

**Basin Electric Power
Cooperative**

**Retired Employees of
Basin Electric Power
Cooperative age 55 or
older**

Employee Term Life Coverage



Disclosure Notice

FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS

Prudential's Customer Service Office:

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
Prudential Group Life Claim Division
P.O. Box 8517
Philadelphia, PA 19176
1-800-524-0542

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 FLORIDA RESIDENTS

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

FOR IDAHO RESIDENTS

If you need the assistance of the governmental agency that regulates the business of insurance, you can contact the Idaho Department of Insurance by contacting:

Idaho Department of Insurance
Consumer Affairs
700 W State Street, 3rd Floor
PO Box 83720
Boise ID 83720-0043

1-800-721-3272 or 208-334-4250 or www.DOI.Idaho.gov

FOR INDIANA RESIDENTS

Questions regarding your policy or coverage should be directed to:

**The Prudential Insurance Company of America
(800) 524-0542**

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 NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS

Notice: This Certificate of Insurance provides all of the benefits mandated by the North Carolina Insurance Code, but is issued under a group master policy located in another state and may be governed by that state's laws.

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
Prudential Group Life Claim Division
P.O. Box 8517
Philadelphia, PA 19176
1-800-524-0542**

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 file a complaint electronically with the **OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE** at its website at <http://oci.wi.gov/>, or 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) 490-1007

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) 490-1007

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.

THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

Certificate of Coverage

Prudential certifies that insurance is provided according to the Group Contract(s) for each Insured Employee. Your Booklet's Schedule of Benefits shows the Contract Holder and the Group Contract Number(s).

Insured Employee: You are eligible to become insured under the Group Contract if you are in the Covered Classes of the Booklet's Schedule of Benefits and meet the requirements in the Booklet's Who is Eligible section. The When You Become Insured section of the Booklet states how and when you may become insured for each Coverage. Your insurance will end when the rules in the When Your Insurance Ends section so provide. Your Booklet and this Certificate of Coverage together form your Group Insurance Certificate.

Beneficiary for Employee Death Benefits: See the Booklet's Beneficiary Rules.

Coverages and Amounts: The available Coverages and the amounts of insurance are described in the Booklet.

If you are insured, your Booklet and this Certificate of Coverage form your Group Insurance Certificate. Together they replace any older booklets and certificates issued to you for the Coverages in the Booklet's Schedule of Benefits. All Benefits are subject in every way to the entire Group Contract which includes the Group Insurance Certificate.

Right to Examine this Group Insurance Certificate: You may return this Group Insurance Certificate to Prudential, for any reason, within 20 days after you receive it. If you return it within this period, the insurance will be void from its Effective Date, and we will refund your Premium payments, if any.

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

Foreword

We are pleased to present you with this Booklet. It describes the Program of benefits we have arranged for you and what you have to do to be covered for these benefits.

We believe this Program provides worthwhile protection for you and your family.

Please read this Booklet carefully. If you have any questions about the Program, we will be happy to answer them.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *This Booklet is an important document and should be kept in a safe place. This Booklet and the Certificate of Coverage made a part of this Booklet together form your 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 59793.***

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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Schedule of Benefits

Covered Classes: The “Covered Classes” are these Employees of the Contract Holder (and its Associated Companies): All Retired Employees age 55 or older with at least 5 years of service with the Employer on their date of retirement other than Retirees of Basic Cooperative Services.

Program Date: January 1, 2020. This Booklet describes the benefits under the Group Program as of the Program Date.

- This Booklet and the Certificate of Coverage together form your Group Insurance Certificate. The Coverages in this Booklet are insured under a Group Contract issued by Prudential. All benefits are subject in every way to the entire Group Contract which includes the Group Insurance Certificate. It alone forms the agreement under which payment of insurance is made.
- The Employer expects to continue the Group Program indefinitely. But the Employer reserves the right to change or end it at any time. This would change or end the terms of the Group Program in effect at that time for Retired Employees.

