

# Certificate of Insurance

## GROUP SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

Chittenden Solid Waste District  
Williston, Vermont  
All Eligible Managers and Supervisors

Administered By:



**MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.**

1241 John Q. Hammons Drive ▪ Madison, WI 53717

**GROUP SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE  
CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE**

The Group Policy has been issued to the Policyowner. No coverage under the Group Policy is in effect until approved in writing by us.

The Employer must apply for group short term disability insurance coverage under the Group Policy and join the Policyowner by submitting a completed Joinder Agreement and agreeing to pay premiums. The Group Policy contains numerous optional and variable provisions. The options and variables we have approved for the Employer's coverage under the Group Policy are contained in the Joinder Agreement and the Certificate(s) of Coverage. Only those provisions of the Group Policy which appear in the Joinder Agreement and the Certificate(s) of Coverage will apply to the Employer's coverage under the Group Policy. All provisions on this and the following pages are part of the Certificate of Coverage.

**RIGHT TO EXAMINE:** You may cancel this Certificate of Coverage within 30 days of receiving it by returning this Certificate to Our administrative office. As soon as this Certificate is received by Us, it is treated as if it was never issued and Your premium payment will be refunded.

The Group Policy is on file and available for review at the main office of the Policyowner. The Certificate summarizes and explains the parts of the Group Policy that apply to you. This Certificate is not an insurance policy. In the event of a conflict between the Group Policy and the Certificate, the Group Policy will control.

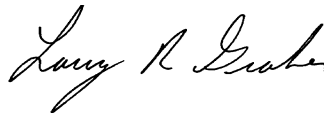
**IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LAWS OF THE STATE WHERE THE POLICY IS ISSUED AND THE LAWS OF VERMONT, THE LAWS OF VERMONT WILL CONTROL.**

This Certificate replaces any other Certificates previously provided to you under the Group Policy.

Unless defined differently within a particular provision, the terms "you" and "your" mean the Eligible Person. "We", "us" and "our" mean Madison National Life Insurance Company. Other defined terms appear with their initial letters capitalized. References to section headings appear in quotation marks.

**MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.**

By



Larry R. Graber  
President

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## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

Employer(s):	Chittenden Solid Waste District
Plan Number:	1757
Original Plan Effective Date:	July 1, 2021
Eligible Class:	Class 02: All Eligible Managers and Supervisors
Employer Premium Contribution:	100%
Elimination Period:	Injury: 0 days Physical Disease: 7 days
Minimum Hourly Work Requirement:	30 hours per week
Waiting Period:	None
Evidence of Insurability Requirement:	Required for Late Enrollees, Increases and amounts exceeding the Guarantee Issue
Employee Eligibility Date:	Upon completion of the Waiting Period
Minimum Participation Requirement:	Greater of 2 lives all classes combined or 100%
Leaves and Sabbaticals:	Coverage with premium payment while on FMLA leave; Coverage with premium payment for up to three months while on Paid or Unpaid Leave; Coverage with premium payment for up to three months while on Layoff; Coverage with premium payment for up to three months while on Military Leave
Definition of Disability:	Residual Disability
Own Occupation Period:	From the end of the Elimination Period to the end of the Maximum Benefit Period
Recurrent Disability:	14 days
Definition of Predisability Earnings:	Base pay only
STD Benefit Percentage:	60%
Maximum Weekly Benefit:	\$800
Guarantee Issue:	\$800
Minimum Weekly Benefit:	10% of the Gross STD Benefit

Maximum Benefit Period:	Commencing at the end of the Elimination Period and continuing for the lesser of 26 weeks, or until LTD Benefits commence. No STD Benefits will be paid for periods of time for which LTD Benefits are payable.
State Disability Benefits:	No integration with Vermont State Employees' Retirement System (VSERS). No Application required for Vermont State Employees' Retirement System (VSERS)
Integration with Sick Pay:	Sick pay plus STD Benefit to 100% of Predisability Earnings
Social Security Integration:	Full Family
Freeze Type:	General Freeze
Integration with Work Earnings:	Work Incentive
Twenty-Four Hour Coverage:	No; Non-Occupational Only
Claim Payment Method:	Biweekly

GSDI-C400-(07/19)-VT

## DEFINITIONS

**Active Work** and **Actively at Work** mean performing all the Material Duties of your Own Occupation at your Employer's usual place of business, and satisfying the Minimum Hourly Work Requirement. Actively at Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as you are capable of Active Work on those days.

**Any Occupation** means any job for which you are qualified by education, training, or experience regardless of whether you are working in that or another occupation.

**Benefit Payment Period** means the period during which you are eligible to receive STD Benefit payments.

**Child** means:

1. your unmarried child residing in your home (including your stepchild and an adopted child and/or child from a civil union), from live birth through age 19; or
2. your unmarried child, age 20 or older, residing in your home (including your stepchild or adopted child and or child from a civil union) who is:
  - a) continuously incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental or physical handicap; and
  - b) chiefly dependent upon you for support and maintenance.

**Contributory** means that you pay all or a portion of the premium for insurance.

**Deductible Income** is Income which is available to you or which you are eligible to receive as a result of your Disability, whether or not you apply for and receive such payments or benefits, with the exception of Vermont State Employees' Retirement System (VSERS).

**Disability or Disabled:** During the Elimination Period and the Benefit Payment Period, **Disability or Disabled** means that you are, as a result of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy, Substance Abuse or Mental Disorder, unable to perform one or more of the Material Duties of your Own Occupation, and, due to such inability, your Work Earnings are less than 99% of your Predisability Earnings, and you are incapable of earning 99% or more of your Predisability Earnings.

**Eligible Class** means an employment classification defined by the Employer and specified in the "Schedule of Benefits". You must be a member of an Eligible Class in order to be eligible for insurance under the Group Policy.

**Eligible Person** is an Employee who works for the Employer as a member of an Eligible Class who is reported on the Employer's records for Social Security and tax withholding purposes. Also, the eligible person must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States or Canada, and you must reside in the United States or Canada; and the eligible person must be Actively at Work and capable of sustained Active Work on the effective date of your coverage and the effective date of any subsequent increase in STD coverage because of an Eligible Class or Group Policy change.

**Elimination Period** means the period of time that you must be continuously Disabled before STD Benefits become payable. No STD Benefits are payable during the Elimination Period. Your Elimination Period is specified in the "Schedule of Benefits".

**Employee** is an individual who works for the Employer as a member of an Eligible Class who is reported on the Employer's records for Social Security and tax withholding purposes.

**Employer** means an employer (including approved affiliates and subsidiaries) participating in the National Insurance Services of Wisconsin Insurance Trust to whom we have assigned a Plan Number and issued a Joinder Agreement.

**Evidence of Insurability** means that an applicant must complete and sign our Evidence Of Insurability application and return the original application to us no later than 60 days from the date of signing; and authorize us to obtain information about the applicant's health; and undergo a physical examination, if required by us, which may include diagnostic testing; and provide any additional information about the applicant's insurability that we may reasonably require.

**Group Policy** with respect to the Policyowner means the group STD insurance policy issued by us to the Policyowner under a specified Plan Number. Group Policy with respect to an Employer means only those provisions of the Group Policy, including the options and variables requested by the Employer, that we have approved for that Employer with respect to its eligible employees. The Employer's coverage under the Group Policy is described in the Joinder Agreement provided by us to the Employer and identified by the Plan Number.

