

Focus Update



May 3, 2018

Medical cannabis and group benefits plans

You have questions, we have answers!

As communicated in our February 15, 2018 [Focus Update](#), Sun Life was the first large carrier to offer medical cannabis as optional coverage under its Extended Health Care (EHC) plan.

With the legalization of recreational cannabis happening later this year under The Cannabis Act, and its high profile in the media, many employers have been asking us questions, specifically around medical cannabis and its impact on group benefits plans.

To help bring more clarity on this topic, we are currently working on a Bright Paper on medical cannabis, which will be released in May. In the meantime, to address some of the recurring questions, we have developed this [sneak peek](#) of the Bright Paper and invite you to have a read today!

How does Sun Life's medical cannabis coverage work?

There are a few steps employees and their dependents must fulfill to be eligible. Our coverage reimburses medical cannabis expenses for these specific conditions and symptoms:

- **Cancer:** with severe or refractory pain; or with nausea and/or vomiting associated with cancer treatments,
- **Multiple Sclerosis:** with neuropathic pain; or with spasticity,
- **Rheumatoid Arthritis:** with pain which failed to respond to standard therapy,
- **HIV/AIDS:** with anorexia; or with neuropathic pain, and
- For patients requiring **palliative care**.

This list will continue to evolve, as Sun Life conducts regular reviews to determine if new clinical evidence supports the use of medical cannabis for other conditions.

Join the conversation!

Have your say and share your thoughts on medical cannabis by tagging Sun Life (@SunLifeCA) and using the hashtag #MedicalCannabis on social media.

Questions about adding the optional coverage for medical cannabis?

Contact your Sun Life Financial group benefits representative.