## YOUR BENEFIT PLAN

# Aspen HR PEO, LLC

# All Actively at Work Employees, Officers and Partners Working 20 Hours or More Per Week Whose Worksite Elects the Short Term Disability Plan

**Disability Income Insurance: Short Term Benefits** 

Certificate Date: September 1, 2022

Aspen HR PEO, LLC 750 Battery Street, 6th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111

#### TO OUR EMPLOYEES:

All of us appreciate the protection and security insurance provides.

This certificate describes the benefits that are available to you. We urge you to read it carefully.

Aspen HR PEO, LLC



Metropolitan Life Insurance Company 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166

#### CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company ("MetLife"), a stock company, certifies that You are insured for the benefits described in this certificate, subject to the provisions of this certificate. This certificate is issued to You under the Group Policy and it includes the terms and provisions of the Group Policy that describe Your insurance. **PLEASE READ THIS CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY.** 

This certificate is part of the Group Policy. The Group Policy is a contract between MetLife and the Policyholder and may be changed or ended without Your consent or notice to You.

# THIS CERTIFICATE MUST HAVE A CERTIFICATE CONFIRMATION STATEMENT ATTACHED IN ORDER FOR THIS CERTIFICATE TO BE VALID

Policyholder: Aspen HR PEO, LLC

Group Policy Number: 230503-1-G

**Type of Insurance:** Disability Income Insurance: Short Term Benefits

MetLife Toll Free Number(s):

FOR DISABILITY INCOME CLAIMS: 1-800-638-2242

#### THIS CERTIFICATE ONLY DESCRIBES DISABILITY INSURANCE.

# THE BENEFITS OF THE POLICY PROVIDING YOUR COVERAGE ARE GOVERNED PRIMARILY BY THE LAW OF A STATE OTHER THAN FLORIDA.

For Idaho Residents: TEN DAY RIGHT TO EXAMINE CERTIFICATE: You may return the certificate to Us within 10 days from the date You receive it. If You return it within the 10 day period, the certificate will be considered never to have been issued. We will refund any premium paid after We receive Your notice of cancellation.

THE GROUP INSURANCE POLICY PROVIDING COVERAGE UNDER THIS CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED IN A JURISDICTION OTHER THAN MARYLAND AND MAY NOT PROVIDE ALL THE BENEFITS REQUIRED BY MARYLAND LAW.

#### For New Hampshire Residents: 30 Day Right to Examine Certificate.

Please read this Certificate. You may return the Certificate to Us within 30 days from the date You receive it. If you return it within the 30 day period, the Certificate will be considered never to have been issued and We will refund any premium paid for insurance under this Certificate.

WE ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW TO INCLUDE THE NOTICE(S) WHICH APPEAR ON THIS PAGE AND IN THE NOTICE(S) SECTION WHICH FOLLOWS THIS PAGE. PLEASE READ THE(SE) NOTICE(S) CAREFULLY.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF TEXAS

#### Have a complaint or need help?

If you have a problem with a claim or your premium, call your insurance company or HMO first. If you can't work out the issue, the Texas Department of Insurance may be able to help.

Even if you file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance, you should also file a complaint or appeal through your insurance company or HMO. If you don't, you may lose your right to appeal.

#### **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company**

To get information or file a complaint with your insurance company or HMO:

Call: Corporate Consumer Relations Department at 1-800-438-6388

Toll-free: 1-800-438-6388

Email: Johnstown Complaint Referrals@metlife.com

Mail: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company 700 Quaker Lane 2nd Floor Warwick, RI 02886

#### The Texas Department of Insurance

To get help with an insurance question or file a complaint with the state:

Call with a question: 1-800-252-3439

File a complaint: www.tdi.texas.gov

Email: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Mail: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

#### ¿Tiene una queja o necesita ayuda?

Si tiene un problema con una reclamación o con su prima de seguro, llame primero a su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no puede resolver el problema, es posible que el Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance, por su nombre en inglés) pueda ayudar.

Aun si usted presenta una queja ante el Departamento de Seguros de Texas, también debe presentar una queja a través del proceso de quejas o de apelaciones de su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no lo hace, podría perder su derecho para apelar.

#### **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company**

Para obtener información o para presentar una queja ante su compañía de seguros o HMO:

Llame a: Departamento de Relaciones Corporativas del Consumidor al 1-800-438-6388

Teléfono gratuito: 1-800-438-6388

Correo electrónico: Johnstown\_Complaint\_Referrals@metlife.com

Dirección postal: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

700 Quaker Lane 2nd Floor Warwick, RI 02886

### El Departamento de Seguros de Texas

Para obtener ayuda con una pregunta relacionada con los seguros o para presentar una queja ante el estado:

Llame con sus preguntas al: 1-800-252-3439

Presente una queja en: www.tdi.texas.gov

Correo electrónico: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Dirección postal: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL STATES

#### **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

This certificate does not replace or affect any requirement for coverage by workers' compensation insurance.

#### MANDATORY DISABILITY INCOME BENEFIT LAWS

For Residents of California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Puerto Rico This certificate does not affect any requirement for any government mandated temporary disability income benefits law.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ARKANSAS

If You have a question concerning Your coverage or a claim, first contact the Policyholder or group account administrator. If, after doing so, You still have a concern, You may call the toll free telephone number shown on the Certificate Face Page.

Policyholders have the right to file a complaint with the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID). You may call AID to request a complaint form at (800) 852-5494 or (501) 371-2640 or write the Department at:

Arkansas Insurance Department Consumer Services Division 1 Commerce Way, Suite 102 Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF CALIFORNIA

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** 

TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OR TO MAKE A COMPLAINT, CONTACT THE POLICYHOLDER OR METLIFE AT:

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ATTN: CONSUMER RELATIONS DEPARTMENT 500 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD JOHNSTOWN, PA 15904

1-800-438-6388

IF, AFTER CONTACTING THE POLICYHOLDER AND/OR METLIFE, YOU FEEL THAT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION HAS NOT BEEN REACHED, YOU MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE DEPARTMENT AT:

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE CONSUMER SERVICES 300 SOUTH SPRING STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90013

WEBSITE: http://www.insurance.ca.gov/

1-800-927-4357 (within California) 1-213-897-8921 (outside California)

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF CONNECTICUT

#### **MANDATORY REHABILITATION**

This certificate contains a mandatory rehabilitation provision, which may require you to participate in vocational training or physical therapy when appropriate.

## NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF GEORGIA

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The laws of the state of Georgia prohibit insurers from unfairly discriminating against any person based upon his or her status as a victim of family violence.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF IDAHO

If You have a question concerning Your coverage or a claim, first contact the Policyholder. If, after doing so, You still have a concern, You may call the toll free telephone number shown on the Certificate Face Page.

