

Do you need insurance but don't know where to start? The insurance industry can be confusing, and you may have several questions about how Huntington Disease impacts insurance options. You can begin by accessing this information but should rely on the expertise of an insurance professional for more personalized guidance.

Main Types of Insurance Coverage:

COVERAGE TYPE	COVERAGE DETAILS
Life Insurance	- Provides a lump-sum payment if the insured person passes away. - Options include term insurance or lifetime insurance. - Term insurance is paid over a set number of years. - Lifetime insurance can continue to any age.
Mortgage Insurance (i.e. insurance offered by a lender, bank lending department, credit card issuer)	- Provides either a lump-sum payment or a monthly payment to pay the borrowed amount (mortgage amount, loan amount, etc.). - Initial assessment for coverage is short, and more in-depth underwriting occurs when a claim is submitted (referred to as 'post-claim underwriting'). - Premiums must be paid ongoing, but higher probability your claim will be declined.
Critical Illness Insurance	Provides a lump-sum payment if the insured person is diagnosed with one of the eligible illnesses or conditions (e.g. heart attack, cancer, stroke) and survives 30 days following diagnosis.
Disability Insurance	- Provides a monthly benefit amount designed to assist with paying the insured person's ongoing living expenses. This may include mortgage, car payments, groceries, utility bills, etc. - Benefits are paid if the insured person becomes disabled, either from an illness, injury or accident and is unable to perform all of the regular requirements of their job or occupation.
Long-Term Care Insurance	- If an insured person is no longer able to perform at least two activities of daily living as confirmed by a medical evaluation, a benefit amount may be paid. - For example, MyDignity HomeCare Assistance is a specialized plan available that has an easier application and qualifying process, and provides a benefit amount (\$50,000 or \$100,000) instead.

What are "Rated" policies and "Exclusions"?

- A rated policy is issued to someone who the life insurance company has determined to be higher than average risk. These policies have the monthly cost increased by either a flat sum or a percentage amount.
- Exclusions are situations or health conditions that an insurance company will not pay a claim for. If an insured person has a family history of a certain illness, the insurance company may add an exclusion to a policy for that illness.
- Exclusions may include 'pre-existing' conditions if the insured person has had that condition in the past and that condition has been treated successfully.

What is underwriting?

- 'Underwriting' is a term that refers to the group of processes that insurance companies follow to determine the likelihood that a person will either die, become sick or have a bad accident at a young age.
- The results from underwriting determine how much insurance coverage the insurance company will give to you and how much you need to pay each month.
- Some insurance products need underwriting as part of the application process, and some insurance products do not have any underwriting.
- One of the processes of underwriting is to have the person answer some medical and lifestyle questions. It is important to answer all the questions truthfully because insurance companies can cancel the insurance policy if someone does not answer a question truthfully.
- Insurance on your mortgage or credit card has a very short underwriting process before the coverage is issued, but has a very long underwriting process if the insured person becomes sick, injured or dies. The insurance company could refuse to pay a claim if the medical file of the insured person shows previous health issues that the insurance company considers to be an exclusion (excluded condition).

Genetic Information:

- The Genetic Non-Discrimination Act (GNDA) prevents insurance companies from asking about genetic test information. Insurance companies are also not allowed to look at genetic test results in your personal medical file if these test results are sent by your family doctor.
- Insurance companies are allowed to ask questions about family medical history.
- Insurance companies can ask you if members of your genetic family have HD.
- Insurance companies can ask you if you are experiencing symptoms typical of HD.
- If you are unsure how to answer a question on an insurance application form, you should consult with your insurance agent or your family doctor about how to answer the question.

PRO Tips:

- Seek a licensed insurance agent or broker's advice.
- Insure children as soon as possible. It is less expensive and there are fewer questions about family history.
- Only answer questions that you are asked.
- You must answer all medical questions to the best of your ability.
- Be honest; withholding or providing untruthful information can be deemed as fraud, and will result in your coverage being terminated.
- Do not apply for coverage if you have any pending medical tests (either tests that need to be conducted but have not been completed, or tests for which the results have not been shared with you yet).
- It is better to wait for all tests to be completed and to receive all results before submitting an application to an insurer.

Need guidance?

Consult a licensed life insurance agent or broker who can provide guidance on the insurance products and coverage amounts that would be beneficial for you to consider. To learn more, connect with life@prolink.insure.

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