



# Secure STM

Short-term medical insurance  
for individuals and families

**Underwritten by Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York**, a member of The IHC Group. For more information about Standard Security Life and The IHC Group, visit [www.ihcgroup.com](http://www.ihcgroup.com).

This plan is not considered to be Minimal Essential Coverage as defined by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).





**Secure STM short-term medical insurance offers protection when circumstances leave you temporarily uninsured.**

Secure STM offers several different benefit options that allow you to find the right answer for your specific coverage needs. Coverage is available in most states for 30 to 90 days.

Short-term medical insurance is not a substitute for a major medical plan that meets the minimum essential coverage levels defined by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as ACA. It can, however, offer financial protection in the event of an unexpected injury or illness while you are waiting for coverage to begin under an ACA-compliant plan.

When to consider a short-term medical plan:

- **Missed open enrollment**

If you have missed the opportunity to secure coverage during the open enrollment period, you may be ineligible to buy a major medical policy until the next open enrollment period unless you have a qualifying event.

- **Newly hired**

Often, an employer-sponsored plan includes a waiting period before health insurance benefits begin.

- **Waiting for an ACA plan**

Many plans on the Health Insurance Exchange offer only one effective date, the first of the month. Depending on when you submit your application, you may have to wait up to 45 days for your coverage to begin.

Coverage can begin as early as the day following your online application, if approved, and last up to 90 days.

## Secure STM coverage options

All benefits listed apply per covered person, per coverage period. Refer to the descriptions below the chart for additional benefit details.

<p><b>Office visit copay</b></p> <p>The copay applies to the first covered office visit during the policy period. After the copay, the balance of the doctor office visit charge is covered at 100 percent. Additional covered expenses incurred during the office visit, including expenses for laboratory and diagnostic tests will be subject to plan deductible and coinsurance.</p>	<p>\$50 copay</p>
<p><b>Deductible</b></p> <p>The selected deductible must be paid by the covered person before coinsurance benefits begin.</p>	<p>\$1,000 \$1,500 \$2,500 \$5,000</p>
<p><b>Coinsurance percentage and out-of-pocket</b></p> <p>After the deductible has been met, the Secure STM plan pays the selected percentage of covered charges. The covered person is responsible for the remaining percentage of covered charges until the selected out-of-pocket amount has been reached.</p> <p>The out-of-pocket amount is specific to charges applied to coinsurance; it does not include the deductible.</p>	<p>20% coinsurance Out-of-pocket: \$2,000 \$3,000 \$4,000</p> <p>30% coinsurance Out-of-pocket: \$3,000 \$4,500 \$6,000</p> <p>50% coinsurance Out-of-pocket: \$5,000 \$7,500 \$10,000</p>
<p><b>Coverage-period maximum benefit</b></p>	<p>\$2,000,000</p>

## Association Benefits

When you purchase a Secure STM plan, you will become automatically enrolled into Communicating for America, an association-based membership program. You will receive instructions on how to access your association benefits in your welcome letter.

Benefits include:

- Discount Prescription Drug Card
- Vision Discount Program
- Member Advocates

To view a list of benefits, visit [www.communicatingforamerica.org](http://www.communicatingforamerica.org). These are non-insurance benefits.

## Family deductible

When three covered persons in a family each satisfy their deductible, the deductibles for any remaining covered family members are deemed satisfied for the remainder of the coverage period.

## Coinsurance percentage and out-of-pocket

Once the deductible and coinsurance out-of-pocket amounts have been paid, additional covered charges within the coverage period are paid at 100 percent, up to the maximum benefit. The coinsurance out-of-pocket does not include any precertification penalty amounts or expenses not covered by the plan. Benefit-specific maximums may apply.

## Payments to suit your situation

Secure STM offers monthly premium payments using credit card or automatic bank withdrawal.

## Utilize a network provider and save

With your Secure STM short-term medical plan, you have the freedom to choose any provider. In certain markets, you also have access to discounted medical services through national preferred provider organizations (PPOs). These network providers have agreed to negotiated prices for their services and supplies. While you have the flexibility to choose any healthcare provider, the discounts available through network providers for covered services may help to lower your out-of-pocket costs.