If You are still concerned after contacting both the Policyholder and MetLife, You should feel free to contact:

Idaho Department of Insurance
Consumer Affairs
700 West State Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043

1-800-721-3272 (for calls placed within Idaho) or 208-334-4250 or www.DOI.ldaho.gov

### **NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF ILLINOIS**

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

To make a complaint to MetLife, You may write to:

MetLife 200 Park Avenue New York, New York 10166

The address of the Illinois Department of Insurance is:

Illinois Department of Insurance Public Services Division Springfield, Illinois 62767

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF INDIANA

Questions regarding your policy or coverage should be directed to:

# Metropolitan Life Insurance Company 1-800-438-6388

If you (a) need the assistance of the government 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 email:

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

Complaint can be filed electronically at www.in.gov/idoi

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF MAINE

You have the right to designate a third party to receive notice if Your insurance is in danger of lapsing due to a default on Your part, such as for nonpayment of a contribution that is due. The intent is to allow reinstatements where the default is due to the insured person's suffering from cognitive impairment or functional incapacity. You may make this designation by completing a "Third-Party Notice Request Form" and sending it to MetLife. Once You have made a designation, You may cancel or change it by filling out a new Third-Party Notice Request Form and sending it to MetLife. The designation will be effective as of the date MetLife receives the form. Call MetLife at the toll-free telephone number shown on the face page of this certificate to obtain a Third-Party Notice Request Form. Within 90 days after cancellation of coverage for nonpayment of premium, You or any person authorized to act on Your behalf may request reinstatement of the certificate on the basis that You suffered from cognitive impairment or functional incapacity at the time of cancellation.

#### NOTICE FOR MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

#### CONTINUATION OF DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE

- 1. If Your Disability Income Insurance ends due to a Plant Closing or Covered Partial Closing, such insurance will be continued for 90 days after the date it ends.
- 2. If Your Disability Income Insurance ends because:
  - You cease to be in an Eligible Class; or
  - Your employment terminates;

for any reason other than a Plant Closing or Covered Partial Closing, such insurance will continue for 31 days after the date it ends.

Continuation of Your Disability Income Insurance under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT subsection will end before the end of continuation periods shown above if You become covered for similar benefits under another plan.

**Plant Closing** and **Covered Partial Closing** have the meaning set forth in Massachusetts Annotated Laws, Chapter 151A, Section 71A.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF MISSISSIPPI

#### FILING A DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE CLAIM

The Policyholder should have a supply of claim forms. Obtain a claim form from the Policyholder and fill it out carefully. Return the completed claim form with the required Proof to the Policyholder.

If You are unable to report for Active Work due to a Sickness or accidental injury, and You think that You may be Disabled, You should contact MetLife or Your benefits representative to initiate a claim. We recommend that You do so no later than:

- 14 days with respect to Disability Income Insurance: Short Term Benefits; and
- 12 weeks, with respect to Disability Income Insurance: Long Term Benefits

after the first day You are unable to report for Active Work so that Your claim can be processed in a timely manner.

When a claimant files an initial claim for Disability Income Insurance benefits described in this certificate, the following should be sent to Us:

- notice of claim within 30 days of the date of loss; and
- the required Proof within 90 days after the end of the Elimination Period.

Notice of claim and Proof for Disability Income Insurance may also be given to Us by following the steps set forth below:

#### Step 1

A claimant may give Us notice by calling Us at the toll-free number shown in the Certificate Face Page within 30 days of the date of a loss.

#### Step 2

We will send a claim form to the claimant and explain how to complete it. The claimant should receive the claim form within 15 days of giving Us notice of claim.

#### Step 3

When the claimant receives the claim form the claimant should fill it out as instructed and return it with the required Proof described in the claim form. If the claimant does not receive a claim form within 15 days after giving Us notice of claim, Proof may be sent using any form sufficient to provide Us with the required Proof.

#### Step 4

The claimant must give Us Proof not later than 90 days after the end of the Elimination Period.

If notice of claim or Proof is not given within the time limits described in this section, the delay will not cause a claim to be denied or reduced if such notice or Proof are given as soon as is reasonably possible; and, in no event, except in the absence of legal capacity, later than 1 year after the date Proof is otherwise required.

Subject to due Written Proof of loss, all accrued benefits for loss for which this certificate provides periodic payment will be paid as follows:

- Weekly, with respect to Disability Income Insurance: Short Term Benefits;
- Monthly, with respect to Disability Income Insurance: Long Term Benefits.

Any balance remaining unpaid upon the termination of liability will be paid within thirty (30) days after receipt of due Written Proof.

Any benefit due and not paid within 30 days of our receipt of Proof will accrue interest at the rate of three percent (3%) per month on the amount due, until the claim is finally settled or adjudicated.

Subject to the Time Limit on Legal Actions provision, if We do not pay benefits when due and payable You may bring an action to recover such benefits, any interest which has accrued with respect to such benefits, and any other damages which may be allowed by law. If it is determined in such action that We acted in bad faith as evidenced by a repeated or deliberate pattern of failing to pay benefits and/or claims when due, You

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF MISSISSIPPI (continued)

or the health care provider shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount up to three (3) times the amount of the benefits that remain unpaid until the claim is finally settled or adjudicated.

#### Items to be Submitted for a Disability Income Insurance Claim

When submitting Proof on an initial or continuing claim for Disability Income insurance, the following items may be required:

- documentation which must include, but is not limited to, the following information:
  - 1. the date Your Disability started;
  - 2. the cause of Your Disability;
  - 3. the prognosis of Your Disability;
  - 4. the continuity of Your Disability; and
- Your application for:
  - Other Benefit Sources;
  - Federal Social Security disability benefits; and
  - Workers compensation benefits or benefits under a similar law.
- Written authorization for Us to obtain and release medical, employment and financial information and any other items We may reasonably require to document Your Disability or to determine Your receipt of or eligibility for Other Benefit Sources;
- any and all medical information, including but not limited to:
  - 1. x-ray films; and
  - 2. photocopies of medical records, including:
    - a) histories.
    - b) physical, mental or diagnostic examinations; and
    - c) treatment notes; and
- the names and addresses of all:
  - 1. physicians and medical practitioners who have provided You with diagnosis, treatment or consultation:
  - hospitals or other medical facilities which have provided You with diagnosis, treatment or consultation:
  - 3. pharmacies which have filled Your prescriptions within the past three years; and
- additional proof elements as required and described within the additional plan provisions for which you
  are filing a claim for benefits.

**Time Limit on Legal Actions.** A legal action on a claim may only be brought against Us during a certain period. This period begins 60 days after the date Proof is filed and ends 3 years after the date such Proof is required.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF TEXAS

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.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF UTAH

# Notice of Protection Provided by Utah Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association

This notice provides a brief summary of the Utah Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association ("the Association") and the protection it provides for policyholders. This safety net was created under Utah law, which determines who and what is covered and the amounts of coverage.

The Association was established to provide protection in the unlikely event that your life, health, or annuity insurance company becomes financially unable to meet its obligations and is taken over by its insurance regulatory agency. If this should happen, the Association will typically arrange to continue coverage and pay claims, in accordance with Utah law, with funding from assessments paid by other insurance companies.

The basic protections provided by the Association are:

- Life Insurance
  - o \$500,000 in death benefits
  - o \$200,000 in cash surrender or withdrawal values
- Health Insurance
  - o \$500,000 in hospital, medical and surgical insurance benefits
  - o \$500,000 in long-term care insurance benefits
  - o \$500,000 in disability income insurance benefits
  - o \$500,000 in other types of health insurance benefits
- Annuities
  - o \$250,000 in withdrawal and cash values

The maximum amount of protection for each individual, regardless of the number of policies or contracts, is \$500,000. Special rules may apply with regard to hospital, medical and surgical insurance benefits.

**Note: Certain policies and contracts may not be covered or fully covered.** For example, coverage does not extend to any portion of a policy or contract that the insurer does not guarantee, such as certain investment additions to the account value of a variable life insurance policy or a variable annuity contract. Coverage is conditioned on residency in this state and there are substantial limitations and exclusions. For a complete description of coverage, consult Utah Code, Title 3 IA, Chapter 28.