**Gross STD Benefit** means Multiplying Predisability Earnings by the STD Benefit Percentage to determine the insured's weekly Gross STD Benefit.

**Guarantee Issue** is the amount of coverage provided, up to the Maximum Weekly Benefit, which is not subject to Evidence of Insurability.

**Hospital** means a legally operated institution primarily and continuously engaged in providing or operating, either on its premises or in facilities available to the hospital on a pre-arranged basis and under the supervision of a staff of duly licensed physicians, medical, diagnostic and major surgical facilities for the medical care and treatment of sick or injured persons on an inpatient basis for which a charge is made; and provide 24 hour nursing service by or under the supervision of registered graduate professional nurses (R.N.'s). Rest homes, nursing homes, convalescent homes, homes for the aged and facilities primarily affording custodial, educational, or rehabilitative care are not Hospitals.

**Injury** means a bodily injury that is the direct result of an accident, that is not related to any other cause, and which in and of itself results in your Disability within 90 days. Benefits will be payable to you only if the Injury occurs while you are insured under the Group Policy. Injury does not include injuries for which benefits are provided under any workmen's compensation, occupational injury, employer's liability or similar law.

**Insured Person** means an Eligible Person whose coverage has become effective under the Group Policy.

**Joinder Agreement** means the document entered into between the Policyowner, the Employer and us describing the coverage requested by the Employer with respect to its Employees, which has been approved by us and assigned a Plan Number.

**Late Enrollee** means an Employee who applies for coverage under the Group Policy more than 31 days after becoming an Eligible Person.

**Material Duties** means the duties generally required by employers in the national economy of those engaged in a particular occupation that cannot be reasonably modified or omitted. In no event will working an average of more than 40 hours per week be considered a Material Duty.

**Maximum Benefit Period** means the longest period for which STD Benefits are payable for any one period of continuous Disability, whether from one or more causes. It begins at the end of the Elimination Period. No STD Benefits are payable after the end of the Maximum Benefit Period, even if you are still Disabled. No STD Benefits will be paid for periods of time for which group long term disability benefits are payable. Your Maximum Benefit Period is specified in the “Schedule of Benefits”.

**Mental Disorder** means any mental, emotional, behavioral, psychological, personality, cognitive, mood or stress-related abnormality, disorder, disturbance, dysfunction or syndrome listed in the latest edition of American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual or the International Classification of Disease.

**Noncontributory** means the Employer pays the entire premium for insurance.

**Own Occupation** means the occupation you are qualified by reason of education, training or experience and routinely perform for the Employer at the time Disability begins. We will look at your occupation as it is normally performed in the national economy, instead of how the work tasks are performed for a specific employer or at a specific location.

**Physical Disease** means a physical disease entity or process that produces structural or functional changes in the body as diagnosed by a Physician. Physical Disease includes Pregnancy. Physical Disease does not include physical disease for which benefits are provided under any workmen’s compensation, occupational disease, employer’s liability or similar law.

**Physician** means a duly licensed medical professional under the laws of a state of the United States of America, acting within the scope of such license, who is permitted by law to prescribe medications and practice independent of supervision.

For the purpose of this Group Policy, Physician will not include you or your Spouse, or the brother, sister, parent or child of either an Insured Person or an Insured Person’s Spouse.

**Plan Effective Date** means the date on which the Group Policy (with respect to the Employer) becomes effective.

**Plan Number** means the number used by us to reference an Employer and the terms of coverage specified under that Employer’s Joinder Agreement.

**Policyowner** means National Insurance Services of Wisconsin Insurance Trust

**Predisability Earnings** means your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to becoming Disabled. Unless otherwise specifically provided for under the Group Policy, any subsequent change in your earnings will not affect your Predisability Earnings.

**Pregnancy** means your pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including complications of pregnancy.

**Prior Plan** means an Employer’s group short term disability insurance plan in effect on the day immediately preceding the Plan Effective Date under this Group Policy.

**Proof of Loss** means all the information necessary to determine that a loss occurred for which the Group Policy provides benefits; and which is not subject to any exclusions; and which meets all other conditions for benefits.



**Regular Care of a Physician** means:

1. that you personally visit a Physician as frequently as is medically required according to standard medical practice, but in no event less than annually, to effectively manage and treat your disabling condition(s);
2. that your Physician is rendering appropriate treatment and care for the disabling condition(s) which conform(s) with standard medical practice and is the most appropriate for the disabling condition(s), according to standard medical practice; and
3. that you are complying with all aspects of the treatment plan prescribed by the Physician.

**Retirement Date** means the earlier of:

1. the date you retire as defined by your Employer;
2. the date you become eligible to receive retirement benefits under any pension plan to which the Employer contributes, or
3. the date you become eligible to receive retirement benefits under any state or federal retirement plan or under social security law.

**Spouse** means a person to whom you are legally married and from whom you are not legally separated or you are a party to a civil union (with a civil union couple) as defined by Vermont law. If proof of a marriage or civil union is required, proof will be requested from all Spouses applying for coverage.

**STD** means short term disability.

**STD Benefit** means the net benefit payment due to you after deductions are applied to your Gross STD Benefit as provided for under the Group Policy. Your STD Benefit is calculated under Section XI.

**Substance Abuse** means a condition listed in the latest edition of American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual or the International Classification of Disease within a classification category or code including but not limited to 291, 292, 303, 304 or 305.

**Waiting Period** means the period of time that you must be Actively at Work as an Employee before your coverage may become effective.

**Work Earnings** means your gross weekly earnings from work you perform while Disabled.

If you are paid in a lump sum or on a basis other than monthly, we will prorate your Work Earnings over the period of time to which they apply. If no period of time is stated, we will make a reasonable estimate.

In determining your Work Earnings, we:

1. will use the financial accounting method you use for income tax purposes, if you use that method on a consistent basis;
2. will not be limited to the taxable income you report to the Internal Revenue Service;
3. may ignore expenses under section 179 of the IRC as a deduction from your gross earnings;
4. may ignore depreciation as a deduction from your gross earnings;
5. may adjust the financial information you give us in order to clearly reflect your Work Earnings.

If we determine that your earnings vary substantially from pay period to pay period, we may determine your Work Earnings by averaging your earnings over the most recent three-week period. You will no longer be Disabled when your average Work Earnings over the last three-week period equal or exceed 99% of your Predisability Earnings, or when you are capable of earning 99% or more of Predisability Earnings.

## I. INSURING CLAUSE

- A. If you become Disabled while insured under the Group Policy, we will pay STD Benefits according to the terms of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy, after we receive satisfactory Proof of Loss.

