# **UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS**

Having a chronic illness means that your client is unable to perform at least two of the Activities of Daily Living (such as eating, bathing, etc.) for at least 90 days, or your client has experienced a severe cognitive impairment. Here is a brief overview of four common insurance options that your clients may want to consider for financial protection in the event of a chronic illness.

### TRADITIONAL LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) HYBRID LTC AND LIFE INSURANCE Most LTC coverage per \$ of Most LTC coverage per \$ of premium premium Benefit inflation riders Benefit inflation riders Can qualify for State Can qualify for State Partnership Partnership Premiums can increase in Premiums can increase in future future No single pay or limited pay No single pay or limited pay Attractive if the primary need is Attractive if the primary need is LTC without a wealth transfer or LTC but would like to pass unused benefits to next generation. legacy planning goal. LIFE INSURANCE W/LTC RIDER LIFE INSURANCE W/ CHRONIC ILLNESS Fexible premium modes Flexible premium modes Higher death benefit, lower No upfront cost for LTC/ pay LTC benefit only if benefit is used. LTC benefits = percentage In no LTC needed, full death death benefit benefit paid to beneficiaries In no LTC needed, full death May or may not include benefit paid to beneficiaries terminal illness Residual death benefit. Attractive if the primary need life Attractive if the primary need is insurance and a secondary need life insurance but also looking for to protect against chronic and/or protection against LTC expense. terminal illness.

### TRADITIONAL LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

### **PROS**

- Choice. Range of coverage options
- · Cost-effective.
- Tax advantages. Tax-free benefits (most instances)

### **CONS**

- Premiums are not guaranteed and can increase
- · Limited. Only covers qualified LTC expenses
- Use it or lose it.

### HYBRID LTC AND LIFE INSURANCE

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#### **PROS**

- LTC coverage w/ a death benefit if not needed
- Exit strategy. Most offer a return-of-premium feature if client cancels the policy.
- Potential higher benefits.

### **CONS**

- Most require proof of qualified LTC expense for reimbursement.
- Benefits may exceed IRS limits for qualified care.
- Lower death benefit compared to traditional life insurance.

### LIFE INSURANCE W/LONG-TERM CARE RIDER

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#### **PROS**

- One product, covering two needs (life and LTC)
- Can complement other planning strategies.
- Available as a feature or add-on rider to most permanent life insurance contracts.

#### **CONS**

- Most require proof of qualified LTC expense for reimbursement.
- Monies accelerated for LTC expenses reduce the death benefit amount paid to beneficiaries.

## LIFE INSURANCE W/ CHRONIC ILLNESS RIDER

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### **PROS**

- One product, covering two needs (life and CI)
- Can complement other planning strategies.
- Available as a feature or add-on rider to most permanent life insurance contracts.
- Often benefits paid w/o evidence of expense

### **CONS**

- Limited benefit payouts
- Subject to IRS limits.
- Monies accelerated for expenses reduce the death benefit amount paid to beneficiaries.

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