Insurance companies and agents are prohibited by Utah law to use the existence of the Association or its coverage to encourage you to purchase insurance. When selecting an insurance company, you should not rely on Association coverage. If there is any inconsistency between Utah law and this notice, Utah law will control.

To learn more about the above protections, as well as protections relating to group contracts or retirement plans, please visit the Association's website at www.utlifega.org or contact:

Utah Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Assoc. 60 East South Temple, Suite 500 Salt Lake City UT 84111 (801) 320-9955

Utah Insurance Department 3110 State Office Building Salt Lake City UT 84114-6901 (801) 538-3800

A written complaint about misuse of this Notice or the improper use of the existence of the Association may be filed with the Utah Insurance Department at the above address.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Vermont law provides that the following apply to Your certificate:

**Domestic Partner** means each of two people, one of whom is an Employee of the Policyholder, who have registered as each other's domestic partner, civil union partner or reciprocal beneficiary with a government agency where such registration is available.

Wherever the term **"Spouse"** appears in this certificate it shall, unless otherwise specified, be read to include Your Domestic Partner.

Wherever the term "step-child" appears in this certificate it shall be read to include the children of Your Domestic Partner.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF VIRGINIA

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR INSURANCE

In the event You need to contact someone about this insurance for any reason please contact Your agent. If no agent was involved in the sale of this insurance, or if You have additional questions You may contact the insurance company issuing this insurance at the following address and telephone number:

MetLife 200 Park Avenue New York, New York 10166 Attn: Corporate Consumer Relations Department

To phone in a claim related question, You may call Claims Customer Service at: 1-800-275-4638

If You have been unable to contact or obtain satisfaction from the company or the agent, You may contact the Virginia State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance at:

Bureau of Insurance
Life and Health Division
P.O. Box 1157
Richmond, VA 23218-1157
1-804-371-9691 - phone
1-877-310-6560 - toll-free
1-804-371-9944 - fax
www.scc.virginia.gov - web address
BureauOf Insurance@scc.virginia.gov - email

Written correspondence is preferable so that a record of Your inquiry is maintained. When contacting Your agent, company or the Bureau of Insurance, have Your policy number available.

#### NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS OF WISCONSIN

### **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.

MetLife
Attn: Corporate Consumer Relations Department
200 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10166
1-800-438-6388

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 contact the **OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE** by contacting:

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance Complaints Department P.O. Box 7873 Madison, WI 53707-7873 1-800-236-8517 outside of Madison or 608-266-0103 in Madison.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Section	Page
CERTIFICATE FACE PAGE	1
SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS	
DEFINITIONS	
ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOU	27
Eligible Classes	
Date You Are Eligible for Insurance	
Enrollment Process	27
Date Your Insurance Takes Effect	27
Date Your Insurance Ends	
CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT	29
For Family And Medical Leave	
At Your Option: Continuation Of Your Disability Income Insurance During A Labor Dispute	29
At The Policyholder's Option	
EVIDENCE OF INSURABILITY	
DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: SHORT TERM BENEFITS	31
DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: INCOME WHICH WILL REDUCE YOUR DISABILITY BENEFIT	33
DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: INCOME WHICH WILL NOT REDUCE YOUR DISABILITY BENE	FIT. 35
DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: DATE BENEFIT PAYMENTS END	36
DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE	37
ADDITIONAL SHORT TERM BENEFIT: ORGAN DONOR	37
DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: LIMITED DISABILITY BENEFITS	38
DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: EXCLUSIONS	39
FILING A CLAIM	
GENERAL PROVISIONS	
Assignment	
Disability Income Benefit Payments: Who We Will Pay	42
Entire Contract	
Incontestability: Statements Made by You	42
Misstatement of Age	43
Conformity with Law	43
Physical Éxams	
Autopsy	
Overpayments for Disability Income Insurance	43

#### **SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

This schedule shows the benefits that are available under the Group Policy. You will only be insured for the benefits:

- for which You become and remain eligible;
- which You elect, if subject to election; and

Organ Donor Benefit...... Yes

which are in effect.

#### **BENEFIT**

#### **BENEFIT AMOUNT AND HIGHLIGHTS**

### Disability Income Insurance For You: Short Term Benefits

Weekly Benefit..... 60% of the first \$2,500 of Your Predisability Earnings, subject to the INCOME WHICH WILL REDUCE YOUR DISABILITY BENEFIT section Maximum Weekly Benefit..... \$1,500 Rehabilitation Incentive subsections of this Certificate Elimination Period..... For Injury 7 days of Disability For Sickness 7 days of Disability Maximum Benefit Period..... 25 weeks Rehabilitation Incentives...... Yes **Additional Benefits:** 

#### **DEFINITIONS**

As used in this certificate, the terms listed below will have the meanings set forth below. When defined terms are used in this certificate, they will appear with initial capitalization. The plural use of a term defined in the singular will share the same meaning.

**Actively at Work or Active Work** means that You are performing all of the usual and customary duties of Your job. This must be done at:

- the Policyholder's place of business;
- an alternate place approved by the Policyholder; or
- a place to which the Policyholder's business requires You to travel.

You will be deemed to be Actively at Work during weekends or Policyholder approved vacations, holidays or business closures if You were Actively at Work on the last scheduled work day preceding such time off.

**Beneficiary** means the person(s) to whom We will pay insurance as determined in accordance with the GENERAL PROVISIONS section.

**Consumer Price Index** means the CPI-W, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers published by the U.S. Department of Labor. If the CPI-W is discontinued or replaced, We reserve the right to substitute any other comparable index.

**Disability** or **Disabled** The definition of "Disability or Disabled" is outlined on a separate page which can be found at the end of the Definitions section.

**Domestic Partner** means each of two people, one of whom is an Employee of the Policyholder, who have registered as each other's domestic partners, civil union partner or reciprocal beneficiary with a government agency where such registration is available.

**Elimination Period** means the period of Your Disability during which We do not pay benefits. The Elimination Period begins on the day You become Disabled and continues for the period shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

**Noncontributory Insurance** means insurance for which the Policyholder does not require You to pay any part of the premium.

**Organ Transplant Procedure** means the surgical removal of any one or more of Your organs for the purpose of transplanting to another person.

#### Physician means:

- a person licensed to practice medicine in the jurisdiction where such services are performed; or
- any other person whose services, according to applicable law, must be treated as Physician's services for purposes of the Group Policy. Each such person must be licensed in the jurisdiction where he performs the service and must act within the scope of that license. Such person must also be certified and/or registered if required by such jurisdiction.

#### The term does not include:

- You;
- Your Spouse; or
- any member of Your immediate family including Your and/or Your Spouse's:
  - parents;
  - children (natural, step or adopted);
  - siblings;
  - grandparents; or
  - grandchildren.

#### **DEFINITIONS** (continued)

#### Policyholder's Retirement Plan means a plan which:

- provides retirement benefits to employees; and
- is funded in whole or in part by Policyholder contributions.

#### The term does not include:

- profit sharing plans;
- thrift or savings plans;
- non-qualified plans of deferred compensation;
- plans under IRC Section 401(k) or 457;
- individual retirement accounts (IRA);
- tax sheltered annuities (TSA) under IRC Section 403(b);
- stock ownership plans; or
- Keogh (HR-10) plans.

**Predisability Earnings** means gross salary or wages You were earning from the Policyholder as of Your last day of Active Work before Your Disability began, subject to any increase or decrease in insurance as described in the ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOU, Increase in Insurance and Decrease in Insurance provisions. We calculate this amount on a weekly basis.

