

How Do You Spell Responsibility?

N-E-W B-A-B-Y

Any new parent will tell you that an 8-pound baby arrives with about a tonne of extra responsibility. Your life completely changes. With those changes, it's important to make sure you've got the right insurance to protect your family.



Not a Priority Right Now? This Can Help

If you've just welcomed a new baby or are looking forward to meeting him or her for the first time, you've got a lot to do. We've done the planning so you're ready to talk to your insurance professional about what you need.

Home or Contents Insurance

New babies also come with a lot of stuff. Strollers, car seats and cribs are expensive to replace. With this new addition, it may be the right time to talk to your insurance professional and review your current policy coverage.

Life Insurance

Parents would do anything to protect their baby. But we often forget to consider life insurance as a protection for a baby's future. If you don't have life insurance, it's time to get some. It can protect your young family from debt if the unexpected happens.

If you have a policy (including coverage through benefits at work), is it the right amount? Here's one way to look at it. How many years of your salary would it replace? What would your partner do after that? Could they keep the house or pay the rent on their own? Would it allow your child to have the lifestyle you'd planned for him or her?

Disability Insurance

An illness or injury can keep you from working for a few months, or longer. Disability insurance can help pay your bills and even cover some of the additional costs you might incur. You might have costs for taxi rides, extra childcare, grocery delivery or housework while you recover.

Critical Illness Insurance

Critical Illness provides a payment if you're diagnosed with certain serious illnesses or conditions. Heart attack, stroke or cancer are commonly covered, among others. A lump-sum payment can help you avoid borrowing from your savings to pay bills while you get better.

Health and Dental Benefits

If you have benefits through work, add your baby to benefit plans right away. Why cover the full cost of a prescription or service that your plan can help you with?

TIP: Coordination of Benefits Made Simpler

Did you know it matters which plan you claim from first? The rule of thumb is to *claim first through the parent with the first birthday in the calendar year.*

Here's an example: Chris and Pat have a new baby who needed a medical service that cost \$500. Chris' plan will cover up to \$350. Pat's plan will cover up to \$250. They're thinking about claiming through Chris' plan right away, because the bigger amount will be reimbursed first.

In fact, they need to claim from Pat's benefits first. That's because Pat's birthday is February 20, while Chris' is May 15. Pat's birthday is first in the calendar year – which is what matters when submitting a claim.

Pat and Chris claim \$250 from Pat's plan, then \$250 through Chris' plan to cover the full \$500 cost. They still have \$100 in Chris' plan if they need it for something else that qualifies.

Too sleep-deprived to think about it? Your insurance professional is available to help. You can use this checklist to talk about whether you've got the right coverage in place for your family. **RELAX. KNOW WHAT'S COVERED.**