

Underwriting philosophy for offering Insurance coverage to Specially abled persons/persons affected with Mental Illness

Please find below the broad underwriting approach of the company for offering insurance coverage to Persons with Disability and Mental Illness.

“Mental Illness” refers to a variety of illness and medical conditions as listed in widely accepted manuals like the Diagnostic and Statistical manual of Mental disorders (DSM) or the International classification of Disease (ICD).

Likewise, there are a wide range of medical conditions classified under 'Disabilities', most common being physical and mental disabilities.

Types of Disabilities:

1. Physical disability: Disability pertaining to person’s mobility - Level of disability
2. Intellectual or Learning disabilities
3. Psychiatric disabilities
4. Visual or hearing impairments
5. Neurological disabilities

To ensure fair underwriting decision, the following information will be taken into consideration whilst underwriting the proposal for insurance from applicants with disability and/or mental illness. The underwriting practice for these illnesses is in line with the underwriting practices followed for any other medical conditions. (eg: Diabetes, Heart Disease etc)

- Insurable interest & need for insurance cover
- Ability of the applicant to enter into a legally valid contract
- Exact medical diagnosis, cause and duration of onset and progress - Treatment modalities since inception of the medical condition, including previous medical records
- Gainful employment details through occupation questionnaire and other related relevant evidences
- Daily routine and Lifestyle related information
- Medical examination as required under the product and underwriting guidelines
- Other relevant documents based on the exact medical condition
- Type of mechanical aid used for locomotion (in case of physical disability)

The intent is to ensure that every applicant is underwritten on merit, based on the board approved underwriting policy under which it is established that there is no discrimination in granting Life insurance cover to Specially abled persons/persons affected with Mental Illness.

The on-boarding of risk will be based on objective underwriting criteria and basis the risk represented. The Reinsurance underwriting manuals have detailed evidence based guidelines for most of the conditions and will be referred to for making an objective decision.

In rare case scenarios, where objective criteria are not defined in the manuals, the application will be underwritten basis medical assessment & case merits specifically ensuring that there is no discrimination or bias.

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Mental health disorders are syndromes characterized by significant disturbance in a person's cognition, emotional regulation and behaviour; resulting from a disturbance in the psychological, biological or developmental processes that underpin mental functioning.

Below factors will have relevance if there is medical history of mental disorder:

- No or minimal comorbidities: Physical, mental or substance misuse
- Minor symptoms of short duration
- No impairment of social, occupational and personal roles
- More than one mental health diagnosis
- Persistent drug or alcohol misuse
- Suicide attempts
- Frequent episodes or persistent symptoms
- Poor compliance with treatment
- Persistent impairment of social, occupational and personal roles
- Longer Duration of treatment
- Hospitalization
- Co-morbidities

Actual selection criteria for each condition depends on variability of presentation of the case.