#### The term includes:

- commissions You earned averaged over the 24 month period before Disability began, or over the period of Your employment, if less; and
- contributions You were making through a salary reduction agreement with the Policyholder to any of the following:
  - an Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 401(k), 403(b) or 457 deferred compensation arrangement;
  - an executive non-qualified deferred compensation arrangement; and
  - Your fringe benefits under an IRC Section 125 plan.

If You are a partner or S-Corporation shareholder, Predisability Earnings mean Your average weekly compensation from the Policyholder during the Policyholder's prior tax year.

Your average weekly compensation is determined by adding the following amounts as reported on the Schedule K-1, Form W-2 or S-Corporation federal income tax return, and dividing by 52, or by the number of weeks You were a partner or S-Corporation shareholder, if less than 52:

- Your ordinary income or loss from trade or business activity; and
- Your guaranteed payments, if You are a partner; or
- Your compensation as an officer, salary, or wages, if You are an S-Corporation shareholder.

If you are paid on an annual contract basis, Your Predisability Earnings are one-twelfth of Your annual contract salary.

#### The term does not include:

- awards and bonuses;
- overtime pay;
- the grant, award, sale, conversion and/or exercise of shares of stock or stock options;
- the Policyholder's contributions on Your behalf to any deferred compensation arrangement or pension plan; or
- any other compensation from the Policyholder.

#### **DEFINITIONS** (continued)

**Proof** means Written evidence satisfactory to Us that a person has satisfied the conditions and requirements for any benefit described in this certificate. When a claim is made for any benefit described in this certificate, Proof must establish:

- the nature and extent of the loss or condition;
- Our obligation to pay the claim; and
- the claimant's right to receive payment.

Proof must be provided at the claimant's expense.

**Rehabilitation Program** means a program that has been approved by us for the purpose of helping You return to work. It may include, but is not limited to, Your participation in one or more of the following activities:

- return to work on a modified basis with a goal of resuming employment for which You are reasonably qualified by training, education, experience and past earnings;
- on-site job analysis;
- job modification;
- training to improve job-seeking skills;
- · vocational assessment;
- short-term skills enhancement;
- · vocational training; or
- restorative therapies to improve functional capacity to return to work.

Sickness means illness, disease or pregnancy, including complications of pregnancy.

**Signed** means any symbol or method executed or adopted by a person with the present intention to authenticate a record, which is on or transmitted by paper or electronic media which is acceptable to Us and consistent with applicable law.

**Spouse** means Your lawful spouse. Wherever the term "Spouse" appears in the certificate it shall, unless otherwise specified, be read to include Your Domestic Partner.

We, Us and Our mean MetLife.

**Written** or **Writing** means a record which is on or transmitted by paper or electronic media which is acceptable to Us and consistent with applicable law.

**You** and **Your** mean an employee who is insured under the Group Policy for the insurance described in this certificate.

#### **DEFINITIONS** (continued)

**Disability** or **Disabled** means that as a result of Sickness or injury You are [either] Totally Disabled [or Partially Disabled].

**Totally Disabled** or **Total Disability** means You are unable to perform with reasonable continuity the Substantial and Material Acts necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation and You are not working in Your Usual Occupation.

**Partially Disabled** or **Partial Disability** means while actually working in Your Usual Occupation, You are unable to earn 80% or more of Your Predisability Earnings.

If You are Partially Disabled and have received a Weekly Benefit for 52 weeks, We will adjust Your Predisability Earnings only for the purposes of determining whether You continue to be Partially Disabled and for calculating the Return to Work Incentive, if any. We will make the initial adjustment as follows:

We will add to Your Predisability Earnings an amount equal to the product of:

- Your Predisability Earnings times
- the annual rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index for the prior calendar year.

Annually thereafter, We will add an amount to Your adjusted Predisability Earnings calculated by the method set forth above but substituting Your adjusted Predisability Earnings from the prior year for Your Predisability Earnings. **This adjustment is not a cost of living benefit.** 

For purposes of determining whether a Disability is the direct result of an injury, the Disability must have occurred within 90 days of the injury and not as the result of Sickness.

If Your occupation requires a license, the fact that You lose Your license for any reason will not, in itself, constitute Disability.

Substantial and Material Acts means the important tasks, functions and operations generally required by employers from those engaged in Your Usual Occupation that cannot be reasonably omitted or modified. In determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation, We will first look at the specific duties required by Your job. If You are unable to perform one or more of these duties with reasonable continuity, We will then determine whether those duties are customarily required of other employees engaged in Your Usual Occupation. If any specific, material duties required of You by Your job differ from the material duties customarily required of other employees engaged in Your Usual Occupation, then We will not consider those duties in determining what substantial and material acts are necessary to pursue Your Usual Occupation.

**Usual Occupation** means any employment, business, trade or profession and the Substantial and Material Acts of the occupation You were regularly performing for the employer when the Disability began. Usual Occupation is not necessarily limited to the specific job that You performed for the employer.

GCERT2000 def-12

#### **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOU**

#### **ELIGIBLE CLASS(ES)**

All Actively at Work employees, officers and partners of the Policyholder working at least 20 hours per week whose worksite elects the Short Term Disability plan, excluding temporary or seasonal employees.

#### DATE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR INSURANCE

# THIS CERTIFICATE MUST HAVE A CERTIFICATE CONFIRMATION STATEMENT ATTACHED IN ORDER FOR THIS CERTIFICATE TO BE VALID

You may only become eligible for the insurance available for Your eligible class as shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS.

If You are in an eligible class on September 1, 2022, You will be eligible for insurance on that date.

If You enter an eligible class after September 1, 2022, You will be eligible for insurance on the first day of the calendar month following the date You complete the Waiting Period.

**Waiting Period** means the period of continuous membership in an eligible class that You must wait before You become eligible for insurance. This period begins on the date You enter an eligible class and ends on the date You complete the period(s) specified. The Waiting Period can be zero days, 30 days, 60 days or 90 days depending on what Your work site location has elected for You.

The Waiting Period is as stated in the Certificate Confirmation Statement.

#### **ENROLLMENT PROCESS**

If You are eligible for insurance, You may enroll for such insurance by completing an enrollment form.

#### DATE YOUR INSURANCE TAKES EFFECT

#### **Rules for Noncontributory Insurance**

When You complete the enrollment process for Noncontributory Insurance, such insurance will take effect on the date You become eligible, provided You are Actively at Work on that date.

If You are not Actively at Work on the date the Noncontributory Insurance would otherwise take effect, insurance will take effect on the day You resume Active Work.

#### Increase in Insurance

An increase in insurance due to an increase in Your earnings will take effect on the January 1st following the date of the increase in Your earnings.

If You are not Actively at Work on the date insurance would otherwise take effect, insurance will take effect on the day You resume Active Work.

#### **Decrease in Insurance**

A decrease in insurance due to a decrease Your earnings will take effect on the January 1st following the date of change.

Changes in Your Disability Income Insurance will only apply to Disabilities commencing on or after the date of the change.

#### **ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOU (continued)**

#### DATE YOUR INSURANCE ENDS

Your insurance will end on the earliest of:

- 1. the date the Group Policy ends; or
- 2. the date insurance ends for Your class; or
- 3. the end of the period for which the last premium has been paid for You; or
- 4. the date You cease to be in an eligible class. You will cease to be in an eligible class on the last day of the calendar month in which You cease Active Work in an eligible class, if You are not Disabled on that date: or
- 5. the last day of the calendar month in which Your employment ends; or
- 6. the last day of the calendar month in which You retire in accordance with the Policyholder's retirement plan.

