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National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS)

Public Employee Financial Protection Plan

$20 Plan

Member Term Life Coverage

Dependents Term Life Coverage

Prudential

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Disclosure Notice

FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS

Prudential's Customer Service Office:

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

If Prudential fails to provide you with reasonable and adequate service, you may contact:

Arkansas Insurance Department
1 Commerce Way, Suite 102
Little Rock, AR 72202

(501) 371-2640 or (800) 852-5494

FOR FLORIDA RESIDENTS

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

FOR IDAHO RESIDENTS

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

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

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

FOR INDIANA RESIDENTS

Questions regarding your policy or coverage should be directed to:

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

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If you (a) need the assistance of the governmental agency that regulates insurance; or (b) have a complaint you have been unable to resolve with your insurer you may contact the Department of Insurance by mail, telephone or e-mail:

State of Indiana Department of Insurance
Consumer Services Division
311 West Washington Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Consumer Hotline: (800) 622-4461; (317) 232-2395

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

FOR MARYLAND RESIDENTS

The Group Insurance Contract providing coverage under this Certificate was issued in a jurisdiction other than Maryland and may not provide all of the benefits required by Maryland law.

FOR NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS

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

FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS

THE INSURANCE POLICY UNDER WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED IS NOT A POLICY OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE. YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR EMPLOYER TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR EMPLOYER IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM.

FOR WISCONSIN RESIDENTS

KEEP THIS NOTICE WITH YOUR INSURANCE PAPERS

Problems with Your Insurance? – If you are having problems with your insurance company or agent, do not hesitate to contact the insurance company or agent to resolve your problem.

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Prudential's Customer Service Office:

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

You can also contact the **OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE**, a state agency which enforces Wisconsin's insurance laws, and file a complaint. You can file a complaint electronically with the **OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE** at its website at *http://oci.wi.gov/*, or by contacting:

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

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NOTICE FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS

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.

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
To get information or file a complaint with your insurance company or HMO:

Call: Prudential Life Claim Division

Toll-free: 1-800-524-0542

Mail: P.O. Box 8517, Philadelphia, PA 19176

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 12030, Austin TX 78711-2030

¿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.

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The Prudential Insurance Company of America
Para obtener información o para presentar una queja ante su compañía de seguros o HMO:

Llame a: Prudential Life Claim Division
Teléfono gratuito: 1-800-524-0542
Dirección postal: P.O. Box 8517, Philadelphia, PA 19176

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 u na queja en: www.tdi.texas.gov
Correo electrónico: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov
Dirección postal: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 12030, Austin TX 78711-2030

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Disclosure Notice

Note:

- **Any payment made under this option may be taxable. You are advised to seek the help of a professional tax advisor for assistance with any questions that you may have.**
- **If you elect this option, your eligibility for Medicaid or other government programs may be affected. You are advised to seek the help of a professional legal advisor for assistance with any questions that you may have.**

Option to Accelerate Payment of Death Benefits: Your Group Life plan includes an option to give you flexibility in how your group life insurance benefits will be paid. If you become terminally ill, this option may allow you to have part of your life insurance benefits, which would otherwise be paid at your death, to be paid in advance to you while you are alive.

Eligibility: To be eligible to elect this option, you must furnish proof satisfactory to Prudential that your life expectancy is 6 months or less, including certification by a qualified doctor. Election of this option is also subject to the Conditions below.

Amount of Benefit: The amount to be paid under this option is 50% of the amount of your life insurance benefits. You may elect to have the money in one sum or 6 equal monthly payments.

Effect of Option: If you elect this option, the amount of your life insurance benefits payable to your beneficiary on your death will be reduced by the advanced payment. Also, if you are contributing for your life insurance benefits, the amount of your contribution will be adjusted based on the amount of insurance remaining in force.

Conditions: You cannot elect this option if your life insurance benefits are assigned. This option is available to you on a voluntary basis only; you are not eligible for it if (1) you are required to use it to meet the claims of creditors, whether in bankruptcy or otherwise or (2) you are required by a government agency to use it in order to apply for, get or keep a government benefit or entitlement. You can elect this option only once.

Premium for Accelerated Death Benefits: There is no additional charge for this benefit.

Administrative Expense Charge: There is no administrative expense charge to you; the administrative expense charge is paid by the group contract holder.

_____

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THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

Certificate of Coverage

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Foreword

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN STATES: *There are state-specific requirements that may change the provisions under the Coverage(s) described in this Group Insurance Certificate. If you live in a state that has such requirements, those requirements will apply to your Coverage(s) and are made a part of your Group Insurance Certificate. Prudential has a website that describes these state-specific requirements. You may access the website at www.prudential.com/etonline. When you access the website, you will be asked to enter your state of residence and your Access Code.* ***Your Access Code is 92860.***

If you are unable to access this website, want to receive a printed copy of these requirements or have any questions, call Prudential at 1-877-507-4778.

