

## Short Term Disability

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Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

### Central Arkansas Water Plan Benefits Original Plan Effective Date: January 1, 2023

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*Explore the coverage that helps you protect your income and your lifestyle.*

#### What is Short Term Disability insurance?

**Short Term Disability (STD)** insurance may help you replace a portion of your income during the initial weeks of a Disability.

#### Eligibility Requirements

**Short Term Disability:**

All Active Full Time Employees working at least 30 hours per week are eligible to participate.

#### How is "Disability" defined under the Plan?

Generally, you are considered disabled and eligible for short term benefits if, due to sickness, pregnancy or accidental injury, you are receiving appropriate care and treatment and are complying with the requirements of the treatment and you are unable to earn more than 80% of your predisability earnings at your own occupation.

For a complete description of this and other requirements that must be met, refer to the Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description provided by your Employer or contact your MetLife benefits administrator with any questions.

#### What is the benefit amount?

**Short Term Disability:**

The Short Term Disability benefit may help replace a portion of your predisability earnings, less the income that was actually paid to you for the same Disability from other sources<sup>1</sup> (e.g., state disability benefits, no-fault auto laws, sick pay, vacation pay etc.).

The Benefit amount is 60% of your predisability weekly earnings subject to the plan's maximum weekly benefit of \$1,000.

#### Special Considerations

If you work in a state with state-mandated disability or paid medical leave benefits ("State Benefits"), you should carefully consider whether to enroll for this coverage. In California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Washington (and Connecticut starting 1/1/22, Oregon starting 1/1/23, and Colorado starting 1/1/24), if eligible, you must apply for State Benefits. Your STD benefit will be reduced by State Benefits or other government benefits that apply. Depending on your compensation, the amount of the State Benefit, and other factors, you may only receive the minimum weekly benefit. Please consider, based on your individual circumstances, whether you need additional coverage beyond the State Benefit.

#### When do benefits begin and how long do they continue?

**Short Term Disability:**

Benefits begin after the end of the elimination period. The elimination period begins on the day you become disabled and is the length of time you must wait, while disabled, before you are eligible to receive a benefit. The elimination period is as follows:

**For Injury:** 14 days.

**For Sickness (includes pregnancy):** 14 days.

Benefits continue for as long as you are disabled up to a maximum duration of 24 weeks of Disability.

Your plan's maximum benefit period and any specific limitations are described in the Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description provided by your Employer.

## **Additional Disability Plan Benefits:**

### **Coverage with Your Best Interests in Mind...**

When you are ill or injured for a short period, MetLife believes you need more than a supplement to your income. That's why we offer return-to-work services, and financial incentives.

#### **Services to Help You Get Back to Work Can Include:**

##### ***Nurse Consultant or Case Manager Services:***

Specialists who personally contact you, your physician and your employer to coordinate an early return-to-work plan when appropriate.

##### ***Vocational Analysis:***

Help with identifying job requirements and determining how your skills can be applied to a new or modified job with your employer.

##### ***Job Modifications:***

Adjustments (e.g., redesign of work station tools) that enable you to return to work.

##### ***Retraining:***

Development programs to help you return to your previous job or educate you for a new one.

##### ***Financial Incentives:***

Allow you to receive Disability benefits or partial benefits while attempting to return to work

## **Answers to Some Important Questions...**

### **Q. Can I still receive benefits if I return to work part time?**

**A.** Yes. As long as you are disabled and meet the terms of your Disability plan, you may qualify for adjusted Disability benefits.

Your plan offers financial and Rehabilitation incentives designed to help you to return to work when appropriate, even on a part-time basis when you participate in an approved Rehabilitation Program. While disabled, you may receive up to 100% of your predisability earnings when combining benefits, Rehabilitation Incentives and other income sources such as Social Security Disability Benefits and State Disability Benefits, and part-time earnings.

With the Rehabilitation Incentive you can get a 10% increase in your weekly benefit.

Following the 4th weekly benefit payment, the Family Care Incentive provides reimbursement up to \$100 per week for eligible expenses, such as child care.

You may be eligible for the Moving Expense Incentive if you incur expenses in order to move to a new residence recommended as part of the Rehabilitation Program. Expenses must be approved in advance.

### **Q. Is there a pre-existing conditions provision?**

**A.** Yes. Your plan may not cover a sickness or accidental injury that arose in the months prior to your participation in the plan. A complete description of the pre-existing condition exclusion is included in the Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description provided by your Employer or contact your MetLife benefits administrator with any questions.

### **Q. Are there any exclusions to my coverage?**

**A.** Yes. Your plan does not cover any Disability which results from or is caused or contributed to by:

- Elective treatment or procedures, such as cosmetic surgery, reversal of sterilization, liposuction, visual correction surgery or in vitro fertilization, embryo transfer procedure, artificial insemination, or other specific procedures. However, pregnancies and complications from any of these procedures will be treated as a sickness.
- War, whether declared or undeclared, or act of war, insurrection, rebellion or terrorist act;
- Active participation in a riot;
- Intentionally self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide;
- Commission of or attempt to commit a felony.

Additionally, no payment will be made for a Disability caused or contributed to by any injury or sickness for which you are entitled to benefits under Workers' Compensation or a similar law.

Other limitations or exclusions to your coverage may apply. Please review your Certificate of Insurance for specific details or contact your benefits administrator with any questions.

The "Plan Benefits" provides only a brief overview of the STD plan. A more complete description of the benefits provisions, conditions, limitations, and exclusions will be included in the Certificate of Insurance. If any discrepancies exist between this information and the legal plan documents, the legal plan documents will govern.

Short Term Disability ("STD") coverage is provided under a group insurance policy (Form GPNP99) issued to your employer by MetLife. This STD coverage terminates when your employment ceases, when you cease to be an eligible employee, when your STD contributions cease (if applicable) or upon termination of the group contract by your employer. Like most insurance policies, insurance policies offered by MetLife and its affiliates contain certain exclusions, exceptions, waiting periods, reductions, limitations, and terms for keeping them in force. Please contact MetLife or your plan administrator for complete details. State variations may apply.

<sup>1</sup> Under certain circumstances, MetLife may estimate the amount of income you may receive from other sources.