In certain cases insurance may be continued as stated in the section entitled CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT.

#### Reinstatement of Disability Income Insurance

If Your insurance ends, You may become insured again as follows:

- 1. If Your insurance ends because:
  - You cease to be in an eligible class; or
  - Your employment ends; and

You become a member of an eligible class again within 3 months of the date Your insurance ended, You will not have to complete a new Waiting Period or provide evidence of Your insurability.

- 2. If Your insurance ends because you cease making the required premium while on an approved Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or other legally mandated leave of absence, and you become a member of an eligible class within 31 days of the earlier of:
  - The end of the period of leave You and the Policyholder agreed upon; or
  - The end of the eligible leave period required under the FMLA or other similar legally mandated leave of absence law,

You will not have to complete a new Waiting Period or provide evidence of Your insurability.

3. In all other cases where Your insurance ends because the required premium for Your insurance has ceased to be paid, You will be required to provide evidence of Your insurability.

#### CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE WITH PREMIUM PAYMENT

#### FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Certain leaves of absence may qualify for continuation of insurance under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), or other legally mandated leave of absence or similar laws. Please contact the Policyholder for information regarding such legally mandated leave of absence laws.

#### AT THE POLICYHOLDER'S OPTION

The Policyholder has elected to continue insurance by paying premiums for employees who are not Disabled and cease Active Work in an eligible class for any of the reasons specified below.

Disability Income Insurance will continue for the following periods:

- 1. for the period You cease Active Work in an eligible class due to injury or sickness, up to 3 months;
- 2. for the period You cease Active Work in an eligible class due to layoff, up to 3 months;
- 3. for the period You cease Active Work in an eligible class due to any other Policyholder approved leave of absence, up to 3 months.

For purposes of this provision, leave of absence does not include a furlough. Furlough means an employer-mandated leave of absence.

At the end of any of the continuation periods listed above, Your insurance will be affected as follows:

- if You resume Active Work in an eligible class at this time, You will continue to be insured under the Group Policy;
- if You do not resume Active Work in an eligible class at this time, Your employment will be considered to
  end and Your insurance will end in accordance with the DATE YOUR INSURANCE ENDS subsection of
  the section entitled ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS: INSURANCE FOR YOU.

## **EVIDENCE OF INSURABILITY**

No evidence of insurability is required for the insurance described in this certificate.

#### DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: SHORT TERM BENEFITS

If You become Disabled while insured, Proof of Disability must be sent to Us. When We receive such Proof, We will review the claim. If We approve the claim, We will pay the Weekly Benefit up to the Maximum Benefit Period shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS, subject to the Date Benefit Payments End section.

To verify that You continue to be Disabled without interruption after Our initial approval of the Disability claim, We may periodically request that You send Us Proof that You continue to be Disabled. Such Proof may include physical exams, exams by independent medical examiners, in-home interviews, or functional capacity exams, as needed.

While You are Disabled, the Weekly Benefits described in this certificate will not be affected if:

- Your insurance ends: or
- the Group Policy is amended to change the plan of benefits for Your class.

#### **BENEFIT PAYMENT**

If We approve Your claim, benefits will begin to accrue on the day after the day You complete Your Elimination Period. We will pay the first Weekly Benefit one week after the date benefits begin to accrue. We will make subsequent payments weekly thereafter so long as You remain Disabled. Payment will be based on the number of days You are Disabled during each week. For any partial week of Disability, payment will be made at the daily rate of 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the Weekly Benefit payable.

We will pay Weekly Benefits to You. If You die, We will pay the amount of any due and unpaid benefits as described in the GENERAL PROVISIONS subsection entitled Disability Income Benefit Payments: Who We Will Pay.

#### **RECOVERY FROM A DISABILITY**

For purposes of this subsection, the term Active Work only includes those days You actually work.

The provisions of this subsection will not apply if Your insurance has ended and You are eligible for coverage under another group short term disability plan.

#### If You Return to Active Work Before Completing Your Elimination Period

If You return to Active Work before completing Your Elimination Period and then become Disabled, You will have to complete a new Elimination Period.

#### If You Return to Active Work After Completing Your Elimination Period

If You return to Active Work after You begin to receive Weekly Benefits, We will consider You to have recovered from Your Disability.

If You return to Active Work for a period of 60 days or less, and then become Disabled again due to the same or related Sickness or accidental injury, We will not require You to complete a new Elimination Period. For the purpose of determining Your benefits, We will consider such Disability to be a part of the original Disability and will use the same Predisability Earnings and apply the same terms, provisions and conditions that were used for the original Disability.

#### REHABILITATION INCENTIVES

#### Rehabilitation Program Incentive

If You participate in a Rehabilitation Program, We will increase Your Weekly Benefit by an amount equal to 10% of the Weekly Benefit. We will do so before We reduce Your Weekly Benefit by any Other Income.

#### **DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: SHORT TERM BENEFITS (continued)**

#### **Work Incentive**

If You work while You are Disabled and receiving Weekly Benefits, Your Weekly Benefit will be adjusted as follows:

- Your Weekly Benefit will be increased by Your Rehabilitation Program Incentive, if any; and
- reduced by Other Income as defined in the DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: INCOME WHICH WILL REDUCE YOUR DISABILITY BENEFIT section.

Your Weekly Benefit as adjusted above will not be reduced by the amount You earn from working, except to the extent that such adjusted Weekly Benefit plus the amount You earn from working and the income You receive from Other Income exceeds 100% of Your Predisability Earnings as calculated in the definition of Disability. In addition, the Minimum Weekly Benefit will not apply.

#### **Family Care Incentive**

If You work or participate in a Rehabilitation Program while You are Disabled, We will reimburse You for up to \$100 for weekly expenses You incur for each family member to provide:

- care for Your or Your Spouse's child, legally adopted child, or child for whom You or Your Spouse are legal guardian and who is:
  - living with You as part of Your household;
  - · dependent on You for support; and
  - under age 13.

The child care must be provided by a licensed child care provider who may not be a member of Your immediate family or living in Your residence.

- care to Your family member who is:
  - living with You as part of Your household;
  - chiefly dependent on You for support; and
  - incapable of independent living, regardless of age, due to mental or physical handicap as defined by applicable law.

Care to Your family member may not be provided by a member of Your immediate family.

We will make reimbursement payments to You on a weekly basis starting with the 4th Weekly Benefit payment. Payments will not be made beyond the Maximum Benefit Period. We will not reimburse You for any expenses for which You are eligible for payment from any other source. You must send Proof that You have incurred such expenses.

#### **Moving Expense Incentive**

If You participate in a Rehabilitation Program while You are Disabled, We may reimburse You for expenses You incur in order to move to a new residence recommended as part of such Rehabilitation Program. Such expenses must be approved by Us in advance.

You must send Proof that You have incurred such expenses for moving.

We will not reimburse You for such expenses if they were incurred for services provided by a member of Your immediate family or someone who is living in Your residence.

# DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: INCOME WHICH WILL REDUCE YOUR DISABILITY BENEFIT

We will reduce Your Disability benefit by the amount of all Other Income that was actually paid to You for the same disability for which You are claiming benefits under this certificate. Other Income includes the following:

- 1. any disability benefits under:
  - the Jones Act;
  - any government compulsory/statutory benefit law;
  - any government retirement system, including but not limited to the California State Teachers
    Retirement System (CalSTRS) and/or the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS);
    and/or the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). You must apply for such benefits through
    the highest appeal level that is applicable to such benefits and available under the plan;
  - the Policyholder's Retirement Plan;
- 2. third party liability payments by judgment, settlement or otherwise (minus attorneys' fees);
- 3. sick pay;
- 4. amounts from compromise or settlement of any claim for any of the Other Income sources shown in this provision (minus attorneys' fees);
- 5. any salary continuation, personal time off, and annual leave pay; and
- 6. return to work earnings as set forth in the Work Incentive and Limit on Work Incentive sub-provisions, in the REHABILITATION INCENTIVES provision.