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Schedule of Benefits

Covered Classes: All Members of participating agencies who elect to offer the $20.00 plan to their Members.

Program Date: July 1, 2026. This Booklet describes the benefits under the Group Program as of the Program Date.

- This Booklet and the Certificate of Coverage together form your Group Insurance Certificate. The Coverages in this Booklet are insured under a Group Contract issued by Prudential. All benefits are subject in every way to the entire Group Contract which includes the Group Insurance Certificate. It alone forms the agreement under which payment of insurance is made.

MEMBER TERM LIFE COVERAGE

BENEFIT AMOUNTS:

Amount For Each Benefit Class:

Benefit Classes	**Amount of Insurance**
All Members according to Member's attained age, as follows:	
Less than 25	$275,000
Age 25 or more but less than age 30	208,000
Age 30 or more but less than age 40	122,000
Age 40 or more but less than age 45	79,000
Age 45 or more but less than age 50	49,000
Age 50 or more but less than age 55	37,000
Age 55 or more but less than age 60	22,000
Age 60 or more but less than age 65	15,000
Age 65 or more but less than age 70	9,000
Age 70 or more but less than age 75	7,000
Age 75 or more but less than age 80	6,000
Age 80 or more but less than age 85	5,000
Age 85 or more	4,000

When your Benefit Class changes under the above table by reason of your attainment of age 25, 30, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 or 85, your amount of insurance will be automatically adjusted to conform to the new benefit class on the date of such change in benefit class. Any reduction provided by this paragraph will reduce your Member Term Life Coverage whether or not you have protection under the Extended Death Benefit and Waiver of Premium During Total Disability part of the Coverage.

Effect of Option to Accelerate Payment of Death Benefits: Your amount of insurance (as determined in the absence of this provision) will be reduced by the amount of any Terminal Illness Proceeds paid under the Option to Accelerate Payment of Death Benefits.

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DEPENDENTS TERM LIFE COVERAGE

The amount of insurance is the amount for your Benefit Class. Your Benefit Class is determined by the classification of your dependents as shown in this table.

Qualified Dependents Classification	**Amount of Insurance***
Your Spouse or Domestic Partner according to your attained age, as follows:	
Less than 25	$20,000
Age 25 or more but less than age 30	20,000
Age 30 or more but less than age 40	20,000
Age 40 or more but less than age 45	18,000
Age 45 or more but less than age 50	15,000
Age 50 or more but less than age 55	10,000
Age 55 or more but less than age 60	7,000
Age 60 or more but less than age 65	5,000
Age 65 or more but less than age 70	4,000
Age 70 or more but less than age 75	3,000
Age 75 or more but less than age 80	2,000
Age 80 or more but less than age 85	2,000
Age 85 or more	2,000
Your children	4,000

When your Dependents Classification changes under the above table by reasons of your attainment of age 25, 30, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 or 85, your Dependents amount of insurance will be automatically adjusted to conform to the new classification on the date of such change in classification

OTHER INFORMATION

Contract Holder: NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Group Contract No.: G-92860-DC

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

Prudential's Address:

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

WHEN YOU HAVE A CLAIM

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

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If you do not have a claim form, contact the Contract Holder.

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Who is Eligible to Become Insured

FOR MEMBER INSURANCE

You are eligible to become insured for Member Insurance while:

- You are a Member of a participating agency that elects to offer the $20.00 plan to their Members; and
- You are in a Covered Class.

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

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

FOR DEPENDENTS INSURANCE

You are eligible to become insured for Dependents Insurance while:

- You are eligible for Member Insurance; and
- You have a Qualified Dependent.

Qualified Dependents:

These are the persons for whom you may obtain Dependents Insurance:

- A person who is your Spouse or Domestic Partner prior to their enrollment for Dependents Insurance.

  Your Spouse means your lawful Spouse.

  Your Domestic Partner is a person of the same or opposite sex who:

  (1) Is a person whose domestic partnership with you has been validly registered by the government of the District of Columbia. In addition, government-sanctioned same-sex relationships (other than marriage) validly established under the laws of other jurisdictions that provide substantially all of the rights and benefits of marriage are recognized as domestic partnerships; or

  (2) Is a person of the same or opposite sex who satisfies all of the following:

  (a) is age 18 or older; and

  (b) is not related to you by blood or a degree of closeness that would prohibit marriage in the law of the jurisdiction in which you reside; and

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(c) is mentally competent to consent to contract; and

(d) is not married to another person under statutory or common law nor in a domestic partnership, registered domestic partnership or civil union with another person; and

(e) is not otherwise a Qualified Dependent under the Program; and

(f) is in a single dedicated, serious and committed relationship with you; and

(g) has shared a single permanent residence with you for at least 12 consecutive months; and

(h) is financially interdependent with you.

Where requested by Prudential, you and/or your Domestic Partner certify that all of the above requirements are satisfied. Such certification shall be in a format satisfactory to Prudential.

