

Accelerated Benefits Option



MetLife

A Special Benefit That's Part of Your Life Insurance

You've planned for the future and have considered the financial needs of your family and loved ones by electing life insurance from MetLife. But did you know that your group life insurance is even more valuable with the Accelerated Benefits Option (ABO)?

What Is the Accelerated Benefits Option?

The Accelerated Benefits Option is a part of your life insurance coverage that allows you to receive a portion of your group life benefit before death if you've been diagnosed as having a terminal illness with a limited life expectancy.

Your accelerated benefits payment can be used to help pay medical bills or nursing home expenses that could otherwise deplete a well-planned estate. The payment may also provide funds for necessary living expenses that are lost when income is reduced. It's your choice on how the proceeds are used.

How Does ABO Work?

If you are enrolled for Group Term Life, Group Universal Life or Group Variable Universal Life coverages, you may be eligible to receive an accelerated benefit if, as a result of an injury or sickness, you are diagnosed as terminally ill with no more than a specified amount of time to live.* The benefit amount may be as much as 80% of your insurance amount and up to a maximum of \$500,000. To be eligible for ABO, you must be covered for a specified minimum amount of group life insurance. Your accelerated benefit amount and eligibility may vary by plan and you should contact your benefits office for more details.

The Accelerated Benefits Option is also available to spouses insured under Dependent Life plans. ABO is not available for dependent child coverage.

A request for an ABO payment is subject to an independent medical review and approval by MetLife. Payment will generally be made in a lump sum. Future premiums, if any, will be reduced to correspond with this new, lower face amount of life insurance.

Will My Beneficiaries Continue to be Protected? Yes, the Accelerated Benefits Option purposely does not allow a full payout of the total life coverage proceeds before death. This assures that your coverage continues to serve the function for which it was intended — to ensure that your beneficiaries receive a portion of your life insurance proceeds at the time they need them most. Coverage under your Employer's plan continues for as long as you remain eligible per the certificate requirements and the Group Policy remains in force.

How Can I Find Out More About ABO?

Your Group Insurance Certificate or Summary Plan Description provides details about ABO. If you would like to learn more about MetLife's Accelerated Benefits Option, please contact your benefits office.

Is There Anything Else I Need to Know About Electing the Accelerated Benefits Option?

- An insured may receive an accelerated benefits payment only once.
- The Accelerated Benefits Option is subject to state availability and regulation. The accelerated life insurance benefits offered under your certificate are intended to qualify for favorable tax treatment under Section 101(g) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. Sec.101(g)). If the accelerated benefits qualify for favorable tax treatment, the benefits will be excludable from your income and not subject to federal taxation. Tax laws relating to accelerated benefits are complex. You are advised to consult with a qualified tax advisor about circumstances under which you could receive accelerated benefits excludable from income under federal tax law.
- Receipt of accelerated benefits may affect your eligibility, or that of your spouse or your family, for public assistance programs such as medical assistance (Medicaid), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplementary Social Security Income (SSI) and drug assistance programs. You are advised to consult with social service agencies concerning the effect that receipt of accelerated benefits will have on public assistance eligibility for you, your spouse or your family.

- Eligibility restrictions may apply if an individual is approaching a benefit reduction or benefit termination, based on specific plan provisions.
- ABO is not the same as Long Term Care Insurance (LTC). LTC insurance provides nursing home care, home-health care, personal or adult day care for individuals above age 65 or with chronic or disabling conditions that need constant supervision.
- Some states prohibit a health care facility such as a hospital, hospice, nursing home or home care agency from requiring you to accelerate payment of a death benefit as a condition of admission or providing care in such a facility.

* Life expectancy guidelines can vary based on state regulations.

** An accelerated benefit may be subject to a mortality and interest charge depending on your specific plan.

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Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
200 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10166
www.metlife.com