# REDUCING YOUR DISABILITY BENEFIT BY THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT COMPULSORY BENEFIT PLAN OR PROGRAM ORCAISTRS, CAIPERS OR FERS OR OTHER PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT OR DISABILITY BENEFIT PLAN OR PROGRAM

If We have a reasonable, good faith belief that You are entitled to disability benefits under a government compulsory plan or program or a federal, state or other public employee retirement or disability plan or program, including a CalSTRS, CalPERS or FERS Retirement System, We expect You to apply for such benefits.

1. With respect to Government Compulsory Benefit Plans or Programs or CalSTRS, CalPERS, FERS Benefit Plans or Programs, to apply means to pursue such benefits through the initial appeal level provided under such benefit plans or programs. You must send Us Proof that You have applied for benefits under such plans or programs, and are pursuing such benefits with reasonable diligence. You must also sign a release that authorizes such benefit plans or programs to provide information directly to Us concerning Your benefits eligibility under such plans or programs.

If You do not satisfy the above requirements and if there is a reasonable means of estimating the amount of such benefits payable to You, We will reduce Your Disability benefit by the amount of such government compulsory benefit plan or program benefit, or CalSTRS, CalPERS or FERS benefit that We estimate You are eligible to receive. We will start to do this with the first Disability benefit payment under this certificate coincident with the date You were eligible to receive such government compulsory benefit plan or program benefit, or **Cal** STRS, **Cal** PERS or FERS benefits under any such plan or programs.

If Your application for such benefits is approved, We will reduce Your Disability benefit by the amount actually paid to You from the above sources.

2. With respect to a government compulsory benefit plan or program, or if You do receive approval or final denial of Your claim for such benefits, You must notify Us immediately. We will adjust the amount of Your Disability benefit. You must promptly repay Us for any overpayment.

# DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: INCOME WHICH WILL REDUCE YOUR DISABILITY BENEFIT (continued)

#### SINGLE SUM PAYMENT

If You receive Other Income in the form of a single sum payment, You must, within 10 days after receipt of such payment, give Written Proof satisfactory to Us of:

- · the amount of the single sum payment;
- the amount to be attributed to income replacement; and
- the time period for which the payment applies.

When We receive such Proof, We will adjust the amount of Your Disability benefit.

If We do not receive the Written Proof described above, and We know the amount of the single sum payment, We may reduce Your Disability benefit by an amount equal to such benefit until the single sum has been exhausted.

If We adjust the amount of Your Disability benefit due to a single sum payment, the amount of the adjustment will not result in a benefit amount less than the minimum amount, except in the case of an Overpayment.

If You receive Other Income in the form of a single sum payment and We do not receive the Written Proof described above within 10 days after You receive the single sum payment, We will adjust the amount of Your Disability Benefit by the amount of such payment.

# DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: INCOME WHICH WILL NOT REDUCE YOUR DISABILITY BENEFIT

We will not reduce Your Disability benefit to less than the Minimum Benefit shown in the SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS or by any Other Income that is not shown in Income Which Will Reduce Your Disability Benefit.

## **DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: DATE BENEFIT PAYMENTS END**

Your Disability benefit payments will end on the earliest of:

- the end of the Maximum Benefit Period;
- the date You are no longer Disabled;
- the date You die;
- the date You cease or refuse to participate in a Rehabilitation Program that We require;
- the date You fail to have a medical exam requested by Us as described in the Physical Exams subsection of the GENERAL PROVISIONS section;
- the date You fail to provide required Proof of continuing Disability.

While You are Disabled, the benefits described in this certificate will not be affected if:

- Your insurance ends; or
- the Group Policy is amended to change the plan of benefits for Your class.

## **DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE**

#### ADDITIONAL SHORT TERM BENEFIT: ORGAN DONOR

If You become Disabled as a result of an Organ Transplant Procedure while insured, Proof of the Disability must be sent to Us. When We receive such Proof, We will review the claim. If We approve the claim, We will pay the Organ Donor benefit shown below.

If We pay this benefit, You will not have to complete an Elimination Period.

#### **BENEFIT AMOUNT**

We will increase Your Weekly Benefit by an additional amount equal to 10% of Your Weekly Benefit. This increase will be applied to the first Weekly Benefit payment and continue while You remain Disabled, up to the Maximum Benefit Period.

## **DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: LIMITED DISABILITY BENEFITS**

## For Occupational Disabilities

We will not pay benefits for any Disability:

- which happens in the course of any work performed by You for wage or profit; or
- for which You are eligible to receive under workers' compensation or a similar law.

## **DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE: EXCLUSIONS**

We will not pay for any Disability caused or contributed to by:

- 1. war, whether declared or undeclared, or act of war, insurrection, rebellion or terrorist act;
- 2. Your active participation in a riot;
- 3. intentionally self-inflicted injury;
- 4. attempted suicide; or
- 5. commission of or attempt to commit a felony.

We will not pay Short Term Benefits for any Disability caused or contributed to by elective treatment or procedures, such as:

- 1. cosmetic surgery or treatment primarily to change appearance;
- 2. reversal of sterilization;
- 3. liposuction;
- 4. visual correction surgery; and
- 5. in vitro fertilization; embryo transfer procedure; or artificial insemination.

However, pregnancies and complications from any of these procedures will be treated as a Sickness.

#### **FILING A CLAIM**

The Policyholder should have a supply of claim forms. Obtain a claim form from the Policyholder and fill it out carefully. Return the completed claim form with the required Proof to the Policyholder. The Policyholder will certify Your insurance under the Group Policy and send the certified claim form and Proof to Us.

When We receive the claim form and Proof, We will review the claim and, if We approve it, We will pay benefits subject to the terms and provisions of this certificate and the Group Policy.

#### **CLAIMS FOR DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS**

When You file an initial claim for Disability Income Insurance benefits described in this certificate, both the notice of claim and the required Proof should be sent to Us within 90 days after the end of the Elimination Period.

Notice of claim and Proof may also be given to Us by following the steps set forth below:

## Step 1

You may give Us notice by calling Us at the toll free number shown in the Certificate Face Page within 20 days of the date of a loss.

#### Step 2

We will send a claim form to You and explain how to complete it. You should receive the claim form within 15 days of giving Us notice of claim.

#### Step 3

When You receive the claim form, You should fill it out as instructed and return it with the required Proof described in the claim form. If You do not receive a claim form within 15 days after giving Us notice of claim, Proof may be sent using any form sufficient to provide Us with the required Proof.

#### Step 4

For Disability Income Insurance benefits, You must give Us Proof not later than 90 days after the end of the Elimination Period.

If notice of claim or Proof is not given within the time limits described in this section, the delay will not cause a claim to be denied or reduced if such notice and Proof are given as soon as is reasonably possible but, in no event, other than for lack of legal capacity, may Proof be given later than one year after the date it is otherwise required.