BASIC EMPLOYEE TERM LIFE COVERAGE

You may enroll for one of the options below. The option for which you enroll will be recorded by your Employer and reported to Prudential.

BENEFIT AMOUNTS:

Amount For Each Benefit Class:

Benefit Classes	Amount of Insurance
All Employees	Any multiple of \$1,000. Maximum Amount: \$5,000.

OTHER INFORMATION

Contract Holder: BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

Group Contract No.: G-59793-ND

Associated Companies: Associated Companies are employers who are the Contract Holder’s subsidiaries or affiliates and are reported to Prudential in writing for inclusion under the Group Contract, provided that Prudential has approved such request.

Cost of Insurance: The insurance in this Booklet is Contributory Insurance. You will be informed of the amount of your contribution when you enroll. Any contribution due but unpaid at your death will be deducted from the death benefit.

Prudential's Address:

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
80 Livingston Avenue
Roseland, New Jersey 07068

WHEN YOU HAVE A CLAIM

Each time a claim is made, it should be made without delay. Use a claim form, and follow the instructions on the form.

If you do not have a claim form, contact your Employer.

Who is Eligible to Become Insured

FOR EMPLOYEE INSURANCE

You are eligible to become insured for Employee Insurance while:

- You are in a Covered Class.

Your class is determined by the Contract Holder. This will be done under its rules, on dates it sets. The Contract Holder must not discriminate among persons in like situations. You cannot belong to more than one class for insurance on each basis, Contributory or Non-contributory Insurance, under a Coverage. "Class" means Covered Class, Benefit Class or anything related to work, such as position or earnings, which affects the insurance available.

The rules for obtaining Employee Insurance are in the When You Become Insured section.

When You Become Insured

FOR EMPLOYEE INSURANCE

Your Employee Insurance under a Coverage will begin the first day on which:

- You are in a Covered Class for that insurance; and
- That Coverage is part of the Group Contract.

At any time, the benefits for which you are insured are those for your class, unless otherwise stated.

Basic Employee Term Life Coverage

FOR YOU ONLY

A. DEATH BENEFIT WHILE A COVERED PERSON.

If you die while a Covered Person, the amount of your Employee Term Life Insurance under this Coverage is payable when Prudential receives written proof of death.

B. DEATH BENEFIT DURING CONVERSION PERIOD.

A death benefit is payable under this Section B if you die:

- (1) within 31 days after you cease to be a Covered Person; and
- (2) while entitled (under Section C) to convert your Employee Term Life Insurance under this Coverage to an individual contract.

The amount of the benefit is equal to the amount of Employee Term Life Insurance under this Coverage you were entitled to convert. It is payable even if you did not apply for conversion. It is payable when Prudential receives written proof of death.

C. CONVERSION PRIVILEGE.

If you cease to be insured for the Employee Term Life Insurance of the Group Contract for one of the reasons stated below, you may convert all or part of your insurance under this Coverage, which then ends, to an individual life insurance contract. Evidence of insurability is not required. The reasons are:

- (1) Your employment ends or you transfer out of a Covered Class.
- (2) All term life insurance of the Group Contract for your class ends by amendment or otherwise. But, on the date it ends, you must have been insured for five years for that insurance (or for that insurance and any Prudential rider or group contract replaced by that insurance).

Any such conversion is subject to the rest of this Section C.

Availability: You must apply for the individual contract and pay the first premium by the later of:

- (1) the thirty-first day after you cease to be insured for the Employee Term Life Insurance; and
- (2) the fifteenth day after you have been given written notice of the conversion privilege.

Individual Contract Rules: The individual contract must conform to the following:

Amount: Not more than your Employee Term Life Insurance under this Coverage when your insurance ends. But, if it ends because all term life insurance of the Group Contract for your class ends, the total amount of individual insurance which you may get in place of all your life insurance then ending under the Group Contract will not exceed the lesser of the following:

- (1) The total amount of all your life insurance then ending under the Group Contract reduced by the amount of group life insurance from any carrier for which you are or become eligible within the next 31 days.
- (2) \$10,000.

