



Long Term Care University

Long Term Care University – Question of the Month

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Q: We read the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Long Term Care University articles on Combination Life and Long Term Care insurance policies and decided to purchase a Combination policy. Instead of a limited number of years of coverage, are lifetime benefits available on Combination (Combo or Hybrid or Linked Benefits or Asset Based) Life and Long Term Care (LTC) insurance policies?

The Problem – The Cost of an Extended Period of Long Term Care

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 7 in 10 people over the age 65 will require long term care. Although the average length of long term care is approximately three years, 20% will need care for longer than five years. The cost of long term care is staggering: \$91,000 per year for a nursing facility, \$43,000 per year for the base rate in an assisted living facility and \$42,000 per year for 40 hours per week of home care. **Applying the historical 4% compound growth rate of long term care services, the cost of care will double every 18 years.**

One of the largest long term care insurance companies reported that 50% of all claims dollars it has paid are due to dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. According to the Alzheimer's Association, 1 in 9 people age 65 and older and about 1 in 3 people age 85 and older have Alzheimer's disease. The duration of Alzheimer's disease is generally four to eight years after a diagnosis, but can last as long as 20 years. Unfortunately, the cost of an extended period of long term care can destroy a lifetime of savings.

The Solution – Combination Life and Long Term Care Insurance with Lifetime Benefits

Lifetime Benefits (or Unlimited Benefits) are extinct at almost every Traditional Long Term Care Insurance company. Many companies have reduced their own risks and increased consumers' risks by limiting coverage to a maximum of five or six years. Fortunately, lifetime benefits (unlimited number of months or years) exist on Combination policies.

Numbers Speak Louder than Words. Let's look at a husband and wife that are each 55 years of age. If they make a combined one-time premium payment of \$136,296 they immediately gain a combined tax free \$16,188 per month (\$8,094 per month per person) long term care benefit. This equates to a combined \$194,256 per year (\$97,128 per year per person) benefit available for an unlimited number of months for LTC costs; literally a lifetime worth of long term care. They also gain a \$269,796 tax free death benefit when the second person dies, assuming the policy's LTC benefits are unused. **If they each only need three years of care in 25 years from now at the age of 80, their policy would provide a combined \$582,768 of long term care benefits. That gives them over four times leverage on the premiums they paid.**

Policy Year	Combined Premium	Combined Monthly Long Term Care Benefit	Combined Annual Long Term Care Benefit	Total Long Term Care Years	Total Long Term Care Benefit	Death Benefit
1	\$ 136,296	\$ 16,188	\$ 194,256	Lifetime	Unlimited	\$ 269,796
5	\$ -	\$ 16,188	\$ 194,256	Lifetime	Unlimited	\$ 269,796
10	\$ -	\$ 16,188	\$ 194,256	Lifetime	Unlimited	\$ 269,796
15	\$ -	\$ 16,188	\$ 194,256	Lifetime	Unlimited	\$ 269,796
20	\$ -	\$ 16,188	\$ 194,256	Lifetime	Unlimited	\$ 269,796
25	\$ -	\$ 16,188	\$ 194,256	Lifetime	Unlimited	\$ 269,796

Action Step – Purchase a Combination Life and Long Term Care Insurance with Lifetime Benefits

Since the length of care you will need is unknown, the ideal policy is one that provides a lifetime of long term care benefits. In the event you never need long term care benefits a Combination policy will pay a life insurance benefit. Either way, you win.

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