#### Items to be Submitted for a Disability Income Insurance Claim

When submitting Proof on an initial or continuing claim for Disability Income insurance, the following items may be required:

- documentation which must include, but is not limited to, the following information:
  - the date Your Disability started;
  - the cause of Your Disability;
  - the prognosis of Your Disability;
  - the continuity of Your Disability; and
  - Your application for:
    - · Other Income;
    - · Social Security disability benefits; and
    - Workers compensation benefits or benefits under a similar law.

## **FILING A CLAIM (continued)**

- Written authorization for Us to obtain and release medical, employment and financial information and any
  other items We may reasonably require to document Your Disability or to determine Your receipt of or
  eligibility for Other Income;
- any and all medical information, including but not limited to:
  - x-ray films; and
  - photocopies of medical records, including:
    - histories,
    - physical, mental or diagnostic examinations; and
    - treatment notes; and
- the names and addresses of all:
  - physicians and medical practitioners who have provided You with diagnosis, treatment or consultation:
  - hospitals or other medical facilities which have provided You with diagnosis, treatment or consultation; and
  - pharmacies which have filled Your prescriptions within the past three years.

#### Regular Care of a Physician Requirement

In addition, You must be under the Regular Care of a Physician unless Regular Care:

- 1. will not improve the condition(s) causing Your Disability; or
- 2. will not prevent a worsening of the condition(s) causing Your Disability.

#### Regular care means:

- 1. You personally visit a Physician(s) as frequently as is medically required to effectively manage and treat the condition(s) causing Your Disability; and
- 2. You are receiving appropriate treatment and care which conforms with generally accepted medical standards for the condition(s) causing Your Disability.

Prior to the initial payment of benefits, provided You are receiving appropriate treatment and care which conforms with generally accepted medical standards for the condition(s) causing Your Disability, if the time period between Your visits to a Physician(s) is reasonable, You will be deemed to have satisfied the Regular Care of a Physician requirement, even if this results in a visit to a Physician(s) occurring after the end of the Elimination Period.

**Time Limit on Legal Actions.** A legal action on a claim may only be brought against Us during a certain period. This period begins 60 days after the date Proof is filed and ends 3 years after the date such Proof is required.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

## **Assignment**

The rights and benefits under the Group Policy are not assignable prior to a claim for benefits, except as required by law. We are not responsible for the validity of an assignment.

## Disability Income Benefit Payments: Who We Will Pay

We will make any benefit payments during Your lifetime to You or Your legal representative. Any payment made in good faith will discharge Us from liability to the extent of such payment.

Upon Your death, We will pay any amount that is or becomes due to Your designated Beneficiary. If there is no Beneficiary designated or no surviving Beneficiary at Your death, We will pay any benefit that is or becomes due, according to the following order:

- 1. Your Spouse or Domestic Partner, if alive;
- 2. Your unmarried child(ren) under age 25; if there is no surviving Spouse or Domestic Partner; or
- 3. Your estate, if there is no such surviving child.

If more than one person is eligible to receive payment, We will divide the benefit amount in equal shares.

Payment to a minor or incompetent will be made to such person's guardian. The term "children" or "child" includes natural and adopted children.

Any periodic payments owed to Your estate may be paid in a single sum. Any payment made in good faith will discharge Us from liability to the extent of such payment.

#### **Entire Contract**

Your insurance is provided under a contract of group insurance with the Policyholder. The entire contract with the Policyholder is made up of the following:

- 1. the Group Policy and its Exhibits, which include the certificate(s);
- 2. the Policyholder's application; and
- 3. any amendments and/or endorsements to the Group Policy.

## Incontestability: Statements Made by You

Any statement made by You will be considered a representation and not a warranty. We will not use such statement to avoid insurance, reduce benefits or defend a claim unless the following requirements are met:

- 1. the statement is in a Written application or enrollment form;
- 2. You have Signed the application or enrollment form; and
- 3. a copy of the application or enrollment form has been given to You or Your Beneficiary.

We will not use Your statements which relate to insurability to contest Disability Insurance after it has been in force for 2 years during Your life, unless the statement is fraudulent. In addition, We will not use such statements to contest an increase or benefit addition to such insurance after the increase or benefit has been in force for 2 years during Your life, unless the statement is fraudulent.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS (continued)**

## Misstatement of Age

If Your age is misstated, the correct age will be used to determine if insurance is in effect and, as appropriate, We will adjust the benefits and/or premiums.

## **Conformity with Law**

If the terms and provisions of this certificate do not conform to any applicable law, this certificate shall be interpreted to so conform.

## **Physical Exams**

If a claim is submitted for insurance benefits, We have the right to ask the insured to be examined by a Physician(s) of Our choice as often as is reasonably necessary to process the claim. We will pay the cost of such exam.

## **Autopsy**

We have the right to make a reasonable request for an autopsy where permitted by law. Any such request will set forth the reasons We are requesting the autopsy.

## Overpayments for Disability Income Insurance

## **Recovery of Overpayments**

We have the right to recover any amount that We determine to be an overpayment.

An overpayment occurs if We determine that:

- the total amount paid by Us on Your claim is more than the total of the benefits due to You under this
  certificate; or
- payment We made should have been made by another group plan.

If such overpayment occurs, You have an obligation to reimburse Us. Our rights and Your obligations in this regard are described in the reimbursement agreement that You are required to sign when You submit a claim for benefits under this certificate. This agreement:

- · confirms that You will reimburse Us for all overpayments; and
- authorizes Us to obtain any information relating to sources of Other Income.

## **How We Recover Overpayments**

We may recover the overpayment from You by:

- stopping or reducing any future Disability benefits, including the Minimum Benefit, payable to You or any other payee under the Disability sections of this certificate;
- demanding an immediate refund of the overpayment from You; and
- taking legal action.

If the overpayment results from Our having made a payment to You that should have been made under another group plan, We may recover such overpayment from one or more of the following:

- any other insurance company;
- any other organization; or
- any person to or for whom payment was made.

# THE PRECEDING PAGE IS THE END OF THE CERTIFICATE. THE FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

## **Return To Work Program**

#### Goal of Rehabilitation

The goal of MetLife is to focus on employees' abilities, instead of disabilities. This "abilities" philosophy is the foundation of our Return to Work Program. By focusing on what employees can do versus what they can't, we can assist you in returning to work sooner than expected.

#### **Incentives For Returning To Work**

Your Disability plan is designed to provide clear advantages and financial incentives for returning to work either full-time or part-time, while still receiving a Disability benefit. In addition to financial incentives, there may be personal benefits resulting from returning to work. Many employees experience higher self-esteem and the personal satisfaction of being self-sufficient and productive once again. If it is determined that you are capable, but you do not participate in the Return to Work Program, your Disability benefits may cease.

#### **Return to Work Services**

As a covered employee you are automatically eligible to participate in our Return to Work Program. The program aims to identify the necessary training and therapy that can help you return to work. In many cases, this means helping you return to your former occupation, although rehabilitation can also lead to a new occupation which is better suited to your condition and makes the most of your abilities. There is no additional cost to you for the services we provide, and they are tailored to meet your individual needs. These services include, but are not limited to, the following:

## 1. Vocational Analyses

Assessment and counseling to help determine how your skills and abilities can be applied to a new or a modified job with your employer.

## 2. Labor Market Surveys

Studies to find jobs available in the national economy that would utilize your abilities and skills. Also identify your earning potential for a specific occupation.

#### 3. Retraining Programs

Programs to facilitate return to your previous job, or to train you for a new job.

## 4. Job Modifications

Analyses of job demands and functions to determine what modifications may be made to maximize your employment opportunities.

This also includes changes in your job or modifications to help you perform the previous job or a similar vocation.