Form: Any form of a life insurance contract that:

- (1) conforms to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, having no distinction based on sex; and
- (2) is one that Prudential usually issues at the age and amount applied for.

This does not include term insurance or a contract with disability or supplementary benefits.

Premium: Based on Prudential's rate as it applies to the form and amount, and to your class of risk and age at the time.

Effective Date: The end of the 31 day period after you cease to be insured for the Employee Term Life Insurance.

Any death benefit provided under a section of this Coverage is payable according to that section, the Beneficiary and Mode of Settlement Rules, and these rules.

- (1) If Prudential determines that all or part of a claim is payable, Prudential will pay that benefit within two months after Prudential receives written proof of death.
- (2) If Prudential receives written proof of death within 180 days after the date of the death, Prudential will pay reasonable interest on the benefit from the date of death.

General Information

BENEFICIARY RULES

The rules in this section apply to insurance payable on account of your death, when the Coverage states that they do. But these rules are modified by any burial expenses rule in the Schedule of Benefits and, if there is an assignment, by the following sections: Limits on Assignments; and Effect of Gift Assignment of Rights of Group Life Insurance Under Another Group Contract.

"Beneficiary" means a person chosen, on a form approved by Prudential, to receive the insurance benefits.

You have the right to choose a Beneficiary for each Coverage under this Prudential Group Contract.

If there is a Beneficiary for the insurance under a Coverage, it is payable to that Beneficiary. Any amount of insurance under a Coverage for which there is no Beneficiary at your death will be payable to the first of the following: your (a) surviving spouse; (b) surviving child(ren) in equal shares; (c) surviving parents in equal shares; (d) surviving siblings in equal shares; (e) estate. This order will apply unless otherwise provided in the Limits on Assignments.

You may change the Beneficiary at any time without the consent of the present Beneficiary. The Beneficiary change form must be filed through the Contract Holder. The change will take effect on the date the form is signed. But it will not apply to any amount paid by Prudential before it receives the form.

If there is more than one Beneficiary but the Beneficiary form does not specify their shares, they will share equally. If a Beneficiary dies before you, that Beneficiary's interest will end. It will be shared equally by any remaining Beneficiaries, unless the Beneficiary form states otherwise.

If you and a Beneficiary die in the same event and it cannot be determined who died first, the insurance will be payable as if that Beneficiary died before you.

MODE OF SETTLEMENT RULES

The rules in this section apply to Life Insurance payable on account of a Covered Person's death. But these rules are subject to the Limits on Assignments section.

Life Insurance is normally paid to the Beneficiary in one sum. Subject to applicable law, where the amount of the benefit meets Prudential's current minimum requirement, payment in one sum will be made by establishing a retained asset account in the Beneficiary's name, unless the Beneficiary elects another settlement or payment option available at the time of claim, and the benefit distribution will be deemed complete when the account is established. The retained asset account is an interest-bearing draft account backed by the financial strength of Prudential. Funds are held in Prudential's general account or elsewhere as Prudential may direct and an account in the Beneficiary's name is credited interest at a rate set by Prudential's discretion, subject to a minimum rate that will change no more than once every 90 days on advance notice to the Beneficiary. The Beneficiary is provided a draftbook and has immediate access to the entire amount by writing drafts for any amount up to the account balance. The retained asset account is not a bank account and is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; it is a contractual undertaking between Prudential and the Beneficiary. Further information about the account is provided at the time of claim. Prudential may at its discretion provide other forms of payment in one sum. But another mode of settlement may be arranged with Prudential for all or part of the insurance, as stated below.

Arrangements for Mode of Settlement: You may arrange a mode of settlement by proper written request to Prudential.

If, at a Covered Person's death, no mode of settlement has been arranged for an amount of the person's Life Insurance, the Beneficiary and Prudential may then mutually agree on a mode of settlement for that amount.