GSDI-C600-(07/19)

## II. ELIGIBILITY FOR INSURANCE

- A. To be eligible for insurance under the Group Policy, you must be an Eligible Person. An **Eligible Person** is an Employee who has met the following requirements:
1. You must be an Employee. **Employee** means an individual who works for the Employer as a member of an Eligible Class who is reported on the Employer's records for Social Security and tax withholding purposes.
  2. You must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States or Canada, and you must reside in the United States or Canada;
  3. You must be Actively at Work and capable of sustained Active Work on the effective date of your coverage and on the effective date of any subsequent increase in STD coverage because of an Eligible Class of Group Policy change.
    - a) **Active Work** and **Actively at Work** mean performing all the Material Duties of your Own Occupation at your Employer's usual place of business, and satisfying the Minimum Hourly Work Requirement. Actively at Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as you are capable of Active Work on those days.
    - b) **Minimum Hourly Work Requirement** means the work hours over a given time period that are required of you in order to be eligible for coverage. Your Minimum Hourly Work Requirement is specified in the Schedule of Benefits.
    - c) **Material Duties** means the duties generally required by employers in the national economy of those engaged in a particular occupation that cannot be reasonably modified or omitted. In no event will working an average of more than 40 hours per week be considered a Material Duty.
  4. You cannot be a temporary or seasonal employee, leased employee or independent contractor.
  5. You must satisfy your Waiting Period. **Waiting Period** means the period of time that you must be Actively at Work as an Employee before your coverage may become effective. Your Waiting Period is specified in the "Schedule of Benefits".

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## III. BECOMING INSURED

- A. To become an Insured Person under the Group Policy, you must be an Eligible Person and meet the following requirements as each may apply:
1. If Evidence of Insurability is required, you must provide such Evidence of Insurability and be approved for coverage by us. The Schedule of Benefits specifies when Evidence of Insurability is required.

2. Evidence of Insurability.
  - a) Providing **Evidence of Insurability** means that an applicant must:
    - (1) complete and sign our Evidence of Insurability application and return the original application to us no later than 60 days from the date of signing; and
    - (2) authorize us to obtain information about the applicant's health; and
    - (3) undergo a physical examination, if required by us, which may include diagnostic testing; and
    - (4) provide any additional information about the applicant's insurability that we may reasonably require.
  - b) **If you, your Spouse or your dependents are required to provide Evidence of Insurability, you will be responsible for all costs associated with providing Evidence of Insurability.**
  - c) In each case where Evidence of Insurability is required, we base our decision whether to approve coverage on the information provided during the underwriting process. If we learn that the information relied on to approve coverage was incorrect, or that information was omitted, we may retroactively rescind coverage and deny claims.
3. If the insurance you wish to obtain is Contributory insurance, you must apply in writing and remit the required premiums.

## B. Effective Date of Your Insurance

1. Initial Enrollment
  - a) Noncontributory insurance not subject to Evidence of Insurability, or which is subject to Evidence of Insurability and has been approved by us, becomes effective on the date you become an Eligible Person. If, however, you initially waive participation in such coverage and then later wish to participate, you will be treated as a Late Enrollee, subject to Evidence of Insurability.
  - b) Contributory insurance subject to Evidence of Insurability becomes effective on the first day of the month immediately following the month in which your Evidence of Insurability is approved by us, except that if such approval occurs on the first day of a month, such coverage becomes effective on that day.
  - c) Contributory insurance not subject to Evidence of Insurability. Provided that you apply prior to, or within 31 days of becoming an Eligible Person, Contributory insurance not subject to Evidence of Insurability becomes effective on the date you become an Eligible Person. If you do not apply for such coverage prior to, or within 31 days of becoming an Eligible Person and subsequently wish to obtain coverage, you will be a Late Enrollee, subject to Evidence of Insurability.
2. Increases in Existing Coverage and Late Enrollee Applications
  - a) Where Evidence of Insurability is required, increases of existing coverage and Late Enrollee applications become effective on the first day of the month immediately following the month in which your Evidence of Insurability is approved by us, except that if such approval occurs on the first day of a month, such coverage becomes effective on that day.
  - b) Where Evidence of Insurability is not required, an increase of existing coverage becomes effective on the first day of the month immediately following the month in which you become eligible for such coverage, except that if you become eligible on the first day of a month, such coverage becomes effective on that day.

3. If you are incapable of sustained Active Work due to a Disability on the day before the scheduled effective date of your insurance, such insurance will not become effective until the day after you are capable of sustained Active Work and complete one day of Active Work as an Eligible Person.

GSDI-C800-(07/19)-VT

**IV. WHEN YOUR INSURANCE ENDS**  
**This provision applies to you if you are not Disabled.**

- A. Except as otherwise provided for under this section, your coverage will cease on the earliest of the following to occur:
  1. the date your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy terminates;
  2. the date you cease to be an Eligible Person;
  3. the date that your premium payment is not paid when required;
  4. the date you become eligible for coverage under another group short-term disability policy;
  5. your Retirement Date.
- B. Approved FMLA Leave of Absence - Contributory or Noncontributory Coverage
  1. If you are on a FMLA leave, coverage will continue until the later of the leave period required by the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, or the leave period required by applicable state law, provided that:
    - a) the FMLA leave is approved in advance by the Employer and such approval includes documentation of the beginning and ending dates of the leave and the amount of your covered salary. Such documentation about your leave must be available to Us at Our request
    - b) FMLA leaves of absence and the right to continue coverage during FMLA leaves are available to all Employees in the same Eligible Class under the Group Policy; and
    - c) the Employer remits the required premium for coverage.
  2. The Elimination Period can be satisfied and benefits may be payable during a FMLA leave subject to all other contract provisions. The benefit will be based on the lesser of your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to the leave, or the salary for which premium was paid.
- C. Paid Leave of Absence. If you are on a paid leave of absence, coverage will continue subject to the following:
  1. Noncontributory coverage
    - a) Coverage will continue provided that:
      - (1) the paid leave of absence is approved in advance by the Employer and such approval includes documentation of the beginning and ending dates of the leave and the amount of your covered salary. Such documentation about your paid leave of absence must be made available to Us at Our request; and
      - (2) paid leaves of absence and the right to continue coverage during paid leaves are available to all Employees in the same Eligible Class under the Group Policy; and
      - (3) the Employer remits the required premium for coverage.
    - b) The Elimination Period can be satisfied during a paid leave of absence, but benefits will not begin until the later of the end of the Elimination Period or the date the paid leave was scheduled to end. In the event a benefit is payable, it will be based on the lesser of your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to the paid leave of absence, or the salary for which premium was paid.
    - c) Unless you return to active, eligible status on or before the date the paid leave of absence is scheduled to end, coverage extended during a paid leave of absence will terminate on the earlier of the date the paid leave of absence is scheduled to end or three months from the date the paid leave of absence began.

2. Contributory Coverage

- a) Coverage will continue provided that:
  - (1) the paid leave of absence is approved in advance by the Employer and such approval includes documentation of the beginning and ending dates of the leave and the amount of your covered salary. Such documentation about your paid leave of absence must be made available to Us at Our request; and
  - (2) paid leaves of absence and the right to continue coverage during paid leaves of absence are available to all Employees in the same Eligible Class under the Group Policy; and
  - (3) you continue to pay the required premium to the Employer without interruption and the Employer continues to remit premium to us on your behalf.
- b) The Elimination Period can be satisfied during a paid leave of absence, but benefits will not begin until the later of the end of the Elimination Period or the date the paid leave was scheduled to end. In the event a benefit is payable, it will be based on the lesser of your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to the paid leave of absence, or the salary for which premium was paid.
- c) Unless you return to active, eligible status on or before the date the paid leave of absence is scheduled to end, coverage extended during a paid leave of absence will terminate on the earlier of the date the paid leave of absence is scheduled to end, or three months from the date the paid leave of absence began or the date you fail to pay premium as required.
- d) If you choose not to continue coverage or your coverage terminates during a paid leave of absence and you subsequently wish to obtain coverage, you will be treated as a Late Enrollee and be required to provide Evidence of Insurability.

