

NEA Group Hospital Income Insurance Plan Helps Members Pay Escalating Hospital Costs

Did you know that before 1986, a hospital could refuse to treat you if you couldn't pay? That was before the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act (EMTALA) guaranteed everyone admission, regardless of whether they had independent resources or, more likely, medical insurance.

Today, just under half (49%)¹ of working Americans have employer-paid medical insurance. But out-of-pocket costs have increased steadily, even as more Americans are insured and the escalation of health care costs has slowed. According to financial adviser The Balance, health care costs in 2017 averaged almost \$11,000 per person, a 4 percent increase over the previous year.² A serious cardiac procedure averaged more than \$63,000 per person. Two of the most common procedures, spinal disc disorder and septicemia, averaged \$19,000 and \$18,000, respectively.³



Five ways this plan helps protect your family:

1. It pays cash benefits in addition to what health insurance covers.
2. The money can be used for any reason, not just medical bills.
3. Benefits are paid for inpatient stays.
4. Coverage can include spouse/domestic partners and children.
5. Coverage does not end when you reach a specific age, or if your health condition changes.

If you are hospitalized for a critical illness or serious health condition, you can expect to pay upwards of 10 percent more than just three years ago. According to The New York Times, hospitalization costs in 2014 averaged more than \$36,000 for a back or neck procedure that didn't include spinal fusion, more than \$39,000 for circulatory disorders, and more than \$75,000 for cardiovascular situations.³

Although the Affordable Care Act mandates that employer-paid health plans cover hospitalization, the Kaiser Family Foundation reports that employers continue to eliminate hospital systems from coverage.⁴ **That's just one reason nearly 1 in 3 Americans in fair or poor health have difficulty affording care, even though they have health insurance.**⁵

NEA is committed to members' well-being, on and off the job. This is why we work with our long-term insurance partner to give members the opportunity to take advantage of hospital income insurance at exclusive NEA group rates. Members 64 and younger can enroll in the NEA Hospital Income Insurance Plan.

Visit <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-group-hospital-income-insurance-plan> to view details, including features, costs, eligibility, renewability, limitations and exclusions and to enroll for coverage. This material is not intended for use with residents of Arizona or New Mexico.

Underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010
Group policy number G-29351-0 on Policy Form GMR

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Program Administered by Mercer Health & Benefits Administration LLC

In CA d/b/a Mercer Health & Benefits Insurance Services LLC AR Insurance License #100102691 CA Insurance License #0G39709

¹Kaiser Family Foundation, "Health Insurance Coverage of the Total Population," 2017

²The Balance.com, "The Rising Cost of Health Care by Year and Its Causes," 12/28/18

³Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), cited in Business Insider, "The 35 Most Expensive Reasons You Might Have to Visit a Hospital In The US -- And How Much It Costs if You Do," 03/01/18
<https://www.businessinsider.com/most-expensive-health-conditions-hospital-costs-2018-2#9-septicemia-27>

⁴Kaiser Family Foundation, "2018 Employer Health Benefits Survey," 10/03/18

⁵Axios.com, "It's Not Just the Uninsured -- It's Also the Cost of Health Care," 08/20/18