Either a Spouse or a Domestic Partner may be a Qualified Dependent under the Program at any one time, but not both at the same time.

- Your children from live birth to 26 years old.

Your children include your legally adopted children, children placed with you for adoption prior to legal adoption, and each of your stepchildren, Domestic Partner's children and foster children. A child placed with you for adoption prior to legal adoption is considered your Qualified Dependent from the date of placement for adoption, and is treated as though the child was your newborn child.

Exceptions:

Your Spouse, Domestic Partner or child is not your Qualified Dependent while on active duty in the armed forces of any country.

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

When You Become Insured

FOR MEMBER INSURANCE

Your Member Insurance under a Coverage will begin the first day of the month following the date of enrollment for the Coverage and on which:

- You have enrolled, if the Coverage is Contributory; and
- You are eligible for Member Insurance; and
- You are in a Covered Class for that insurance; and
- You have met any evidence requirement for Member Insurance; and
- Your insurance is not being delayed under the Delay of Effective Date section below; and

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- That Coverage is part of the Group Contract.

For Contributory Insurance, you must enroll on a form approved by Prudential and agree to pay the required contributions. The Contract Holder will tell you whether contributions are required and the amount of any contribution when you enroll.

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

When evidence is required: In any of these situations, you must give evidence of insurability. This requirement will be met when Prudential decides the evidence is satisfactory.

(1) You enroll after any of your insurance under the Group Contract ends because you did not pay a required contribution.

(2) You wish to become insured for life insurance and have an individual life insurance contract which you obtained by converting your insurance under a Coverage of the Group Contract.

(3) You have not met a previous evidence requirement to become insured under any Prudential group contract for Members of the Employer.

FOR DEPENDENTS INSURANCE

Your Dependents Insurance under a Coverage for a person will begin the first day of the month following the date of enrollment for the Coverage and on which:

- You have enrolled for the person for Dependents Insurance under the Coverage, if the Coverage is Contributory.
- The person is your Qualified Dependent.
- You are in a Covered Class for that insurance.
- To be insured for a Qualified Dependent under the Dependents Term Life Coverage, you must be insured under a Member Term Life Coverage of the Group Contract.
- Your insurance for that Qualified Dependent is not being delayed under the Delay of Effective Date section below.
- Dependents Insurance under that Coverage is part of the Group Contract.

For Contributory Insurance, you must enroll your Qualified Dependent on a form approved by Prudential and agree to pay the required contributions. The Contract Holder will tell you whether contributions are required and the amount of any contribution when you enroll your Qualified Dependent.

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

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Delay of Effective Date

FOR MEMBER INSURANCE

Your Member Insurance under a Coverage will be delayed if you do not meet the Active Work Requirement on the day your insurance would otherwise begin. Instead, it will begin on the first day you meet the Active Work Requirement and the other requirements for the insurance. The same delay rule will apply to any increase in your insurance that is subject to this section. If you do not meet the Active Work Requirement on the day that an increase would take effect, it will take effect on the day you meet that requireme
nt.

FOR DEPENDENTS TERM LIFE COVERAGE

A Qualified Dependent may be confined for medical care or treatment, at home or elsewhere. If a Qualified Dependent is so confined on the day that your Dependents Insurance under a Coverage for that Qualified Dependent, or any increase in that insurance that is subject to this section, would take effect, it will not then take effect. The insurance or increase will take effect upon the Qualified Dependent's final medical release from all such confinement. The other requirements for the insurance or increase must also be met.

Newborn Child Exception: This section does not apply to a child of yours if the child is born to you and either:

(1) is your first Qualified Dependent; or

(2) becomes a Qualified Dependent while you are insured for Dependents Insurance under that Coverage for any other Qualified Dependent.

Also, this section does not apply to any age increase in the amount of insurance for a child under the Dependents Term Life Coverage.

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Member Term Life Coverage

FOR YOU ONLY

A. DEATH BENEFIT WHILE A COVERED PERSON.

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

B. DEATH BENEFIT DURING CONVERSION PERIOD.

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

(1) within 31 days after you cease to be a Covered Person; and

(2) while entitled (under Section D) to convert your Member Term Life Insurance under this Coverage to an individual contract.

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

C. EXTENDED DEATH BENEFIT AND WAIVER OF PREMIUMS DURING TOTAL DISABILITY.

If you meet the conditions below, your death benefit protection will be extended while you are Totally Disabled, and from the date Prudential receives proof as described below, premiums for your Member Term Life Insurance under this Coverage will be waived while your death benefit protection is extended. The “Extended Death Benefit" is the benefit described in this Section C.

The conditions referred to above are:

(1) You become Totally Disabled while you are a Covered Person.

(2) You are less than age 60 when your Total Disability starts.

Total Disability: You are “Totally Disabled" when:

(1) You are not working at any job for wage or profit; and

(2) Due to Sickness, Injury or both, you are not able to perform for wage or profit, the material and substantial duties of any job for which you are reasonably fitted by your education, training or experience.