D. Unpaid Leave of Absence - If you are on an unpaid leave of absence, coverage will continue subject to the following:

1. Noncontributory Coverage

- a) Coverage will continue provided that:
  - (1) the unpaid leave of absence is approved in advance by the Employer and such approval includes documentation of the beginning and ending dates of the leave and the amount of your covered salary. Such documentation about your unpaid leave of absence must be made available to Us at Our request; and
  - (2) unpaid leaves of absence and the right to continue coverage during unpaid leaves of absence are available to all Employees in the same Eligible Class under the Group Policy; and
  - (3) the Employer remits the required premium for coverage.
- b) No benefits are payable during an unpaid leave of absence. If you become Disabled during such leave, the Elimination Period will begin on the date the unpaid leave of absence was scheduled to end. The benefit will be based on the lesser of your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to the unpaid leave of absence, or the salary for which premium was paid.
- c) Unless you return to active, eligible status on or before the date the unpaid leave of absence is scheduled to end, coverage extended during an unpaid leave of absence will terminate on the earlier of the date the unpaid leave of absence is scheduled to end, or three months from the date the unpaid leave of absence began.

2. Contributory Coverage

- a) Coverage will continue provided that:
  - (1) the unpaid leave of absence is approved in advance by the Employer and such approval includes documentation of the beginning and ending dates of the leave and the amount your covered salary. Such documentation about your unpaid leave of absence must be made available to Us at Our request; and
  - (2) unpaid leaves of absence and the right to continue coverage during unpaid leave of absence are available to all Employees in the same Eligible Class under the Group Policy; and
  - (3) you continue to pay the required premium to the Employer without interruption and the Employer continues to remit premium to us on your behalf.
- b) No benefits are payable during an unpaid leave of absence. If you become Disabled during such leave, the Elimination Period will begin on the date the unpaid leave of absence was scheduled to end. The benefit will be based on the lesser of your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to the unpaid leave of absence, or the salary for which premium was paid.
- c) Unless you return to active, eligible status on or before the date the unpaid leave of absence is scheduled to end, coverage extended during an unpaid leave of absence will terminate on the earlier of the date the unpaid leave of absence is scheduled to end, or three months from the date the unpaid leave of absence began or the date you fail to pay premium as required.
- d) If you choose not to continue coverage or your coverage terminates during an unpaid leave of absence and you subsequently wish to obtain coverage, you will be treated as a Late Enrollee and be required to provide Evidence of Insurability.

E. Layoffs - Contributory or Noncontributory Coverage

- 1. If you are on a leave of absence due to a lay-off, coverage will continue for up to three months following the date you last worked prior to the layoff provided that any premium for you is paid for that period.

GSDI-C1000-(07/19)-VT

**V. RULES FOR TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEES FROM PRIOR PLAN**

- A. If you were eligible for insurance and insured under the Prior Plan on the day before the Plan Effective Date, you can become insured on the Plan Effective Date without meeting the Active Work requirement under Section II.A.3.
- B. The STD Benefit will be the lesser of the short term disability benefit that would have been payable under the terms of the Prior Plan if it had remained in force, or the STD Benefit as determined under the other provisions of this Group Policy. However, no benefits will be payable to you under the Group Policy if any benefits are payable to you under the Prior Plan.
- C. If you were eligible for insurance under the Prior Plan for more than 31 days but were not insured under the Prior Plan, you must provide Evidence of Insurability and be approved by us to become insured.

GSDI-C1100-(07/19)

## VI. REINSTATEMENT OF INSURED PERSON'S COVERAGE

- A. If your coverage ends, you may become covered again as an Insured Person, subject to the following:
1. If you cease to be an Eligible Person, your insurance will end. However, if you again become an Eligible Person in all respects except the Waiting Period immediately after the later of the dates in a) and b) below, the Waiting Period will be waived.
    - a) The date STD Benefits end;
    - b) The date long term disability benefits end, if you are covered under a group long term disability policy issued by us through the Employer, provided the long term disability benefits are payable for the same Disability.
  2. If you cease to be an Eligible Person and coverage ends, and then you return to Active Work with the Employer again within 12 months, the Waiting Period will be waived on the first day of your return to Active Work and you will not have to provide Evidence of Insurability.
  3. If your coverage ends because you fail to make the required contribution while on an approved Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence, and then you return to Active Work and enroll for coverage within 31 days of the earlier of:
    - a) the end of the period of leave you and your Employer agreed upon; or
    - b) the end of the 12 week period following the date your leave began,then the Waiting Period will be waived and you will not have to provide Evidence of Insurability.
  4. If you cease to be an Eligible Person because of a Disability that is not covered solely because of the exclusion for work related disabilities, coverage will end. However, if you again become an Eligible Person in all respects except the Waiting Period immediately after workers' compensation temporary benefits end, the Waiting Period will be waived.
  5. In all other cases, if your coverage ends because you fail to make the required contribution, you must provide Evidence of Insurability to become covered again.
  6. In no event will insurance coverage be retroactive.

GSDI-C1200-(07/19)

## VII. DEFINITION OF DISABILITY (Residual Disability)

- A. During the Elimination Period and the Benefit Payment Period, **Disability or Disabled** means that you are, as a result of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy, Substance Abuse or Mental Disorder, unable to perform one or more of the Material Duties of your Own Occupation, and, due to such inability, your Work Earnings are less than 99% of your Predisability Earnings, and you are incapable of earning 99% or more of your Predisability Earnings.

Your Work Earnings may be Deductible Income. See the "STD Benefit Calculation" and "Deductible Income" sections.

- B. Failure to be Under the Regular Care of a Physician.
  - 1. You are not covered for a Disability when you are not under the Regular Care of a Physician in the appropriate specialty, providing appropriate treatment in accordance with the Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy, Substance Abuse or Mental Disorder that caused the Disability.
  - 2. You are not covered for a Disability that has not been diagnosed by your attending Physician. Subjective complaints alone will not be considered conclusive evidence of a Disability. The attending Physician must be able to provide objective medical evidence to support his or her opinion as to why you are not able to perform the Material Duties of your occupation.
- C. Loss of License or Certification. For an Insured Person whose occupation requires a license, a restriction or loss of license does not, in itself, constitute a Disability.

GSDI-C1302-(07/19)-VT

### **VIII. RECURRENT DISABILITY**

- A. If you return to work for your Employer from a Disability for which benefits were payable under the Group Policy and then become Disabled again due to the same or related cause, we will treat the separate periods of Disability as one period of continuous Disability, provided you are continuously insured under the Group Policy during the period of recovery and the period of recovery does not exceed 14 days. Benefits resume on the date your Disability recurs.
- B. If you return to work for your Employer from a Disability covered under the Group Policy and then become Disabled again due to an unrelated cause, we will treat the subsequent Disability as a new claim, subject to all of the terms of the Group Policy.
- C. If you return to work for your Employer from a Disability covered under the Group Policy and then become Disabled again more than 14 days after you return to work, the subsequent Disability will be treated as a new claim, subject to all of the terms of the Group Policy.
- D. For the purposes of this provision, if your occupation with the Employer does not allow you to be Actively at Work for the entire calendar year due to a seasonal or regularly scheduled employment break, we will consider you to have returned to work if you would have been able to return to work had work been regularly scheduled.