At the time of service, simply present your identification card, which will include the network information needed for the provider to correctly process covered billed charges.

## Covered expenses

All benefits are subject to the selected plan deductible and coinsurance. Covered expenses are limited by the Usual, Reasonable and Customary Charge as well as any benefit-specific maximum. If a benefit-specific maximum does not apply to the covered expense, benefits are limited by the coverage-period maximum. Benefits may vary by state.

Covered expenses include treatment, services and supplies for:

- Physician services during an office visit
- Emergency room, outpatient facility or ambulatory surgical center charges
- Surgeon services in the hospital or ambulatory surgical center
- Services when a doctor administers anesthetics up to 20 percent of the primary surgeon's covered charges
- Assistant surgeon and surgeon's assistant services up to 20 percent of the primary surgeon's covered charges
- Ground ambulance services up to \$500 per occurrence
- Air ambulance services up to \$1,000 per occurrence
- Organ, tissue, or bone marrow transplants up to \$150,000 per coverage period
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) up to \$10,000 per coverage period<sup>1</sup>
- Blood or blood plasma and their administration, if not replaced
- Mammography, Pap smear and prostate antigen test (covered at specific age intervals; not subject to deductible)
- X-ray exams, laboratory tests and analysis
- Oxygen, casts, non-dental splints, crutches, non-orthodontic braces, radiation and chemotherapy services and equipment rental

<sup>1</sup>The AIDS maximum of \$10,000 per coverage period benefit varies by state.

## **Inpatient covered expenses**

- Room and board, doctor visits and general nursing care up to the most common average semi-private room rate
- Intensive care or specialized care unit up to three times the average semi-private room rate
- Prescription drugs administered while hospitalized

## **Pre-existing condition limitation**

Secure STM will not provide benefits for any loss caused by or resulting from a pre-existing condition. A pre-existing condition is any medical condition or sickness for which medical advice, care, diagnosis, treatment, consultation or medication was recommended or received from a doctor within five years immediately preceding the covered person's effective date of coverage; or symptoms within the five years immediately prior to the coverage that would cause a reasonable person to seek diagnosis, care or treatment. The period of time preceding the effective date of coverage may vary by state.

## **Usual, Reasonable and Customary Charge**

The Usual, Reasonable and Customary Charge for medical services or supplies is the lesser of: a) the amount usually charged by the provider for the service or supply given; or b) the average charged for the service or supply in the locality in which it is received.

With respect to the treatment of medical services, Usual, Reasonable and Customary means treatment that is reasonable in relationship to the service or supply given and the severity of the condition. In reaching a determination as to what amount should be considered as Usual, Reasonable and Customary, we may use and subscribe to a standard industry reference source that collects data and makes it available to its member companies.

## **Eligibility**

Secure STM is available to all members of Communicating for America, Inc. (CA) from age 18 to 64, their spouse age 18 to 64 and dependent children up to age 26. Each applicant must qualify based on the plan's application questions and underwriting guidelines. Child-only coverage is available for children age 2 up to age 18. The CA membership requirement varies by state.

## **Effective date**

Upon approval, coverage can begin as early as the day following your online application submission. You may request a later effective date up to 60 days after the application date. All coverage is subject to approval and payment of the first premium.

## **Right to return period**

If you are not completely satisfied with this coverage and have not filed a claim, you may return the Policy/Certificate of Insurance within 10 days and receive a premium refund.

## **Precertification**

You must notify the professional review organization 10 days prior to an elective or nonemergency hospital admission or surgery and 48 hours following an emergency admission to the hospital, or as soon as reasonably possible. Failure to precertify will result in a benefit reduction of 50 percent. Precertification is not a guarantee of benefits.

