#### Life Insurance Association (LIA) Critical Illness (CI) Framework 2019



SETTING THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARD FOR FINANCIAL ADVICE IN SINGAPORE



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In August 2019, the LIA announced changes to the Critical Illnesses (CI) definitions and names (i.e. headers to the definitions), which have been **revised for clarity and continued relevance. There is no change to the intended scope of coverage, when compared against the definitions of 2014.** 

Currently, LIA defines and maintains a list of 37 medical conditions at severe stage by way of common definitions. Under the revision, as shown by the table below, standard definitions of 21 severe stage CIs and names of 14 CIs have been refined to clearly reflect the intent of coverage.

Summary of changes	Changed	Unchanged
<b>CI Definition</b>	21	16
CI Header Name	14	23

Effective from 26 August 2020, all CI products based on previous definitions of 2014 may no longer be sold in Singapore.





	Critical Illness (Condition)	Change of Header?	Header of CI changed to	Changes to current definition?
1	Major Cancers	YES	Major Cancer	YES
2	Heart Attack of Specified Severity	NO		YES
3	Stroke	YES	Stroke with Permanent Neurological Deficit	YES
4	Coronary Artery By-pass Surgery	No		No
5	Kidney Failure	YES	End Stage Kidney Failure	No
6	Aplastic Anaemia	YES	Irreversible Aplastic Anaemia	YES
7	End Stage Lung Disease	NO		NO
8	End Stage Liver Failure	NO		NO
9	Coma	NO		YES
10	Deafness (Loss of Hearing)	YES	Deafness (Irreversible Loss of Hearing)	YES
11	Heart Valve Surgery	YES	Open Chest Heart Valve Surgery	NO





	Critical Illness (Condition)	Change of Header?	Header of CI changed to	Changes to current definition?
12	Loss of Speech	YES	Irreversible Loss of Speech	YES
13	Major Burns	NO		NO
14	Major Organ / Bone Marrow Transplantation	NO		NO
15	Multiple Sclerosis	NO		YES
16	Muscular Dystrophy	NO		YES
17	Parkinson's Disease	YES	Idiopathic Parkinson's Disease	YES
18	Surgery to Aorta	YES	Open Chest Surgery to Aorta	NO
19	Alzheimer's Disease / Severe Dementia	NO		YES
20	Fulminant Hepatitis	NO		NO
21	Motor Neurone Disease	NO		NO
22	Primary Pulmonary Hypertension	NO		NO





	Critical Illness (Condition)	Change of Header?	Header of CI changed to	Changes to current definition?
23	HIV Due to Blood Transfusion and Occupationally Acquired HIV	NO		YES
24	Benign Brain Tumour	NO		YES
25	Viral Encephalitis	YES	Severe Encephalitis	YES
26	Bacterial Meningitis	YES	Severe Bacterial Meningitis	NO
27	Angioplasty & Other Invasive Treatment For Coronary Artery	NO		NO
28	Blindness (Loss of Sight)	YES	Blindness (Irreversible Loss of Sight)	YES
29	Major Head Trauma	NO		YES
30	Paralysis (Loss of Use of Limbs)	YES	Paralysis (Irreversible Loss of Use of Limbs)	NO
31	Terminal Illness	NO		NO
32	Progressive Scleroderma	NO		YES





	Critical Illness (Condition)	Change of Header?	Header of CI changed to	Changes to current definition?
33	Apallic Syndrome	YES	Persistent Vegetative State (Apallic Syndrome)	NO
34	Systemic Lupus Erythematosus with Lupus Nephritis	NO		YES
35	Other Serious Coronary Artery Disease	NO		YES
36	Poliomyelitis	NO		YES
37	Loss of Independent Existence	NO		YES



# Changes

Category	Major Changes & Added Definition	Exclusions Added	Reason for Exclusion
Major Cancer	Added: "Major Cancer diagnosed on the basis of finding tumour cells and/or tumour associated molecules in blood, saliva, faeces, urine or other bodily fluid in the absence of further definitive and clinically verifiable evidence does not meet the above definition."	Skin confined primary cutaneous lymphoma and dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans. All bone marrow malignancies which do not require recurrent blood transfusions, chemotherapy, targeted cancer therapies, bone marrow transplant, haematopoietic stem cell transplant or other major interventionist treatment.	Excluded terms are easily treatable and do not fulfill the intent of a severe stage coverage.
Heart Attack of Specified Severity	<b>Old:</b> Death of heart muscle due to obstruction of blood flow. <b>New:</b> Death of heart muscle due to ischaemia		
Stroke with Permanent Neurological Deficit	Change in Header Old Header: Stroke New Header: Stroke with Permanent Neurological Deficit	Secondary haemorrhage within a pre- existing cerebral lesion	



# Changes

Category	Major Changes & Added Definition	Exclusions Added	Reason for Exclusion
Irreversible Aplastic Anaemia	Old Header: Aplastic Anaemia New Header: Irreversible Aplastic Anaemia Addition of Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation.		
Coma		Medically induced coma, and coma resulting directly from alcohol or drug abuse	
Muscular Dystrophy	The unequivocal diagnosis of muscular dystrophy must be made by a consultant neurologist		
HIV Due to Blood Transfusion and Occupationally Acquired HIV	<ul> <li>No longer required: Proof of the accident giving rise to the infection must be reported to the Company within 30 day of the accident taking place.</li> <li>Removed: The insured does not suffer from Thalassaemia Major or Haemophilia.</li> </ul>		



# Changes

Category	Major Changes & Added Definition	Exclusions Added	Reason for Exclusion
Benign Brain Tumour		Abscess, Angioma and Tumours of Skull Base	
Severe Encephalitis	<ul> <li>Old Header: Viral Encephalitis</li> <li>New Header: Severe Encephalitis</li> <li>Permanent neurological deficit has to be documented for at least 6 weeks.</li> <li>Diagnosis to be supported by any confirmatory diagnostic tests.</li> </ul>	<b>Removed from the definition:</b> Permanent and permanent neurological deficit	
Blindness (Irreversible Loss of Sight)	The blindness must not be correctable by surgical procedures, implants or any other means.		
Other Serious Coronary Artery Disease	Has to be proven by invasive coronary angiography	Branches of the coronary arteries	
Poliomyelitis	Diagnosis to be confirmed by a consultant neurologist in the relevant medical field.		



#### Pros

HIV Due to Blood Transfusion and Occupationally Acquired HIV: Those suffering from Thalassaemia Major or Haemophilia can now get covered under the HIV CI condition.

Viral Encephalitis: Previously, viral infection has to be the cause for it. The scope is now expanded to include all causes – not just viral infection.

Clearer definitions should lead to reduced ambiguity for the claiming process.

#### Things to note:

Revised definitions, with added clarity to exclusions, for Benign Brain Tumour, Coma, Stroke, Aplastic Anaemia, Heart Attack, and Major Cancers, amongst other things.

More requirements needed for certain claims to be made. For example, other serious coronary artery disease now needs invasive procedures to confirm it. Viral Encephalitis, Poliomyelitis also need to be confirmed with diagnostic tests.

You now have to prove that the condition is both chronic and irreversible with the addition of 'irreversible' to deafness, blindness, and aplastic anaemia.





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