GSDI-C1500-(07/19)-VT

### **IX. WHEN STD BENEFITS END**

- A. Your STD Benefits end automatically on the earliest of the following:
  - 1. The date you are no longer Disabled;
  - 2. The date your Maximum Benefit Period ends;
  - 3. The date that group long term disability benefits become payable to you;
  - 4. The date you die;
  - 5. The date you become eligible for coverage under any other group STD plan under which you become insured through employment;
  - 6. The date you fail to provide satisfactory objective medical evidence of continued Disability;
  - 7. The date you fail to comply with our request to be examined by a Physician, other medical practitioner and/or a vocational or rehabilitation expert of our choice;
  - 8. The date you refuse to accept an accommodated position in your Own Occupation, offered by your Employer, which you are able to perform;



9. The date at which you have resided outside of the United States or Canada for 6 months;
10. The date you are confined in a penal or correctional institution or under house arrest;
11. The date you fail to comply with any requirements set forth in Section XVII, Responsibilities of Disabled Insureds;
12. The date you are able to work and earn 20% of your Predisability Earnings but choose not to.

GSDI-C1600-(07/19)

## X. PREDISABILITY EARNINGS

- A. **Predisability Earnings** means your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to becoming Disabled. Unless otherwise specifically provided for under the Group Policy, any subsequent change in your earnings will not affect your Predisability Earnings.
- B. Methods of Calculating Predisability Earnings
1. Salaried Employees. Your **Weekly Predisability Earnings** are equal to your annual Predisability Earnings divided by fifty-two. Your **Monthly Predisability Earnings** are equal to your annual Predisability Earnings divided by twelve.
  2. Hourly Employees.
    - a) Weekly Calculation. If you are paid hourly, your **Weekly Predisability Earnings** will be based on your hourly pay rate multiplied by the number of hours you are regularly scheduled to work per week, not to exceed 40 hours. If you do not have regular work hours, your Weekly Predisability Earnings are based on the average number of hours you worked per week during the preceding 12 calendar months (or during your period of employment if less than 12 months), not to exceed 40 hours.
    - b) Monthly Calculation. If you are paid hourly, your Monthly Predisability Earnings will be based on your hourly pay rate multiplied by the number of hours you are regularly scheduled to work per month, not to exceed 173.33 hours. If you do not have regular work hours, your Monthly Predisability Earnings are based on the average number of hours you worked per month during the preceding 12 calendar months (or during your period of employment if less than 12 months), not to exceed 173.33 hours.
- C. **Predisability Earnings** includes the following:
1. your base rate of pay.
- D. **Predisability Earnings** does not include the following:
1. commissions;
  2. bonuses;
  3. overtime pay;
  4. pay for extracurricular activities;
  5. longevity pay;
  6. extra duty pay;
  7. supplemental pay;
  8. shift differential;

9. your Employer's contributions to your health insurance premium;
10. your Employer's contributions to a Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA);
11. your Employer's contributions on your behalf to any deferred compensation arrangement, pension plan, or other fringe benefits;
12. any other extra compensation.

GSDI-C1700-(07/19)

## **XI. STD BENEFIT CALCULATION**

A. Your **STD Benefit** is calculated as follows:

1. Your **Gross STD Benefit** is equal to the lesser of the following:
  - a) your weekly Predisability Earnings times the STD Benefit Percentage
  - b) the Maximum Weekly Benefit.
2. Your **STD Benefit** is equal to your weekly Gross STD Benefit minus Deductible Income (subject to the Minimum Weekly Benefit).

GSDI-C1800-(07/19)

## **XII. DEDUCTIBLE INCOME**

- A. Your Gross STD Benefit will always be reduced by Deductible Income which is available to you or which you are eligible to receive as a result of your Disability, whether or not you apply for and receive such payments or benefits, with the exception of Vermont State Employees' Retirement System (VSERS). The Deductible Income that we will subtract from your Gross STD Benefit is listed below.
- B. To receive the full measure of income under the Group Policy, you must apply for all Deductible Income for which you may be eligible, with the exception of Vermont State Employees' Retirement System (VSERS), as soon as you are entitled to such benefits. If you do not apply for and actively pursue in good faith all Deductible Income for which you may be eligible, we may make our own conclusion as to whether you are entitled to those benefits. If it is determined that you are entitled to Deductible Income, we will estimate the amount of those benefits and reduce the Gross STD Benefit by that estimated amount as of the date on which we deem you were eligible to receive Deductible Income. Integration of the estimated amount of Deductible Income that we have determined is available to you will continue until you provide us with proof that you have filed the appropriate application(s) and continue to actively pursue Deductible Income.

Each Payment Period we will determine your STD Benefit using the Deductible Income for the same Payment Period, even if you receive the Deductible Income in another Payment Period.

- C. If you are paid Deductible Income in a lump sum, we will use the period of time to which the Deductible Income applies. If no period of time is stated, we will make a reasonable estimate.
- D. We will not estimate the amount of Deductible Income nor reduce your Gross STD Benefit by any amounts for which applications or administrative appeals for Deductible Income are pending, provided that you:
1. apply for in good faith and pursue to our satisfaction all Deductible Income for which we determine you might be eligible;

2. designate, at our request, an agent endorsed by us as your representative in the application process and cooperate with that representative at all stages of the application process;
3. keep us informed on a timely basis of the status of all applications for Deductible Income;
4. sign a Reimbursement Agreement; and
5. pursue administrative appeals of Deductible Income denials.

E. **Deductible Income** includes the following:

1. Any excess of Sick pay (including donated amounts and paid time off) plus your STD Benefit over 100% of your Predisability Earnings immediately prior to the onset of your Disability.
2. Annual or personal leave pay, severance pay, or other salary continuation, (but not vacation pay) payable to you by your Employer;
3. 100 percent of your Work Earnings;
4. The amount that you, your Spouse and children receive or are eligible to receive because of your Disability or retirement benefits under:
  - a) the United States Social Security Act;
  - b) the Canada Pension Plan;
  - c) the Quebec Pension Plan;
  - d) the Railroad Retirement Act; or
  - e) any similar Plan or Act;

Benefits your Spouse or a child receive or are eligible to receive because of your Disability are Deductible Income regardless of the marital status, custody, or place of residence;

5. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive because of your Disability under any state disability income benefit law or similar law;
6. Retirement plans
  - a) Any disability or retirement benefits you receive or are eligible to receive because of your Disability under your Employer's retirement plan, including a public employee retirement system, a state teacher retirement system, or a plan arranged and maintained by a union or employee association for the benefit of its members;
  - b) If any of these plans has two or more payment options, the option which comes closest to providing you a monthly income to age 65 with no survivor benefit will be used to determine Deductible Income;
  - c) Your and your Employer's contributions will be considered as distributed simultaneously throughout your lifetime, regardless of how funds are distributed from the retirement plan;
7. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive under any unemployment compensation law or similar act or law;
8. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive from or on behalf of a third party because of your Disability, whether by judgment, settlement or other method. If you notify us before filing suit or settling your claim against such third party, the amount used as Deductible Income will be reduced by a pro rata share of your costs of recovery, including reasonable attorney fees;

9. Any amount you receive by compromise, settlement, or other method as a result of a claim for any of the above, whether disputed or undisputed;
10. Any amount you receive under any “no fault” motor vehicle plan
11. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive because of your Disability under any group insurance coverage.