The extension ends one year after your Total Disability started, unless, within that year, you give Prudential written proof that:

(1) You have met the above conditions; and

(2) You are still Totally Disabled; and

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(3) Your Total Disability has continued for at least 9 months.

Prudential will then further extend your death benefit protection for successive one year periods. The first of these periods will start on the date Prudential receives this proof. After that first period, you must give written proof when and as required by Prudential once each year that your Total Disability continues.

If you die while your death benefit protection is being extended, the Extended Death Benefit is payable when Prudential receives written proof that:

(1) Your Total Disability continued until your death; and

(2) All of the above conditions have been met.

If you die within one year after your Total Disability started and before you give Prudential proof of Total Disability, written notice of your death must be given to Prudential within one year after your death.

Your extension protection ends if and when:

(1) Your Total Disability ends; or

(2) You fail to furnish any required proof that your Total Disability continues; or

(3) You fail to submit to a medical exam by Doctors named by Prudential when and as often as Prudential requires. After two full years of this protection, Prudential will not require an exam more than once a year.

If your extension protection ends after you have given the first proof of continued Total Disability, you have the same rights and benefits under Sections B and D as if you ceased to be a member of the Covered Classes for the insurance. But this does not apply if you become a Covered Person with in 31 days after this protection ends.

Amount of Extended Death Benefit: This amount is determined as if you had remained a Covered Person until death. But it is reduced by any amount payable under Sections A or B above or any Prudential group life insurance that replaces this Coverage for a class of Members.

Effect of Conversion: An individual contract issued under Section D will be in place of all rights under this Section C. But if you have met all the requirements of this Section C, you can obtain these rights in exchange for all benefits of the individual contract. Premiums paid under the individual contract will be refunded. Your choice of Beneficiary in the individual contract, if different than for this Coverage, will be considered notice of change of Beneficiary for any claim under this Section C.

D. CONVERSION PRIVILEGE.

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

(1) Your employment ends or you transfer out of a Covered Class.

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

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

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

(1) the thirty-first day after you cease to be insured for the Member Term Life Insurance; and

(2) the fifteenth day after you have been given written notice of the conversion privilege. But, in no event may you convert the insurance to an individual contract if you do not apply for the contract and pay the first premium prior to the ninety-second day after you cease to be insured for the Member Term Life Insurance.

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

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

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

(2) $10,000.

Form: Any form of a life insurance contract that:

(1) conforms to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, having no distinction based on sex; and

(2) is one that Prudential usually issues at the age and amount applied for.

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

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

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

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

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Option to Accelerate Payment of Death Benefits

The following is added to the Member Term Life Coverage provision:

Definitions

- Terminally Ill Member: A member whose life expectancy is 6 months or less.
- Terminal Illness Proceeds: The amount of Member Term Life Insurance that you may elect to place under this option. The Terminal Illness Proceeds are equal to 50% of the amount in force on your life on the date Prudential receives the proof that you are a Terminally Ill Member. However, the Terminal Illness Proceeds may be reduced if, within 6 months after the date Prudential receives such proof, a reduction on account of age would have applied to the amount of your Member Term Life Insurance. In that case, the amount of the Terminal Illness Proceeds may not exceed the amount of such Insurance after applying the reduction.

Option: If you become a Terminally Ill Member while insured under the Member Term Life Insurance provision or while your death benefit protection is being extended under the Member Term Life Coverage provision, you may elect to have the Terminal Illness Proceeds placed under this option. That election is subject to the conditions set forth below.

Payment of Terminal Illness Proceeds: If you elect this option, Prudential will pay the Terminal Illness Proceeds you place under this option in one sum when it receives proof that you are a Terminally Ill Member.

If you do not want the Terminal Illness Proceeds in one sum, you may elect to have them paid in 6 equal monthly installments. The first monthly payment will be due when Prudential receives proof that you are a Terminally Ill Member. The other payments are due on the same day of each later month.

To Whom Payable: The benefits under this provision are payable to you.

Amount Due But Unpaid at Your Death: If you elect monthly installments and you die before all payments have been made, Prudential will pay your Beneficiary or Beneficiaries determined under the Beneficiary Rules in one sum. That sum will be the total of the payments that remain.

Conditions: Your right to be paid under this option is subject to these terms:

(1) You must choose this option in writing in a form that satisfies Prudential.

(2) You must furnish proof that satisfies Prudential that your life expectancy is 6 months or less, including certification by a Doctor.

(3) Your Member Term Life Insurance must not be assigned.

(4) Terminal Illness Proceeds will be made available to you on a voluntary basis only. Therefore:

  (a) If you are required by law to use this option to meet the claims of creditors, whether in bankruptcy or otherwise, you are not eligible for this benefit.