Conditions for Mode of Settlement: The Beneficiary must be a natural person taking in the Beneficiary's own right. A mode of settlement will apply to secondary Beneficiaries only if Prudential agrees in writing. Each installment to a person must not be less than \$20.00. A change of Beneficiary will void any mode of settlement arranged before the change.

Choice by Beneficiary: A Beneficiary being paid under a mode of settlement may, if Prudential agrees, choose (or change the Beneficiary's choice of) a payee or payees to receive, in one sum, any amount which would otherwise be payable to the Beneficiary's estate.

Prudential has prepared information about the modes of settlement available. Ask the Contract Holder for this.

INCONTESTABILITY OF LIFE INSURANCE

This limits Prudential's use of a person's statements in contesting an amount of Life Insurance for which the person is insured. These are statements made to persuade Prudential to accept the person for insurance. They will be considered to be made to the best of the person's knowledge and belief. These rules apply to each statement:

- (1) It will not be used in the contest unless:
 - (a) It is in a written instrument signed by the person and
 - (b) A copy of that instrument is or has been furnished to the person or to the person's Beneficiary.
 - (2) If it relates to the person's insurability, it will not be used to contest the validity of insurance which has been in force, before the contest, for at least two years during the person's lifetime.
-

LIMITS ON ASSIGNMENTS

You may assign your insurance under a Coverage. Unless the Schedule of Benefits states otherwise, insurance under any Coverage providing death benefits or periodic benefits on account of disability may be assigned only as a gift assignment. Any rights, benefits or privileges that you have as an Employee may be assigned. This includes any right you have to choose a Beneficiary or to convert to another contract of insurance. Prudential will not decide if an assignment does what it is intended to do. Prudential will not be held to know that one has been made unless it or a copy is filed with Prudential through the Contract Holder.

This paragraph applies only to insurance for which you have the right to choose a Beneficiary, when that right has been assigned. If an assigned amount of insurance becomes payable on account of your death and, on the date of that death, there is no Beneficiary chosen by the assignee, it will be payable to:

- (1) the assignee, if living; or
- (2) the estate of the assignee, if the assignee is not living.

It will not be payable as stated in the Beneficiary Rules.

EFFECT OF GIFT ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS OF GROUP LIFE INSURANCE UNDER ANOTHER GROUP CONTRACT

This Section applies to all Coverages providing Employee death benefits.

If you are eligible for insurance under the Group Contract on the Group Contract's effective date you will have no rights, benefits or privileges under any such Coverage if, on the day before that date, all the following were true:

- (1) You were insured for group life insurance under another group contract. That contract was issued by Prudential or another insurance carrier to cover Employees of the Employer.
- (2) Your group life insurance under the other group contract ended.
- (3) An irrevocable and absolute gift assignment made by you was in effect. It was made before the other contract ended. That assignment was of all your rights, benefits and privileges of the group life insurance under the other group contract. Those rights were owned by the assignee or the assignee's successor.

The owner of those rights of the group life insurance under the other group contract on the day before this Group Contract's effective date will be the owner of the rights, benefits, and privileges you would have had under a Coverage if this section did not apply. This includes, but is not limited to, any right of assignment you would have had under the Limits on Assignments section above. The term "assignee" as used in that section includes such an owner.

The term "group life insurance", as used above, means only group life insurance provided under a group contract in effect on the day before the date the Employer became included under the Group Contract.

DEFINITIONS

Calendar Year: A year starting January 1.

Contributory Insurance, Non-contributory Insurance: Contributory Insurance is insurance for which the Contract Holder has the right to and may require your direct contribution to the cost of coverage. Non-contributory Insurance premiums are paid by the Contract Holder, usually without direct contribution from you. The rate for Non-contributory insurance may be determined, or in some cases, reduced, in part, based on your contributions for contributory insurance or other benefits offered to you under the Contract Holder benefit plan.

