

Underwriting Philosophy for offering insurance coverage to persons affected with HIV/AIDS

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system and if not treated, it can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome). As per Section 3(j) of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and control) Act, 2017, "no person shall discriminate against the protected person on any ground including any of the following, namely—the denial of, or unfair treatment in, the provision of insurance unless supported by actuarial studies." The detailed Underwriting philosophy for offering Insurance coverages to people affected by HIV/AIDS is largely guided by the Standard Guidelines with respect to underwriting, claims etc. for people living with HIV or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, formulated by Life Insurance Council Committee. (Refer IRDA Draft Circular on Life Insurance Products for People Living with HIV / AIDS (PLHA) dated 11.10.2013))

Broad Guidelines for Underwriting:

1) Detected with HIV/AIDS as an incidental finding during the pre-insurance medical examination

All such cases will be postponed for one year and can be reviewed with the documentation as mentioned below for a case with known case /Diagnosed case of HIV/AIDS.

2) Known case / diagnosed case of HIV/AIDS:

To ensure a fair underwriting decision, the following information will be considered whilst underwriting the proposal for health or life insurance from applicants affected by HIV/AIDS. The requirements are not limited to the below list, underwriting may insist on additional requirements basis merits of the individual proposals.

- Confirmation of diagnosis along with stage of disease
- Details of treatment –
 1. Mandatory registration with government approved ART nodal agency for a consecutive period of preceding 2 years (Green book to be provided) OR
 2. Detailed records of treatment, follow-up tests, investigations and procedures along with medical history for a consecutive period preceding 2 years, if the treatment is taken from a private hospital.
- HIV Questionnaire to be completed by the applicant and treating physician
- Daily routine, occupation and Lifestyle related information
- Medical examination and blood tests as required under the product and underwriting guidelines
- Details of any past or current complications
- Other relevant details of comorbidities, if any
- Profile of the client.
- Moral Hazard reports

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The intent of the above requirements and details is to ensure that every applicant is underwritten on merits based on the guidelines under the Underwriting policy and there is no discrimination in granting Health or Life insurance coverage to people affected by HIV/AIDS. The on-boarding of risk will be based on objective underwriting criteria and basis the risk represented, ensuring that there is no moral hazard. While the insurance and reinsurance underwriting manuals have evidence-based guidelines and extra mortality ratings which company will follow as per the product and treaty guidelines.