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(b) If you are required by a government agency to use this option in order to apply for, get or keep a government benefit or entitlement, you are not eligible for this benefit.

Effect on Insurance: This benefit is in lieu of the benefits that would have been paid on your death with respect to the Terminal Illness Proceeds. When you elect this option, the total amount of Member Term Life Insurance otherwise payable on your death, including any amount under an extended death benefit, will be reduced by the Terminal Illness Proceeds. Also, any amount you could otherwise have converted to an individual contract will be reduced by the Terminal Illness Proceeds.

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Additional Student Loan Reimbursement Benefit under Term Life Coverage

Note:

(1) Any payment made under this option may be taxable. You are advised to seek the help of a professional tax advisor for assistance with any questions that you may have.

FOR YOU

An additional benefit may be payable to you if you have protection under the Waiver of Premium During Total Disability part of the Coverage. Any such benefit is payable in addition to any other benefit payable under this Coverage. Any additional conditions that apply to an additional benefit are shown below. An additional benefit is payable only if those conditions are met.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT BENEFIT FOR TOTAL DISABILITY

This additional Student Loan benefit for your Total Disability is payable only if all of these conditions are met:

(1) You enrolled for Term Life Coverage; and,

(2) The enrolled coverage has the waiver of premium during total disability provision; and

(3) You are an existing insured; and,

(4) You are age 45 and under at the time your Total Disability starts

(5) You have an outstanding loan balance; and

(6) You have an approved waiver of premium claim; and

Total Disability: You are “Totally Disabled” when you meet the conditions under section C of the Waiver of Premium During Total Disability provision.

Student Loan: means any loan incurred by you that:

(a) was made to cover expenses for college level school tuition, living expenses, fees, textbooks, and/or equipment required for college education including both undergraduate or graduate education; medical school or law school; and

(b) was made to you through a government student loan program or a private chartered bank or an accredited financial lending institution; and

(c) was made prior to the date on which you became Totally Disabled and

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(d) was made prior to the date on which you graduated from a higher education program listed under item (a) above; and

(e) you are legally required to repay.

Payment of Student Loan Reimbursement Proceeds: Prudential will pay the student loan reimbursement proceeds in one sum when Prudential approves your claim for Student Loan Reimbursement.

To Whom Payable: The Student Loan Reimbursement proceeds are payable to you

Your eligibility for benefits will not begin until 9 months from the date Prudential determines you to be Totally Disabled based on the definition specified with the plan

Additional Benefit Amount Payable for Student Loan Reimbursement: An amount equal to the lesser of:

(1) 10% of your Amount of Insurance for your Benefit Class;

(2) $50,000 and

(3) the amount of student loan that you owe at the time of your Total Disability

This benefit is payable once during your lifetime.

Proof of Student Loan Reimbursement: Prudential must be given written proof of the outstanding balance of your student loan at the time of your Total Disability The proof of student loan must include but not limited to formal documentation from the loan company as specified in section (b) indicating the loan number, name, address and telephone number of your student loan company, the monthly loan payment due and the outstanding balance amount of your student loan, and specify that you remain obligated to pa
y the loan in its entirety

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Dependents Term Life Coverage

FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS ONLY

A. DEATH BENEFIT WHILE A COVERED PERSON.

If a dependent dies while a Covered Person, the amount of insurance on that dependent under this Coverage is payable when Prudential receives written proof of death.

B. DEATH BENEFIT DURING A CONVERSION PERIOD.

A death benefit is payable under this Section B if a dependent dies:

(1) within 31 days after ceasing to be a Covered Person; and

(2) while entitled (under Section D) to a conversion of the insurance under this Coverage to an individual contract.

The amount of the benefit is equal to the amount of Dependents Term Life Coverage which could have been converted. It is payable even if conversion was not applied for. It is payable when Prudential receives written proof of death.

C. EXTENDED DEATH BENEFIT AND WAIVER OF PREMIUMS DURING MEMBER'S TOTAL DISABILITY.

A death benefit is payable under this Section C if a dependent dies:

(1) while you have extension protection during Total Disability under the Member Term Life Coverage of the Group Contract;

(2) after ceasing to be a Covered Person because of your Total Disability; and

(3) while the dependent, except for ceasing to be a Covered Person because of your Total Disability, would still be a Covered Person.

Amount of Extended Death Benefit: The benefit payable will be determined as if you continued to be insured for the Dependents Term Life Coverage of the Group Contract with respect to the dependent. No benefit is payable under this Section C if any benefit is payable under Section B.

Waiver of Premiums: From the date Prudential receives proof of your Total Disability, as described in the Member Term Life Coverage of the Group Contract, premiums for your Dependents Term Life Coverage will be waived while your death benefit protection is extended.

Effect of Conversion: An individual contract issued under Section D will be in place of all rights under this Section C. But, if all the requirements of this Section C have been met, these rights can be obtained in exchange for all benefits of the individual contract. Premiums paid under the individual contract will be refunded.