F. **Deductible Income** does not include the following:

1. Any cost of living increases in any Deductible Income other than Work Earnings, if the increase becomes effective while you are Disabled and while you are eligible for the Deductible Income.
2. Reimbursement for hospital, medical or surgical expense;
3. Reasonable attorneys’ fees incurred in connection with a claim for Deductible Income;
4. Benefits from any individual disability insurance policy;
5. Early retirement benefits under the Federal Social Security Act which are not received;
6. Group credit or mortgage disability insurance benefits;
7. Accelerated benefits paid under a life insurance policy;
8. Under your Employer’s retirement plan, any amount you could have received upon termination of employment without being disabled or retired;
9. Benefits from the following:
  - a) Profit sharing plan;
  - b) Thrift or savings plan;
  - c) Plan under IRC Section 401(k), 408(k), or 457;
  - d) Individual Retirement Account (IRA);
  - e) Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) under IRC Section 403(b);
  - f) Stock ownership plan;
  - g) Keogh (HR-10) plan;
  - h) Retirement plan under a professional service corporation with respect to principals.

### **XIII. BENEFITS AFTER INSURANCE ENDS OR IS CHANGED**

- A. During each period of continuous Disability, we will pay STD Benefits according to the terms of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy in effect on the date you become Disabled. Your right to receive STD Benefits will not be affected by:
  - 1. any amendment to the Group Policy or your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy that is effective after you become Disabled.
  - 2. termination of the Group Policy or your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy after you become Disabled.

GSDI-C2000-(07/19)

### **XIV. EFFECT OF NEW DISABILITY**

- A. If a period of Disability is extended by a new cause while STD Benefits are payable, STD Benefits will continue while you remain Disabled, subject to the following:
  - 1. STD Benefits will not continue beyond the end of the original Maximum Benefit Period;
  - 2. The "Exclusions" and "Limitations" sections will apply to the new cause of Disability.

GSDI-C2100-(07/19)

### **XV. EXCLUSIONS**

- A. War. You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by War or any act of War. War means a state or period of declared or undeclared war whether civil or international, any substantial armed conflict with organized forces of a military nature between nations, states or parties, or acts of terrorism.
- B. Criminal Conduct. You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by your participation in a felony, riot or insurrections. Actively participating does not include being at the scene of a riot while performing your official duties.
- C. Imprisonment. No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are, for any reason, confined in a penal or correctional institution or under house arrest.
- D. Intentionally Self-Inflicted Injury-Suicide. You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by an intentionally self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide.
- E. Occupational Disability. You are not covered for a disability arising out of or in the course of any employment for wage or profit. You are not covered for any Disability for which Worker's Compensation benefits are payable.

GSDI-C2200-(07/19)-VT

### **XVI. LIMITATIONS**

- A. Foreign Residency. Payment of STD Benefits is limited to 6 months for each period of continuous Disability while you reside outside of the United States or Canada.
- B. Payment Limit. In no event will the STD Benefit plus Deductible Income plus Work Earnings exceed 100% of Predisability Earnings. In the event your STD Benefit plus Deductible Income plus Work Earnings exceeds 100% of Predisability Earnings, the STD Benefit will be reduced by the amount in excess of 100% of Predisability Earnings.

GSDI-C2300-(07/19)-VT

## **XVII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISABLED INSURED PERSONS**

### **A. Your Obligations During A Period Of Disability**

1. The Group Policy requires you to take a variety of actions in this regard, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) Regular Care of a Physician. You are not covered for a Disability when you are not under the Regular Care of a Physician in the appropriate specialty, providing appropriate treatment in accordance with the Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy, Substance Abuse or Mental Disorder that caused the Disability.
  - b) You are not covered for a Disability that has not been diagnosed by your attending Physician. You must submit periodic evidence from your Physician that substantiates that you remain Disabled. This required evidence includes, but is not limited to, objective medical and/or psychiatric evidence from a Physician that confirms your Disability. Subjective complaints alone will not be considered conclusive evidence of a Disability. The attending Physician must be able to provide objective medical evidence to support his/her opinion as to why you are not able to perform the Material Duties of your Own Occupation or Any Occupation. You must obtain and provide this information at your own expense.
  - c) You must appeal denials of Deductible Income and actively pursue such appeals in good faith.
  - d) You must promptly provide us with all information that is necessary to verify and administer your claim for benefits.
2. Return to Work Responsibility. No benefits will be payable and your claim will end if you are able to work in your Own Occupation but choose not to.
3. Duty to Furnish Information. To receive benefits under the Group Policy, you must authorize and direct medical care providers and sources of earnings or Deductible Income to provide us with all information and records that are relevant to the determination of benefits or eligibility for benefits. We do not pay fees charged for submitting this information to us. Any such costs will be your responsibility.
4. Failure of Obligations. You are not covered for a Disability when you fail to satisfy your obligations as required under this Certificate.

**B. Our Right to Examine.** We may require you to be examined by a Physician, other medical practitioner and/or vocational expert of our choice, in addition to your obligation to be under the Regular Care of a Physician as specified above. In such case, we will pay for the additional examination. You must cooperate fully with the Physician, medical practitioner or vocational expert and give full effort to such examinations. We can require an examination as often as it is reasonable to do so. We may also require you to be interviewed by an authorized Company representative.

### **C. Insured Person's Failure to Comply**

1. We have the right to suspend benefits during any portion of a Disability in which you fail to comply with any of the requirements set forth in this Certificate.
2. We have the further right to terminate irrevocably all further benefits under the Group Policy when benefits have been suspended for a period of 6 consecutive months due to your failure to comply with any of the requirements of the Group Policy.

## XVIII. CLAIMS

### A. Notice of Claim

1. Written notice of claim should be given to us within 20 days of the date the Elimination Period ends, if that is possible. If that is not possible, you must notify us as soon as it is reasonably possible to do so. Notice given by or on behalf of the insured or the beneficiary to the insurer at 1241 John Q. Hammons Drive, Madison, WI 53717, or to any authorized agent of the insurer, with information sufficient to identify the insured, shall be deemed notice to the insurer.
2. When we receive a written notice of claim, we will send you our claim forms for filing Proof of Loss. If you do not receive the forms within 15 days after written notice of claim is sent, you can send us written Proof of Loss without waiting for the forms.

### B. Proof of Loss

1. **Proof of Loss** means all the information necessary to determine that a loss occurred:
  - a) for which the Group Policy provides benefits; and
  - b) which is not subject to any exclusions; and
  - c) which meets all other conditions for benefits.
2. Written Proof of Loss must be furnished to us at our home office no later than 90 days after the end of the Elimination Period. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time, provided such proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible.
3. Any items we may reasonably require in support of a claim, such as completed claims statements and a signed authorization for us to obtain information including tax information, must be submitted at your expense. If the required documentation is not provided within 60 days after we mail our request, your claim may be denied. No benefits will be paid until we receive Proof of Loss satisfactory to us.

### C. Investigation of Claim

1. We may investigate a claim at any time.
2. At our expense, we may have you examined at reasonable intervals by specialists of our choice. We may deny or suspend benefits if you fail to attend an examination or cooperate with the examiner.

### D. Payment of Claims

1. We will pay STD Benefits within 30 days after we receive satisfactory Proof of Loss, but not before satisfaction of the Elimination Period.
2. Claim Payment Method. STD Benefit payments that you qualify for will be paid to you as specified in the "Schedule of Benefits". Payments for partial weekly benefits will be pro-rated based on a 7 day week. Payments for partial monthly benefits will be pro-rated based on a 30 day month.
3. STD Benefits payable at the time of your death will be paid to your estate.

