

Real People, Real Claims

"I'm a believer and tell everyone it is worthwhile to have [critical illness] insurance."



This is Karen Timchuk's story, a Great-West Life critical illness insurance claimant with a rated policy.

Years after she bought her critical illness insurance policy, Karen Timchuk still clearly remembers how her longtime financial security advisor positioned the product to her.

"I admit I was reluctant at first as I felt I already had decent insurance through my job," she says. "But I remember my advisor telling me it was win-win ... if you claim, you get a payment. And if you don't claim, not only do you still have your health but you get the premium back. That convinced me."

Karen's parents both had a history of cancer, which resulted in her policy being rated. "The premium was around \$50 a month more with the rating," she says. Karen purchased a policy in 2006 with the Flexible Return of Premium (20+ years) Rider.

A few years later, in late 2009, Karen suffered sudden back and abdominal pain which, when investigated, revealed both non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and colon cancer. "Needless to say, December was dark and gloomy for me," Karen says. "The fact I was going to get \$100,000 was the only good news I got that month."

Karen used her payment to cover the cost of chemotherapy-related drugs not covered by her health plan, take a trip with her spouse in between treatments and keep up her pension plan contributions.

"I was on long-term disability from my job and had to pay over \$10,000 into my pension for the 11 months I was off," she explains. "My plan is to retire in 2014. If I couldn't afford the pension contribution, I wouldn't be able to retire on schedule."

Karen also had some concerns knowing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma can recur. But the benefit amount she purchased allowed her to set aside some funds as a security blanket in case she relapses. It also gave her the opportunity to buy a new car (saving her this additional expense in the coming years), and says "every time I get into my vehicle, I think of it like my cancer present, a present to me."

Karen has recovered and returned to work in October. She is thankful that her advisor persisted in convincing her to purchase critical illness insurance. "At that time, I was in my early forties and felt invincible," she says. "But I could see it was in my best interest and with the return of premium, it wasn't like I was throwing money away. Even with the rating, I still felt it was a good deal for me. I'm a believer and tell everyone it is worthwhile to have insurance."

The information and views expressed are solely those of the individual represented but may have been edited for brevity.

For more information about how *Oasis*TM critical illness insurance may fit your needs, ask your representative for an illustration.

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