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D. CONVERSION PRIVILEGE.

This privilege applies if you cease to be insured for the Dependents Term Life Coverage of the Group Contract with respect to a dependent. That dependent may have your insurance on the dependent under this Coverage, which then ends, converted to an individual life insurance contract. Evidence of insurability is not required. However, conversion is not available if the insurance ends for one of these reasons:

(1) You fail to make any required contribution for insurance under the Group Contract.

(2) All Dependents Term Life Coverage of the Group Contract for your class ends by amendment or otherwise. This (2) does not apply if, on the date it ends, you have been insured with respect to the dependent for five years for that insurance (or for that insurance and any Prudential rider or group contract replaced by that insurance).

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

Availability: The individual contract must be applied for and the first premium must be paid by the later of:

(1) the thirty-first day after you cease to be insured for Dependents Term Life Coverage with respect to the dependent; and

(2) the fifteenth day after you have been given written notice of the conversion privilege. But, in no event may you convert the insurance to an individual contract if you do not apply for the contract and pay the first premium prior to the ninety-second day after you cease to be insured for Dependents Term Life Coverage with respect to the dependent.

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

Amount: Not more than the amount of Dependents Term Life Coverage on the dependent ending under this Coverage. But, if it ends because all the Dependents Term Life Coverage of the Group Contract for your class ends, the total amount of individual insurance which may be obtained in place of all the Dependents Term Life Coverage on the dependent then ending under the Group Contract will not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The total amount of all your Dependents Term Life Coverage on the dependent then ending under the Group Contract reduced by the amount of group life insurance from any carrier for which you are or become eligible with respect to the dependent within the next 31 days.

(2) $10,000.

Form: Any form of a life insurance contract that:

(1) conforms to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, having no distinction based on sex; and

(2) is one that Prudential usually issues at the age and amount applied for.

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

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

Effective Date: The end of the 31-day period after you cease to be insured for Dependents Term Life Coverage with respect to the dependent.

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Any death benefit provided under a section of this Coverage is payable to you. If you are not living at the death of a dependent*, the death benefit is payable to the dependent's estate or, at Prudential's option, to any one or more of these surviving relatives of the dependent: wife; husband; Domestic Partner, mother; father; children; brothers; sisters.

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

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General Information

BENEFICIARY RULES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MODE OF SETTLEMENT RULES

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

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

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its discretion provide other forms of payment in one sum. But another mode of settlement may be arranged with Prudential for all or part of the insurance, as stated below.

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

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

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

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

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

INCONTESTABILITY OF LIFE INSURANCE

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

(1) It will not be used in the contest unless:

   (a) It is in a written instrument signed by the person and

   (b) A copy of that instrument is or has been furnished to the person or to the person's Beneficiary.

(2) If it relates to the person's insurability, it will not be used to contest the validity of insurance which has been in force, before the contest, for at least two years during the person's lifetime.

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LIMITS ON ASSIGNMENTS

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

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

(1) the assignee, if living; or

(2) the estate of the assignee, if the assignee is not living.

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

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

This Section applies to all Coverages providing Member death benefits.

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

(1) You were insured for group life insurance under another group contract. That contract was issued by Prudential or another insurance carrier to cover Members of the Employer.

(2) Your group life insurance under the other group contract ended.

(3) An irrevocable and absolute gift assignment made by you was in effect. It was made before the other contract ended. That assignment was of all your rights, benefits and privileges of the group life insurance under the other group contract. Those rights were owned by the assignee or the assignee's successor.

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

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

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DEFINITIONS

Active Work Requirement: A requirement that a Member be actively at work as normally required by the employer or as predetermined by the Member's Public Employee Retirement Systems group on the date the insurance is to begin.

Calendar Year: A year starting January 1.

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

Coverage: A part of the Booklet consisting of:

(1) A benefit page labeled as a Coverage in its title.

(2) Any page or pages that continue the same kind of benefits.

(3) A Schedule of Benefits entry and other benefit pages or forms that by their terms apply to that kind of benefits.

Covered Person under a Coverage: A Member who is insured for Member Insurance under that Coverage; a Qualified Dependent for whom a Member is insured for Dependents Insurance, if any, under that Coverage.

Dependents Insurance: Insurance on the person of a dependent.

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

Injury: Injury to the body of a Covered Person.

Member: A person who is an individual Member of the Contract Holder. The term also applies to that person for any rights after insurance ends.

Member Insurance: Insurance on the person of a Member.

Prudential: The Prudential Insurance Company of America.

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

You: A Member.

