



## **IMPORTANT ENHANCEMENT TO YOUR LONG TERM DISABILITY PLAN**

### **INTRODUCING CAREPATH – YOUR NEW CANCER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 1, 2007**

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

This document is intended to provide summary information related to an important enhancement to your long term disability (LTD) plan. It has been prepared for information purposes only and does not constitute a contract. The information contained in this overview is important and should be kept in your files.

**Please call 1-800-290-5106 if you or a family member are ever diagnosed with cancer or have a recurrence of a previously treated cancer.**

**You will need your OTIP LTD Policy and Division number when you call.**

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Who is CAREpath?**

CAREpath Inc. is a Canadian company providing services to help you navigate the complex health care system so you and your family members who are newly-diagnosed with cancer or have a cancer recurrence can receive the very best cancer-related treatment and support.

CAREpath's role is not to replace your primary treatment physician, or any part of a recommended cancer care plan. What CAREpath does is make sure you get the most out of every aspect of your treatment. The team at CAREpath includes leading oncology physicians and nurses from across Canada. CAREpath enjoys unrivalled access to the most up-to-date, reliable, evidence-based information on cancer care from around the world. CAREpath is ready to help you. Every step of the way.

#### **What are the services included in my LTD Plan?**

CAREpath's Cancer Navigation program has been included with your LTD plan through OTIP (Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan). The proprietary Cancer Navigation Service

Program is designed to assist you and your family in dealing with a newly-diagnosed cancer or cancer recurrence.

During the initial treatment of a newly-diagnosed cancer or recurrence of a previously treated cancer, CAREpath provides you and your family with access to one-on-one case management by an assigned oncology nurse, backed by oncology physicians. Through supportive counselling and education, anxiety is reduced enabling you to cope more effectively with this major stress.

CAREpath's advice and support continues through all treatment phases and, where necessary, extends to family members to assist in dealing with their concerns.

### **When should I call CAREpath?**

Please call CAREpath at 1-800-290-5106, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time, as soon as you or a family member are diagnosed with cancer or have a recurrence of a previously treated cancer so they can best help you before and after your first visit to an oncologist.

You can also send an e-mail to [info@carepath.ca](mailto:info@carepath.ca) if you would like to speak with a CAREpath nurse or if you have any questions about the services offered.

### **Do I have to be receiving disability benefits to use CAREpath's Services?**

No. You do not have to submit a disability claim, be absent from work or be receiving disability benefits to utilize CAREpath's services. In fact, CAREpath should be contacted immediately following a diagnosis to maximize the benefits of this program.

Any advice provided is strictly confidential and will not be shared with OTIP, any insurance company, or any other party.

### **Who in my family can access CAREpath's Services?**

Your spouse (common-law partners and same sex couples included) and dependant children up to and including age 25 can also access these unique services.

### **What should I expect when I contact CAREpath?**

In order to verify that you are eligible to access CAREpath's Navigation Service Program, you will need your OTIP LTD Policy and Division number. Once your eligibility is verified, CAREpath will contact you to arrange a time that is convenient for you to speak with a CAREpath nurse who is experienced in oncology.

CAREpath's oncology nurses play a critical role in the Navigation Service Program. You will be assigned a personal oncology nurse who will provide:

- Emotional support.
- Informed answers to all your questions.
- Education regarding treatment options in your particular case.
- Questions to ask on your first visit to your oncologist.
- Advice and support throughout all treatment phases.
- Advice on how you can access other support services, if necessary.
- Facilitation of access to a second opinion, when necessary.
- Guidance to alternate treatment locations, if requested or required.
- Assistance in dealing with concerns of your spouse and children.

After treatment has been completed, your oncology nurse will provide:

- A screening test for changes in lifestyle required to reduce the risk of cancer recurrence.
- Advice on reducing delayed effects of treatment, and dealing with other issues you may face as a cancer survivor.

### **How can I be assured of the quality of the advice I am getting from CAREpath?**

In order to ensure the advice is evidence-based and produces the best outcomes possible, CAREpath's oncology nurses:

- Are specially selected for their training, expertise, experience, and certification in oncology.
- Have demonstrated their ability to deal with people's concerns in a caring and compassionate manner.
- Have access to and command of the most up-to date, evidence-based approaches for managing each type of cancer.
- Are backed by experienced CAREpath oncologists who assist in dealing with the medical aspects that may arise in each case.
- Have access to advice from Members of CAREpath's National Medical Advisory Board.
- Are guided by The CAREpath Research Institute to ensure the advice given is up-to-date and scientifically sound.

**For more information on CAREpath's Cancer Navigation Program, please call 1-800-290-5106 or visit [www.carepath.ca](http://www.carepath.ca) or [www.otip.com](http://www.otip.com).**