### E. Notice of Adverse Decision on Claim

1. We will notify you of an adverse benefit determination within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 45 days after we receive satisfactory Proof of Loss. This period may be extended by us for up to 30 days, provided that we notify you prior to the end of the initial 45 day period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which we expect to render a decision.

2. If, prior to the end of the first 30 day extension period, a decision cannot be rendered within that extension period, the period for making the determination may be extended for up to an additional 30 days, provided that we notify you prior to the expiration of the first 30 day extension period, of the circumstances requiring the extension and the date as of which we expect to render a decision.
3. In the case of any extension, the notice of extension will specifically explain the standards on which entitlement to a benefit is based, the unresolved issues that prevent a decision on the claim and the additional information needed to resolve those issues. You will be given at least 45 days within which to provide the specified information.
4. If we deny any part of your claim, you will receive a written notice of denial containing the following:
  - a) the reasons for our decision;
  - b) reference to the provisions of the Group Policy on which our decision is based;
  - c) a description of any additional information needed to support your claim;
  - d) information concerning your right to a review of our decision.

F. Review Procedure

1. If all or part of a claim is denied, you may request a review. A request for a review must be in writing and received by us within 180 days after you receive notice of the denial.
2. You may send us written comments or other items to support the claim and may review any non-privileged information that relates to the request for review.
3. We will review the claim promptly after we receive the request. We will send you a notice of our decision within 45 days after we receive the request, unless special circumstances require an extension. If we determine that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension will be furnished to you prior to the expiration of the initial 45 day period. In no event will such extension exceed a period of 60 days from the end of the initial period.

G. Assignment. The rights and benefits under the Group Policy are not assignable.

GSDI-C2500-(07/19)-VT

## **XIX. RIGHT TO REIMBURSEMENT**

- A. If we make benefit payments to you in excess of the amounts required by the provisions of this Group Policy or, if you receive retroactive benefits from any Deductible Income source for periods of time during which we paid benefits to you, you must reimburse us for any such excess, duplicate, or erroneous payments.
- B. Before any STD Benefits are paid to you, you must execute and deliver to us a Reimbursement Agreement, provided by us, setting forth specific terms of reimbursement.
- C. Upon request, you must execute and deliver to us such documents as may be required, and do whatever else may be necessary, to secure our rights to recover any excess, duplicate, or erroneous payments.
- D. You must reimburse us in a satisfactory and timely manner for any payments made to which you were not entitled under the terms of this Policy. Such reimbursement will be due and payable immediately upon our notification to you. At our option, subsequent payment of benefits or the refund of any premium owed to you by us may be reduced or applied by us directly toward such reimbursement obligation. If we are not notified or reimbursed in a timely manner of your receipt of Deductible Income, we will have the right to charge interest at a reasonable rate on the delinquent amount owed to us.



- E. Our acceptance of premium or other fees, or our providing or paying of benefits, does not constitute a waiver of our rights to enforce the provisions of this section in the future. The provisions of this section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other rights or remedies available to us at law or in equity.
- F. The Minimum Weekly Benefit may be applied to recover an outstanding overpayment.

GSDI-2600-(07/19)-VT

**XX. RELATION OF EARNINGS TO INSURANCE**

- A. If the total monthly amount of loss of time benefits promised for the same loss under all valid loss of time coverage upon the insured, whether payable on a weekly or monthly basis, shall exceed the monthly earnings of the insured at the time disability commenced or his average monthly earnings for the period of two years immediately preceding a disability for which claim is made, whichever is the greater, the insurer will be liable only for such proportionate amount of such benefits under this policy as the amount of such monthly earnings or such average monthly earnings of the insured bears to the total amount of monthly benefits for the same loss under all such coverage upon the insured at the time such disability commences and for the return of such part of the premiums paid during such two years as shall exceed the pro rata amount of the premiums for the benefits actually paid hereunder; but this shall not operate to reduce the total monthly amount of benefits payable under all such coverage upon the insured below the sum of \$200.00 or the sum of the monthly benefits specified in such coverages, whichever is the lesser, nor shall it operate to reduce benefits other than those payable for loss of time.

GSDI-C3400-(07/19)-VT

**XXI. TIME LIMITS ON LEGAL ACTIONS**

- A. No action at law or in equity may be brought until 60 days after we have received Proof of Loss. No such action may be brought more than three years after the earlier of the following:
  - 1. the date we receive Proof of Loss;
  - 2. the time within which Proof of Loss is required to be given.

GSDI-C2900-(07/19)

**XXII. INCONTESTABILITY PROVISIONS**

- A. Incontestability of Insurance
  - 1. Any statement made to obtain or to increase insurance is a representation and not a warranty.
  - 2. No misrepresentation will be used as a basis for reducing or denying a claim or contesting the validity of insurance unless:
    - a) the insurance would not have been approved if we had known the truth; and
    - b) we have given you or any other person claiming benefits a copy of the signed written instrument which contains the misrepresentation.
  - 3. After insurance has been in effect for three years during the lifetime of the Insured Person, we will not use a misrepresentation as a basis for reducing or denying a claim, unless it was a fraudulent misrepresentation.
- B. Incontestability of the Group Policy or Employer Coverage under the Group Policy
  - 1. Any statements made by the Policyowner to obtain the Group Policy or made by an Employer to obtain coverage under the Group Policy is a representation and not a warranty.

2. No misrepresentation by the Policyowner or your Employer will be used as a basis for denying a claim, or for denying the validity of the Group Policy or your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy unless:
  - a) the Group Policy would not have been issued or your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy would not have been approved if we had known the truth; and
  - b) we have given the Policyowner or Employer a copy of a written instrument signed by the Policyowner or Employer which contains the misrepresentation.
3. The validity of the Group Policy or the Policyowner's or Employer's coverage under the Group Policy will not be contested after it has been in force for three years, except for nonpayment of premiums or fraudulent misrepresentations.

GSDI-C3000-(07/19)-VT

### **XXIII. CLERICAL ERROR AND MISSTATEMENT**

#### **A. Clerical Error**

1. Clerical error by us, the Policyowner, your Employer, or their respective employees or representatives will not:
  - a) cause a person to become insured under the Group Policy or a provision of it.
  - b) invalidate insurance otherwise validly in force.
  - c) continue insurance otherwise validly terminated.
  - d) cause an Employer to obtain coverage under the Group Policy or a provision of it.
2. In the event that a clerical error results in an incorrect rate, we reserve the right to adjust the rate accordingly.

B. The payment of premium, by itself, will not obligate us to provide benefits to anyone who is not eligible for coverage under the Group Policy.

C. Your Employer acts on its own behalf as your agent, and not as our agent. Your Employer has no authority to alter, expand or extend our liability or to waive, modify or compromise any defense or right we may have under the Group Policy.

#### **D. Misstatement of Age**

1. If the age of a person has been misstated, we will make an equitable adjustment of premiums, benefits or both. The adjustment will be based on:
  - a) the amount of insurance based on the correct age; and
  - b) the difference between the premiums paid and the premiums which would have been paid if the age had been correctly stated.

#### **E. Misstatement of Gender**

1. If the gender of a person has been misstated, we will make an equitable adjustment of premiums, benefits or both. The adjustment will be based on:
  - a) the amount of insurance based on the correct gender; and
  - b) the difference between the premiums paid and the premiums which would have been paid if the gender had been correctly stated.