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When Your Insurance Ends

MEMBER AND DEPENDENTS INSURANCE

Your Member Insurance under a Coverage or your Dependents Insurance under a Coverage will end when the first of these occurs:

- Your membership in the Covered Classes for the insurance ends. A Member shall cease to be included in the Covered Classes for the Coverage at the end of a period for which a required payment was made, with respect to the Member if at that time, the Member fails to meet the requirements of membership.
- The part of the Group Contract providing the insurance ends.
- You make a written request to the Contract Holder to end your Member or Dependents Insurance under a Coverage.
- You fail to pay, when due, any contribution required for an insurance of the Group Contract. But, failure to contribute for Dependents Insurance will not cause your Member Insurance to end.
- The Insurance is Dependents Insurance under the Dependents Term Life Coverage and your Member Insurance under the Member Term Life Coverage ends.

Your Dependents Insurance for a Qualified Dependent under a Coverage will end when that person ceases to be a Qualified Dependent for that Coverage. (See Continued Coverage for an Incapacitated Child below.)

Continued Coverage for an Incapacitated Child: This applies to the Dependents Insurance you have for a child. The insurance for the child will not end on the date the age limit in the definition of Qualified Dependent is reached if both of these are true:

(1) The child is then mentally or physically incapable of earning a living. Prudential must receive proof of this within the next 31 days.

(2) The child otherwise meets the definition of Qualified Dependent.

If these conditions are met, the age limit will not cause the child to stop being a Qualified Dependent under that Coverage. This will apply as long as the child remains so incapacitated.

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ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR MINNESOTA RESIDENTS

For Minnesota residents, there are additional provisions about your right to continue or convert coverage after your insurance ends.

A. CONVERSION PRIVILEGE

The following provision replaces the conversion provisions in the Member and Dependents Term Life Coverage sections of your booklet. But the provisions of this section A do not apply if section B applies.

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

(1) Your employment or membership ends or you transfer out of a Covered Class.

(2) All term life insurance of the Group Contract for your class ends by amendment or otherwise.

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

Availability: You must apply for the individual contract and pay the first premium within 31 days after you cease to be insured for the Member and Dependents Term Life Insurance.

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

Amount: Not more than your Member and Dependents Term Life Insurance under this Coverage when your insurance ends.

Form: Any form of a life insurance contract that:

(1) conforms to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, having no distinction based on sex; and

(2) is one that Prudential usually issues at the age and amount applied for.

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

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

Effective Date: The end of the 31-day period during which you may apply for it.

B. CONTINUED LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE AT YOUR OPTION

The following provision is added to the When Your Insurance Ends section of your booklet. When this section B applies, section A above does not.

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You have the right to continue your Member and Dependents Insurance under the life Coverages of the Group Contract if your insurance ends: (1) because you are voluntarily or involuntarily terminated or laid off from your employment (other than for gross misconduct) or (2) because your work hours are reduced.

The Contract Holder will give a written notice of the right to elect to continue the insurance. Such notice will state the amount of the payments, if any, required for the continued insurance and the manner in which any payments must be made. The amount of the contributions required to keep the insurance in force may be different from the amount you have been contributing. But, in no event will the amount exceed 102% of the cost for other Members in like circumstance whose employment is not ending or whose work hours have not been reduced.

If you want to continue the insurance, the election notice must be completed and returned to the Contract Holder, along with any required first payment, within 60 days of the later of: (1) the date the insurance would otherwise have ended; or (2) the date you receive the notice informing you of the right to continue. If this is done, the insurance will be continued from the date it would have ended until the f
irst of these occurs:

(1) The day 18 months from the date employment ended or work hours were reduced.

(2) If you fail to make any payment required by the Contract Holder for the continued insurance, the end of the period for which you have made required payments.

(3) The day you become covered under any other group life plan.

(4) The part of the Group Contract providing the insurance ends.

While Member and Dependents Insurance is continued under this part, all other terms of the Group Contract will apply, except that the For Member Insurance part of the Delay of Effective Date section will not apply.

When continued insurance under this provision ends, you may elect to convert your coverage. See the Conversion section below.

CONVERSION AFTER CONTINUATION

At the expiration of the Continuation coverage in this section B, you may convert all or part of your insurance under this Coverage, which then ends, to an individual life insurance contract. Evidence of insurability is not required. Any such conversion is subject to the rest of this Section.

Availability: You must apply for the individual contract and pay the first premium within 31 days after the expiration of your continued coverage.

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

Amount: Not more than your Member and Dependents Term Life Insurance under this Coverage when your continued coverage ends.

Form: Any form of a life insurance contract that:

(1) conforms to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, having no distinction based on sex; and

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(2) is one that Prudential usually issues at the age and amount applied for; and

(3) provides the same or substantially similar benefits.

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

Effective Date: The end of the 31-day period during which you may apply for it.

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The Claims and Appeals section
is not part of the
Group Insurance Certificate.

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CLAIMS AND APPEALS

Plan Benefits Provided by

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

This Group Contract underwritten by The Prudential Insurance Company of America provides insured benefits. For all purposes of this Group Contract, the Employer/Policyholder acts on its own behalf or as an agent of its employees. Under no circumstances will the Employer/Policyholder be deemed the agent of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, absent a written authorization of such status executed between the Employer/Policyholder and The Prudential Insurance Company of America. Nothing in these do
cuments shall, of themselves, be deemed to be such written execution.