Coverage: A part of the Booklet consisting of:

- (1) A benefit page labeled as a Coverage in its title.
- (2) Any page or pages that continue the same kind of benefits.
- (3) A Schedule of Benefits entry and other benefit pages or forms that by their terms apply to that kind of benefits.

Covered Person under a Coverage: An Employee who is insured for Employee Insurance under that Coverage.

Doctor: A licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of the license.

Employee: A person employed by the Employer; a proprietor or partner of the Employer. The term also applies to that person for any rights after insurance ends.

Employee Insurance: Insurance on the person of an Employee.

The Employer: Collectively, all employers included under the Group Contract.

Injury: Injury to the body of a Covered Person.

Prudential: The Prudential Insurance Company of America.

Sickness: Any disorder of the body or mind of a Covered Person, but not an Injury; pregnancy of a Covered Person, including abortion, miscarriage or childbirth.

You: An Employee.

When Your Insurance Ends

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE

Your Employee Insurance under a Coverage will end when the first of these occurs:

- You are no longer in the Covered Classes for the insurance.
 - The part of the Group Contract providing the insurance ends.
 - You make a written request to the Contract Holder to end your Employee Insurance under a Coverage.
 - You fail to pay, when due, any contribution required for an insurance of the Group Contract.
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Additional Information About Your Plan

The Certificate of Coverage and the following Additional Information (together, the Booklet), are intended to comply with the disclosure requirements of the regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974. ERISA requires that your employer provide you with a "Summary Plan Description" which describes the plan and informs you of your rights under it. Information about eligibility rules, benefits amounts, benefit limitations, and exclusions from coverage is contained in the Certificate of Coverage. The following Additional Information about your plan is provided at the request of your Employer/Plan Sponsor.

Plan Name

Basin Electric Power Cooperative Life Insurance Plan

Plan Number

580

Type of Plan

Employee Welfare Benefit Plan

Plan Sponsor

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Employer Identification Number

45-0277395

Plan Administrator

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Attention: Human Resources Department
1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Agent for Service of Legal Process

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Attention: Human Resources Department
1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Service of legal process may also be made upon the plan administrator at the address above.

Plan Year Ends

December 31

Plan Benefits Provided by

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

Plan Sponsor's Designation of Prudential As Claims Administrator

It is the Plan Sponsor's intention and direction that The Prudential Insurance Company of America as Claims Administrator has the sole discretion to interpret the terms of the plan, to make factual findings, and to determine eligibility for benefits. The Plan Sponsor has determined that benefits are payable under the plan only if The Prudential Insurance Company of America, in its sole discretion, determines that they are due. The decision of the Claims Administrator shall not be overturned unless arbitrary and capricious. *

* This paragraph does not apply to residents of AK, AR, CA, CO, DC, IL, KY, MD, ME, MI, NJ, NY, OR, PR, RI, SD, TX, VT, WA

Plan Sponsor, Policyholder and Employer not Agents of Prudential

The Group Contract underwritten by The Prudential Insurance Company of America provides insured benefits under your Employer/Policyholder/Plan Sponsor's ERISA plan(s). For all purposes associated with the plan or the Group Contract under which The Prudential Insurance Company of America provides benefits, the Employer/Policyholder/Plan Sponsor acts on its own behalf or as an agent of its employees. Under no circumstances will the Employer/Policyholder/Plan Sponsor be deemed the agent of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, absent a written authorization of such status executed between the Employer/Policyholder/Plan Sponsor and The Prudential Insurance Company of America. Nothing in these documents shall, of themselves, be deemed to be such a written authorization.