## **Continuing coverage**

Although Secure STM is not renewable, if your need for temporary health insurance continues, most states allow you to apply for a new Secure STM plan. Your application is subject to eligibility, underwriting requirements and state availability of the coverage. The next coverage period is not a continuation of the previous period; it is a new plan with a new deductible, coinsurance, and pre-existing condition limitation.

## Coverage termination

Coverage ends on the earliest of the date: the premium is not paid when due; you become eligible for Medicare; you cease to be a member of the association<sup>2</sup>; the group master Policy terminates; you enter full-time active duty in the armed forces; or intentional fraud or material misrepresentation has been made in filing a claim for benefits. A dependent's coverage ends on the earliest of the date: your coverage terminates; the dependent becomes eligible for Medicare; or the dependent ceases to be eligible.

## Exclusions

The following is a partial list of services or charges not covered by Secure STM. Limitations and exclusions may vary by state. Please refer to the Policy/Certificate of Insurance for a complete list and detailed information about the plan's limitations and exclusions.

Expenses for the treatment of pre-existing conditions; expenses incurred prior to the effective date of a covered person's coverage or incurred after the expiration date; expenses that do not meet the definition of or are not specifically identified under the Policy as covered expenses; expenses to treat complications resulting from treatment, drugs, supplies, devices, procedures or conditions which are not covered under the Policy or are experimental or investigational services or treatment; expenses for purposes determined by Us to be educational; amounts in excess of the usual and reasonable charges made for covered services or supplies or which you or your covered dependent are not required to pay; expenses to the extent that they are paid or payable under another insurance or medical prepayment plan, Medicare-paid expenses or expenses for care in government institutions; expenses paid under workers' compensation or an automobile insurance policy; expenses incurred by a covered person while on active duty in the armed forces, expenses from war; expenses incurred while engaging in an illegal act or occupation or during the commission, or the attempted commission, of a felony or assault; expenses for the treatment of normal pregnancy or childbirth, except for complications of pregnancy and normal newborn care unless medically necessary due to sickness or injury; expenses for voluntary termination of normal pregnancy or contraception; infertility treatments or sterilization; expenses related to sex transformation or penile implants or sex dysfunction or inadequacies, physical exams, prophylactic treatment; expenses for the treatment of mental illness or nervous disorders; alcoholism or drug addiction; expenses incurred for loss sustained or contracted in consequence of the covered person being intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic; expenses incurred in connection with programs, treatment, or procedures for tobacco use cessation; expenses resulting from suicide or attempted suicide; expenses for dental treatment or temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMJ) of any kind except as specifically covered; expenses for radial keratotomy; vision exams, eyeglasses or contact lenses, including the fitting of; treatment of cataracts; routine hearing exams or hearing aids; expenses for cosmetic or reconstructive procedures, services or supplies including breast reduction or augmentation or complications except as specifically covered; outpatient prescriptions, unless shown as included in the Schedule of Benefits; expenses incurred in connection with any drug or other item used to treat hair loss; treatment of feet unless due to injury or illness; expenses incurred in the treatment of acne, or varicose veins; weight loss programs or diets; expenses for rest or recuperation cures or care in an extended care facility, convalescent nursing home, a facility providing rehabilitative treatment, skilled nursing facility, or home for the aged, whether or not part of a hospital; transportation expenses, except as specifically covered; expenses for services or supplies for personal comfort or convenience; expenses for services provided by immediate family; expenses for sleeping disorders; expenses incurred in the treatment of injury or sickness resulting from participation in skydiving, scuba diving, hang or ultralight gliding, riding an all-terrain vehicle such as a dirt bike, snowmobile or go-cart, racing with a motorcycle, boat or any form of aircraft, any participation in sports for pay or profit, or participation in rodeo contests; participating in interscholastic, intercollegiate or organized competitive sports; expenses for the purchase of a noninvasive osteogenesis stimulator (bone stimulator); expenses for services or supplies of a common household use; medical care, treatment, service or supplies received outside of the United States, Canada or its possessions; expenses for spinal manipulation or adjustment; expenses for acupuncture; expenses for marital counseling or social counseling; private duty nursing services; expenses for the repair or maintenance of a wheelchair, hospital-type bed or similar durable medical equipment; orthotics, special shoes, spine and arch supports, heel wedges, sneakers or similar devices unless they are a permanent part of an orthopedic leg brace; expenses incurred in connection with the voluntary taking of a poison or inhaling