Claim Procedures

1. Determination of Benefits

Prudential shall notify you of the claim determination within 45 days of the receipt of your claim. This period may be extended by 30 days if such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan. A written notice of the extension, the reason for the extension and the date by which the plan expects to decide your claim, shall be furnished to you within the initial 45-day period. This period may be extended for an additional 30 days beyond the original 30-day extension if necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan. A written notice of the additional extension, the reason for the additional extension and the date by which the plan expects to decide on your claim, shall be furnished to you within the first 30-day extension period if an additional extension of time is needed. However, if a period of time is extended due to your failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the period for making the benefit determination by Prudential will be tolled (i.e., su
spended) from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to you until the date on which you respond to the request for additional information.

If your claim for benefits is denied, in whole or in part, you or your authorized representative will receive a written notice from Prudential of your denial. The notice will be written in a manner calculated to be understood by you and shall include:

(a) the specific reason(s) for the denial,

(b) references to the specific plan provisions on which the benefit determination was based,

(c) a description of any additional material or information necessary for you to perfect a claim and an explanation of why such information is necessary,

(d) a description of Prudential's appeals procedures and applicable time limits, and

(e) if an adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination will be provided free of charge upon request.

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2. Appeals of Adverse Determination

If your claim for benefits is denied or if you do not receive a response to your claim within the appropriate time frame (in which case the claim for benefits is deemed to have been denied), you or your representative may appeal your denied claim in writing to Prudential within 180 days of the receipt of the written notice of denial or 180 days from the date such claim is deemed denied. You may submit with your appeal any written comments, documents, records and any other information relating to your claim . Upon your request, you will also have access to, and the right to obtain copies of, all documents, records and information relevant to your claim free of charge.

A full review of the information in the claim file and any new information submitted to support the appeal will be conducted by Prudential, utilizing individuals not involved in the initial benefit determination. This review will not afford any deference to the initial benefit determination.

Prudential shall make a determination on your claim appeal within 45 days of the receipt of your appeal request. This period may be extended by up to an additional 45 days if Prudential determines that special circumstances require an extension of time. A written notice of the extension, the reason for the extension and the date that Prudential expects to render a decision shall be furnished to you within the initial 45-day period. However, if the period of time is extended due to your failure to submit information necessary to decide the appeal, the period for making the benefit determination will be tolled (i.e., suspended) from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to you until the date on whi ch you respond to the request for additional information.

If the claim on appeal is denied in whole or in part, you will receive a written notification from Prudential of the denial. The notice will be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the applicant and shall include:

(a) the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination,

(b) references to the specific plan provisions on which the determination was based,

(c) a statement that you are entitled to receive upon request and free of charge reasonable access to, and make copies of, all records, documents and other information relevant to your benefit claim upon request,

(d) a description of Prudential's review procedures and applicable time limits,

(e) a statement that you have the right to obtain upon request and free of charge, a copy of internal rules or guidelines relied upon in making this determination, and

(f) a statement describing any appeals procedures offered by the plan.

If a decision on appeal is not furnished to you within the time frames mentioned above, the claim shall be deemed denied on appeal.

If the appeal of your benefit claim is denied or if you do not receive a response to your appeal within the appropriate time frame (in which case the appeal is deemed to have been denied), you or your representative may make a second, voluntary appeal of your denial in writing to Prudential within 180 days of the receipt of the written notice of denial or 180 days from the date such claim is deemed denied. You may submit with your second appeal any written comments, documents, records and any other informa

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tion relating to your claim. Upon your request, you will also have access to, and the right to obtain copies of, all documents, records and information relevant to your claim free of charge.

Prudential shall make a determination on your second claim appeal within 45 days of the receipt of your appeal request. This period may be extended by up to an additional 45 days if Prudential determines that special circumstances require an extension of time. A written notice of the extension, the reason for the extension and the date by which Prudential expects to render a decision shall be furnished to you within the initial 45-day period. However, if the period of time is extended due to your failure to submit information necessary to decide the appeal, the period for making the benefit determination will be tolled from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to you until the date on which you respond to the request for additional information.

Your decision to submit a benefit dispute to this voluntary second level of appeal has no effect on your right to any other benefits under this plan. If you elect to initiate a lawsuit without submitting to a second level of appeal, the plan waives any right to assert that you failed to exhaust administrative remedies. If you elect to submit the dispute to the second level of appeal, the plan agrees that any statute of limitations or other defense based on timeliness is tolled during the time that the appeal is pending.

If the claim on appeal is denied in whole or in part for a second time, you will receive a written notification from Prudential of the denial. The notice will be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the applicant and shall include the same information that was included in the first adverse determination letter. If a decision on appeal is not furnished to you within the time frames mentioned above, the claim shall be deemed denied on appeal.

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