## 5. Job Seeking Skills and Job Placement Assistance

Special training to identify abilities, set goals, develop resumes, polish interviewing techniques, and provide other career search assistance.

#### **Return to Work Program Staff**

The Case Manager handling your claim will coordinate return to work services. You may be referred to a clinical specialist, such as a Nurse Consultant, Psychiatric Clinical Specialist, or Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant, who has advanced training and education to help people with disabilities return to work. One of our clinical specialists will work with you directly, as well as with local support services and resources. They have returned hundreds of individuals to meaningful, gainful employment.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

## **Rehabilitation Vendor Specialists**

In many situations, the services of independent vocational rehabilitation specialists may be utilized. Services are obtained at no additional cost to you; MetLife pays for all vendor services. Selecting a rehabilitation vendor is based on:

- 1. attending physician's evaluation and recommendations;
- 2. your individual vocational needs; and
- 3. vendor's credentials, specialty, reputation and experience.

When working with vendors, we continue to collaborate with you and your doctor to develop an appropriate return to work plan.



Delaware American Life Insurance Company MetLife Health Plans, Inc. MetLife Legal Plans, Inc. MetLife Legal Plans of Florida, Inc. Metropolitan General Insurance Company Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Metropolitan Tower Life Insurance Company SafeGuard Health Plans, Inc. SafeHealth Life Insurance Company

## **Our Privacy Notice**

We know that you buy our products and services because you trust us. This notice explains how we protect your privacy and treat your personal information. It applies to current and former customers. "Personal information" as used here means anything we know about you personally.

#### **SECTION 1: Plan Sponsors and Group Insurance Contract Holders**

This privacy notice is for individuals who apply for or obtain our products and services under an employee benefit plan, group insurance or annuity contract, or as an executive benefit. In this notice, "you" refers to these individuals.

#### **SECTION 2: Protecting Your Information**

We take important steps to protect your personal information. We treat it as confidential. We tell our employees to take care in handling it. We limit access to those who need it to perform their jobs. Our outside service providers must also protect it, and use it only to meet our business needs. We also take steps to protect our systems from unauthorized access. We comply with all laws that apply to us.

## **SECTION 3: Collecting Your Information**

We typically collect your name, address, age, and other relevant information. We may also collect information about any business you have with us, our affiliates, or other companies. Our affiliates include life insurers, a legal plans company and a securities broker-dealer. In the future, we may also have affiliates in other businesses.

#### **SECTION 4: How We Get Your Information**

We get your personal information mostly from you. We may also use outside sources to help ensure our records are correct and complete. These sources may include consumer reporting agencies, employers, other financial institutions, adult relatives, and others. These sources may give us reports or share what they know with others. We don't control the accuracy of information outside sources give us. If you want to make any changes to information we receive from others about you, you must contact those sources.

We may ask for medical information. The Authorization that you sign when you request insurance permits these sources to tell us about you. We may also, at our expense:

- Ask for a medical exam
- Ask for blood and urine tests
- Ask health care providers to give us health data, including information about alcohol or drug abuse

We may also ask a consumer reporting agency for a "consumer report" about you (or anyone else to be insured). Consumer reports may tell us about a lot of things, including information about:

Reputation

Driving record

Finances

- Work and work history
- Hobbies and dangerous activities

The information may be kept by the consumer reporting agency and later given to others as permitted by law. The agency will give you a copy of the report it provides to us, if you ask the agency and can provide adequate identification. If you write to us and we have asked for a consumer report about you, we will tell you so and give you the name, address and phone number of the consumer reporting agency.

Another source of information is MIB, Inc. ("MIB"). It is a not-for-profit membership organization of insurance companies which operates an information exchange on behalf of its Members. We, or our reinsurers, may make a brief report to MIB. If you apply to another MIB Member company for life or health insurance coverage, or a claim for benefits is submitted, MIB, upon request, will supply such company with the information in its file. Upon receipt of a request from you MIB will arrange disclosure of any information it may have in your file. Please contact MIB at 866-692-6901. If you question the accuracy of information in MIB's

file, you may contact MIB and seek a correction in accordance with the procedures set forth in the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. You may do so by writing to MIB, Inc., 50 Braintree Hill, Suite 400, Braintree, MA 02184-8734 or go to MIB website at <a href="https://www.mib.com">www.mib.com</a>.

## **SECTION 5: Using Your Information**

We collect your personal information to help us decide if you're eligible for our products or services. We may also need it to verify identities to help deter fraud, money laundering, or other crimes. How we use this information depends on what products and services you have or want from us. It also depends on what laws apply to those products and services. For example, we may also use your information to:

- administer your products and services
- perform business research
- market new products to you
- comply with applicable laws

- process claims and other transactions
- confirm or correct your information
- help us run our business

## **SECTION 6: Sharing Your Information With Others**

We may share your personal information with others with your consent, by agreement, or as permitted or required by law. We may share your personal information without your consent if permitted or required by law. For example, we may share your information with businesses hired to carry out services for us. We may also share it with our affiliated or unaffiliated business partners through joint marketing agreements. In those situations, we share your information to jointly offer you products and services or have others offer you products and services we endorse or sponsor. Before sharing your information with any affiliate or joint marketing partner for their own marketing purposes, however, we will first notify you and give you an opportunity to opt out.

Other reasons we may share your information include:

- doing what a court, law enforcement, or government agency requires us to do (for example, complying with search warrants or subpoenas)
- telling another company what we know about you if we are selling or merging any part of our business
- giving information to a governmental agency so it can decide if you are eligible for public benefits
- giving your information to someone with a legal interest in your assets (for example, a creditor with a lien on your account)
- giving your information to your health care provider
- having a peer review organization evaluate your information, if you have health coverage with us
- those listed in our "Using Your Information" section above

#### **SECTION 7: HIPAA**

We will not share your health information with any other company – even one of our affiliates – for their own marketing purposes. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") protects your information if you request or purchase dental, vision, long-term care and/or medical insurance from us. HIPAA limits our ability to use and disclose the information that we obtain as a result of your request or purchase of insurance. Information about your rights under HIPAA will be provided to you with any dental, vision, long-term care or medical coverage issued to you.

You may obtain a copy of our HIPAA Privacy Notice by visiting our website at <a href="www.MetLife.com">www.MetLife.com</a>. For additional information about your rights under HIPAA; or to have a HIPAA Privacy Notice mailed to you, contact us at HIPAAprivacyAmericasUS@metlife.com, or call us at telephone number (212) 578-0299.

## **SECTION 8: Accessing and Correcting Your Information**

You may ask us for a copy of the personal information we have about you. We will provide it as long as it is reasonably locatable and retrievable. You must make your request in writing listing the account or policy numbers with the information you want to access. For legal reasons, we may not show you privileged information relating to a claim or lawsuit, unless required by law.

If you tell us that what we know about you is incorrect, we will review it. If we agree, we will update our records. Otherwise, you may dispute our findings in writing, and we will include your statement whenever we give your disputed information to anyone outside MetLife.

## **SECTION 9: Questions**

We want you to understand how we protect your privacy. If you have any questions or want more information about this notice, please contact us. A detailed notice shall be furnished to you upon request. When you write, include your name, address, and policy or account number.

Send privacy questions to: MetLife Privacy Office

P. O. Box 489

Warwick, RI 02887-9954 privacy@metlife.com

We may revise this privacy notice. If we make any material changes, we will notify you as required by law. We provide this privacy notice to you on behalf of the MetLife companies listed at the top of the first page.