Assess your situation

Determine your current health status, insurance history, and coverage needs (income protection, final expenses, debts).

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## Understand the conditions

Carefully read the waiting periods, exclusions, and coverage limits. Transparency at the start avoids surprises for your family later.

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## Choose the right type of policy

Compare simplified issue and guaranteed issue based on your profile. Consult an independent advisor to explore the options available from multiple insurers.

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## Take action today

The longer you wait, the more premiums may rise with age. A decision made today means a family protected tomorrow.

Remember: no-medical-exam products are not a fallback option. For thousands of Canadians every year, they represent the entry point to real financial security — the kind they deserved from the start. Your health situation belongs to you. So does your peace of mind.

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