GSDI-C3100-(07/19)-VT

### **XXIV. FRAUD**

A. Any person who knowingly presents a false statement in an application for insurance may be guilty of a criminal offense and subject to the penalties under state law.

GLDI-C3200-(07/19)-VT

## **XXV. TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE GROUP POLICY AND EMPLOYER COVERAGE**

- A. The Group Policy may be terminated, changed or amended in whole or in part by us or the Policyowner according to the terms of the Group Policy. Any such change or amendment may apply to current or future Employers and Eligible Persons covered under the Group Policy or to any separate classes or categories thereof. An Employer's coverage under the Group Policy may be terminated, changed or amended in whole or in part by us or the Employer according to the terms of the Group Policy.
- B. We may change the Group Policy and any Employer's coverage under the Group Policy in whole or in part to bring the Group Policy into compliance when applicable statutory or regulatory changes affect our obligations under the Group Policy, or with the Policyowner's or Employer's consent.
- C. We may terminate an Employer's coverage on any premium due date by giving the Employer not less than 31 days advance notice. An Employer may terminate coverage under the Group Policy in whole, and may terminate insurance for any class or group of Eligible Persons, at any time by giving us advanced written notice at least 31 days prior to such termination. Insurance will terminate automatically for nonpayment of premium.
- D. Benefits are limited to the terms of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy, including any valid amendments. No change or amendment of your Employer's coverage will be valid unless it is approved in writing by one of our executive officers and delivered to your Employer. The Policyowner, your Employer and their respective employees or representatives have no right or authority to change or amend the Group Policy or your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy or to waive any terms or provisions thereof without our signed, written approval.

GSDI-C3300-(07/19)-VT

**AMENDMENT 1 TO THE GROUP SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE CERTIFICATE  
OF COVERAGE**

A. This Amendment number 1 effective on July 1, 2021 amends certain provisions of the Group Short Term Disability Insurance Certificate of Coverage as specified below. Provisions under this Amendment are subject to all the terms and conditions, limitations and exclusions of the Group Policy, unless otherwise stated herein.

1. Under section '**IV. WHEN YOUR INSURANCE ENDS**', the following is hereby added:

'F. Military Leave of Absence. If you are on a military leave of absence, coverage will continue subject to the following:

1. Noncontributory coverage

a) Coverage will continue provided that:

- (1) the military leave of absence is approved in advance by the Employer and such approval includes documentation of the beginning and ending dates of the leave and the amount of your covered salary. Such documentation about your military leave of absence must be made available to Us at Our request; and
- (2) military leaves of absence and the right to continue coverage during military leaves are available to all Employees in the same Eligible Class under the Group Policy; and
- (3) the Employer remits the required premium for coverage.

b) The Elimination Period can be satisfied during a military leave of absence, but benefits will not begin until the later of the end of the Elimination Period or the date the military leave was scheduled to end. In the event a benefit is payable, it will be based on the lesser of your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to the military leave of absence, or the salary for which premium was paid.

c) Unless you return to active, eligible status on or before the date the military leave of absence is scheduled to end, coverage extended during a military leave of absence will terminate on the earlier of the date the military leave of absence is scheduled to end or three months from the date the military leave of absence began.

2. Contributory Coverage

a) Coverage will continue provided that:

- (1) the military leave of absence is approved in advance by the Employer and such approval includes documentation of the beginning and ending dates of the leave and the amount of your covered salary. Such documentation about your military leave of absence must be made available to Us at Our request; and
- (2) military leaves of absence and the right to continue coverage during military leaves of absence are available to all Employees in the same Eligible Class under the Group Policy; and
- (3) you continue to pay the required premium to the Employer without interruption and the Employer continues to remit premium to us on your behalf.

b) The Elimination Period can be satisfied during a military leave of absence, but benefits will not begin until the later of the end of the Elimination Period or the date the military leave was scheduled to end. In the event a benefit is payable, it will be based on the lesser of your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work prior to the military leave of absence, or the salary for which premium was paid.

- c) Unless you return to active, eligible status on or before the date the military leave of absence is scheduled to end, coverage extended during a military leave of absence will terminate on the earlier of the date the military leave of absence is scheduled to end, or three months from the date the military leave of absence began or the date you fail to pay premium as required.
  - d) If you choose not to continue coverage or your coverage terminates during a military leave of absence and you subsequently wish to obtain coverage, you will be treated as a Late Enrollee and be required to provide Evidence of Insurability, unless you are eligible for reinstatement under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).'
2. Under section '**VI. REINSTATEMENT OF INSURED PERSON'S COVERAGE**', items A. 5. and A. 6. are hereby deleted in their entirety and are replaced with:
- '5. If You return to active employment with the Group after a military leave, within the timeframes provided in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, Your coverage will be reinstated without a Waiting Period, Pre-existing Condition exclusion or Evidence of Insurability if you enroll within 31 days of the date You return to Active Work.
  - 6. In all other cases, if your coverage ends because you fail to make the required contribution, you must provide Evidence of Insurability to become covered again. We have the same rights thereunder as We had immediately before the due date of the defaulted premium.
  - 7. In no event will insurance coverage be retroactive.'
3. Under section '**XII. DEDUCTIBLE INCOME**', item E. 3. is hereby deleted in its entirety and is replaced with:
- '3. If the total amount of your Gross STD Benefit plus the amount you receive from Work Earnings exceeds 100% of your Predisability Earnings, the amount in excess of 100% of your Predisability Earnings will be included in Deductible Income;'
4. Under section '**XII. DEDUCTIBLE INCOME**', under '**E. Deductible Income** includes the following:', item 6. is hereby deleted in its entirety and is replaced with:
- '6. Retirement plans
    - a) Any disability or retirement benefits you receive or are eligible to receive because of your Disability under your Employer's retirement plan, that do not represent contributions made by you, including a public employee retirement system, a state teacher retirement system, or a plan arranged and maintained by a union or employee association for the benefit of its members;
    - b) If any of these plans has two or more payment options, the option which comes closest to providing you a monthly income to age 65 with no survivor benefit will be used to determine Deductible Income;

In the event of a claim, your Employer will provide documentation that represents the amount of the Employer's contributions.'

5. Under section ‘**XII. DEDUCTIBLE INCOME**’, under ‘F. **Deductible Income** does not include the following:’, item 8. is hereby deleted in its entirety and is replaced with:

‘8. Under your Employer’s retirement plan, any amount you could have received upon termination of employment without being disabled or retired or any amount that represents Your contributions;’

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## NOTICE

This notice describes identities of and relationships among the Insurer, Administrator, and Policyowner of this insurance.

**Insurer:** Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. (MNL) is the insurance underwriter of this insurance.

**Third Party Administrator:** National Insurance Services of Wisconsin, Inc. (NIS) is the administrator for this group insurance. NIS provides administrative services for insurance issued to groups, including, but not limited to underwriting, premium billing, premium collection, client services, and policy and certificate issuance.

There is no ownership affiliation between MNL and NIS.

**Policyowner:** The Policyowner of your policy/certificate of insurance is the National Insurance Services of Wisconsin Insurance Trust (Trust).

**Employer:** Your Employer participates in the group insurance under the group policy issued to the Trust.

NIS is the Administrator of the Trust.