Allocation of Contributions

The insurance benefit coverages described in this Booklet are being offered to you under a single ERISA plan. Coverages described as non-contributory or as being paid entirely by the Employer/Policyholder/Plan Sponsor (if any) are those paid for directly by the Employer/Policyholder/Plan Sponsor such that you have no out of pocket expense for such coverages. However, the premium rate that the Employer/Policyholder/Plan Sponsor pays for insurance coverage offered to you under the Plan may be determined, or in some cases, reduced, in part, based on your contributions for other coverages or other benefits offered under the Plan. When this occurs, your contributions for one benefit coverage may cover some or all of the costs or plan expenses for another benefit coverage offered to you under the Plan.

Loss of Benefits

You must continue to be a member of a class of eligible employees or beneficiaries to which the plan pertains and continue to make any contributions or payments that are due, including those you agreed to when you enrolled for coverage. Failure to make required contributions may result in partial or total loss of your benefits.

Plan Sponsor May Amend or Terminate the Plan at any Time

It is intended that this plan will be continued for an indefinite period of time. But, the Plan Sponsor reserves the right to change or terminate the plan at any time. This Booklet elsewhere describes your rights upon termination of the plan.

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 include:

- (a) the specific reason(s) for the denial, which will include a discussion of the decision describing, if applicable, the basis for disagreeing with or not following (i) the views of your treating providers, (ii) the views of medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the plan in connection with your adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination, and (iii) an award of Social Security Administration disability benefits,
- (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 statement that you are entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim for benefits,
- (e) a description of Prudential's appeals procedures and applicable time limits, including a statement of your right to bring a civil action under section 502(a) of ERISA following your appeals,
- (f) a statement that, 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 written request, and
- (g) copies of any internal rules or guidelines relied upon in making this determination, if applicable.

2. Appeals of Adverse Determination

If your claim for benefits is 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. Similarly, if Prudential does not decide your claim within the time described in Section 1 above, you may appeal, although you are not required to do so. 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 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.

Prudential will provide you, free of charge and prior to any adverse decision on appeal, with any new or additional evidence that is considered by Prudential in connection with the claim (including evidence that may be the basis for denial as well as any evidence that may support granting the claim), and any new or additional rationale that will form the basis for the Prudential's decision on appeal. Any such evidence will be provided as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which the notice of adverse benefit determination must be provided in order to give you a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date.

If the appeal is denied in whole or in part, you will receive a written notification from Prudential of the denial. The notice will include:

- (a) the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination, which will include a discussion of the decision describing, if applicable, the basis for disagreeing with or not following (i) the views of your treating providers, (ii) the views of medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the plan in connection with your adverse benefit determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination, and (iii) an award of Social Security Administration disability benefits,
- (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 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 written request,

- (f) copies of internal rules or guidelines relied upon in making this determination, if applicable and
- (g) a statement describing any appeals procedures offered by the plan, and your right to bring a civil suit under ERISA.

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, 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. Similarly, if Prudential does not decide your appeal within the time described in Section 1 above, you may appeal again, although you are not required to do so. 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.

Time Limit To File Suit

If your claim for benefits and any required appeals are denied (or not decided within the time periods discussed above), you may file suit as discussed below. If you elect to file suit, you should do so as soon as possible. However, you must file suit no later than three years after proof of your claim was first due as explained elsewhere in this Booklet, regardless of whether your claim is still pending in the claim or appeal process.

Rights and Protections

As a participant in this plan, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

Receive Information about Your Plan and Benefits

- Examine, without charge, at the plan administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as worksites and union halls, all documents governing the plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- Obtain, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary plan description. The plan administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
- Receive a summary of the plan's annual financial report. The plan administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.

Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries

In addition to creating rights for plan participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the employee benefit plan. The people who operate your plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including the Plan Sponsor, your employer, your union, or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

Enforce Your Rights

If your claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of plan documents or the latest annual report from the plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you a fine that accrues on a daily basis (based on amounts set by the Department of Labor) from the time the materials were due to you until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the administrator. If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or Federal court. If it should happen that plan fiduciaries misuse the plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a Federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful, the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

Assistance with Your Questions

If you have any questions about your plan, you should contact the plan administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the plan administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