<sup>2</sup>Applies only to states where association membership is required.

gas; expenses incurred in connection with obesity treatment or weight reduction including all forms of intestinal and gastric bypass surgery, including the reversal of such surgery even if the covered person has other health conditions that might be helped by a reduction of obesity or weight; expenses for replacement of artificial limbs or eyes; removal of breast implants; or expenses for a service or supply whose primary purpose is to provide a covered person with 1) training in the requirements of daily living; 2) instruction in scholastic skills such as reading and writing; 3) preparation for an occupation; 4) treatment of learning disabilities, developmental delays or dyslexia; or 5) development beyond a point where function has been demonstrably restored.

### **Short-term medical expense coverage under the Secure STM plan is not available in all states.**

This brochure provides a very brief description of the important features of the Secure STM plan. This brochure is not a policy and only the actual policy provisions will control. The policy itself sets forth in detail the rights and obligations of both the policyholder and the insurance company. It is, therefore, important that you READ THE POLICY CAREFULLY. In the states of ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, ME, MN, MT, NV and SD coverage is offered under an Individual Short-Term Medical Expense Insurance Policy Form No. SSL-ISTM-1104. The policy form number will vary based on the state in which it is issued. In other states, short-term medical expense coverage is available to members of Communicating for America, Inc. (CA), the Group Policyholder and is issued in the District of Columbia under Group Policy Form SSL-STMP-1104. Coverage is offered under a group Certificate of Insurance, Form No. SSL-STM-1104. CA is a national, non-profit 501(c)3 association headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, with an office in Washington, D.C., that has been providing valued member benefits and savings since 1972. Your enrollment as a member of CA is completed upon receipt of the association dues. CA is not affiliated with Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York, nor is it part of the insurance coverage.

### **CA Association**

Communicating for America, Inc., (CA) is a national non-profit advocacy organization that supports affordable healthcare for all Americans. Since 1972, more than 100,000 consumers have trusted CA to help them find affordable health insurance and Gap plans to stretch their healthcare dollar while advocating on their behalf with insurance companies, regulators and lawmakers.

These products are not qualifying health coverage (“Minimum Essential Coverage”) that satisfies the health coverage requirement of the Affordable Care Act. If you don’t have Minimum Essential Coverage, you may owe an additional payment with your taxes. The termination or loss of this policy does not entitle you to a special enrollment period to purchase a health benefit plan that qualifies as minimum essential coverage outside of an open enrollment period. These products may include a pre-existing condition exclusion provision.

## **About Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York**

Standard Security Life was founded in 1958, and is domiciled in the State of New York and headquartered in New York City. It is licensed in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Standard Security Life provides various lines of life, health and disability insurance, including: employer medical stop-loss, disability benefit law (DBL), short-term medical, group major medical, individual and group dental and vision, individual accident and health insurance, group term life, specialty programs designed for volunteer emergency service personnel, including group life insurance and service awards programs. Standard Security Life is rated A- (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company, Inc., a widely recognized rating agency that rates insurance companies on their relative financial strength and ability to meet policyholder obligations (an A++ rating from A.M. Best is its highest rating).

## **About The IHC Group**

Independence Holding Company (NYSE: IHC) is a holding company that is principally engaged in underwriting, administering and/or distributing group and individual specialty benefit products, including disability, supplemental health, pet, and group life insurance through its subsidiaries since 1980. The IHC Group owns three insurance companies (Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York, Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. and Independence American Insurance Company), and IHC Specialty Benefits, Inc., a technology-driven insurance sales and marketing company that creates value for insurance producers, carriers and consumers (both individuals and small businesses) through a suite of proprietary tools and products (including ACA plans and small group medical stop-loss). All products are placed with highly rated carriers.

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