



**Research Employees Group Benefit Plans
Nova Scotia Health Authority – Central Zone
Effective October 2016**

REQUIRED BENEFITS

LATE APPLICATION – HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFITS – If application has not been made for Health/Travel and/or Dental coverage within 31 days of the date you and/or your dependents first become eligible either through your employment status or as the result of a *life change, you and/or your dependents will be subject to the following late provisions for the first 6 months of coverage:

- **Extended Health Benefits** – Eye Refraction only;
- **Prescription Drug Benefits**;
- **Dental Benefits** – Recall examinations, Bite-wing x-rays, fluoride application, one time unit of scaling, and polishing only.

*Life Change: marriage, common-law (after 12 months of cohabitation), divorce, separation, retirement, birth/adoption of your first child, involuntary loss of spousal coverage (due to termination, layoff, death, etc.). In the case of the loss of spousal coverage, proof of the loss must be provided in the form of a letter from the insurer (or the employer if the plan is self-administered) indicating the date benefits were terminated and the reason for benefits termination.

HEALTH BENEFITS – The health benefit is required (unless proof of other coverage is provided) and is available to permanent or casual long assignment employees, working at least 0.4 full-time status. **Health benefits are provided through Great-West Life and this benefit is cost-shared with the Employer (Nova Scotia Health Authority pays 65% of the total premium cost). Coverage begins after a thirty-day waiting period.** (See late application information above.)

Coverage includes:

- **Hospital Benefit** – includes Semi-private Hospital Accommodation, and Professional Ambulance Service (covers actual charges for licensed professional ground ambulance (up to the government set maximums) for emergency transportation to or from the nearest hospital able to provide the care required).
- **Extended Health Benefit** – includes Paramedical Practitioners (\$1,500 per calendar year maximum – all practitioners combined); Nursing Services (\$10,000 per calendar year); Medical Equipment (\$10,000 lifetime maximum); Hearing and Speech aids (\$1000 in 3 calendar years); Orthopedic shoes/Orthotics (\$150 every 24 months or 12 months if participant is under age 18); Oxygen; Accidental Dental; and Vision Care (\$150 every 24 months or 12 months for dependent children).
- **Prescription Drug Benefit** – \$3.00 co-pay on prescription drugs – limited to generic equivalent.
Employee Health Cost is:
Single: \$19.10/pay
Family: \$47.54/pay

TRAVEL BENEFITS – Participation is automatic for employees who enroll in the Health Benefit through the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Provided through SSQ Insurance Company Inc. Assurances, this benefit is cost-shared by the Employer (Nova Scotia Health Authority pays 65% of the total premium cost). This plan is available 24 hours a day, during the course of any trip outside Canada, business or pleasure (please see the group insurance booklet for a list of exclusions); subject to a maximum of 60 days per trip. Coverage begins after a thirty-day waiting period.

Employee Travel Cost is: **Single: \$ 0.15/pay**
 Family: \$ 0.31/pay

DENTAL BENEFITS – This benefit is mandatory (unless proof of other coverage is provided) and is available to permanent or casual long assignment employees, working at least 0.4 full-time status. Provided through Great-West Life, this benefit is cost-shared with the Employer (Nova Scotia Health Authority pays 65% of the total premium cost). Coverage begins after a thirty-day waiting period. **(See late application information on first page)**

Coverage includes:

- **100% – Basic Services** – Diagnostic, Preventative, Oral Surgery, and Minor Restorative
- **80% – Major Restorative** – Endodontics, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, and Major Restorative (Basic and Major Restorative – combined maximum of \$1500 per calendar year)
- **50% – Orthodontics** – Orthodontic Appliances, Orthodontic Observations and Adjustments (Orthodontic – \$1500 lifetime maximum for dependents under age 18)

Employee Cost is: **Single: \$ 6.99/pay**
 Family: \$14.93/pay

LONG-TERM DISABILITY (LTD) – Required for all permanent, long assignment and short assignment employees working longer than six months and at least 20 hours/week. LTD premiums are cost-shared with the Employer, with Research contributing 50% of the total cost. This benefit is administered through Great-West Life. The LTD plan provides coverage of 67% of regular monthly income to a maximum benefit of \$3,500.00/month. The plan also insures the employee for \$25,000 life insurance. Coverage begins after a waiting period of two full months.

Monthly Employee LTD Cost is: \$1.295 per \$100 of monthly benefit (premium is deducted every pay)
Monthly Employee Life Cost is: \$0.13 per \$1,000 (premium is deducted every pay)

PENSION PLAN – Participation is optional* on date of eligibility and mandatory after three months of service for all permanent and casual long assignment employees with at least .5 full-time status. Also included are short assignments .5 or greater for more than 90** days; or, consecutive and continuous short assignments greater than 90 days. Also mandatory for those employed elsewhere and already a member of the NSHEPP (formerly NSAHO Pension Plan). Cost-shared with the Employer. Administered through Nova Scotia Health Employees' Pension Plan (NSHEPP), employees pay 7.82% of earnings up to the YMPE (Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings) and 10.18% on amounts over the YMPE (YMPE for 2015 is \$53,600) Employer pays 9.22% up to the YMPE and 11.58% on any earnings over the YMPE. **Optional three month wait is not available if you are already participating in the NSHEPP under another employer. **For short assignments meeting eligibility, enrolment occurs on day 91; immediate enrolment is not possible.*

If you have previously been a member of the NSHEPP and received a refund of contributions or transferred NSHEPP funds to an RRSP, please contact the NSHEPP if you are interested in purchasing this previous service. Such a purchase must be completed within one year of joining the plan. If you were a member of another pension plan prior to your enrolment to the NSHEPP, contact a Benefits Advisor within 90 days of joining the NSHEPP if you are interested in transferring the pension monies from your previous pension to NSHEPP. The pension plans will determine if a transfer is possible and the amounts available and required. You are not committed to a transfer, i.e. you will have an opportunity to review the amounts prior to making a final decision.

If you are not eligible to join the pension plan please note that once you have completed 24 consecutive months of continuous service with either 700 hours or earned at least 35% of the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) under the Canada Pension Plan in the preceding two calendar years, you will be eligible and will be offered the option to participate in the NSHEPP.

BASIC LIFE INSURANCE – Required for permanent or long assignment employees working at least 15 hours/week. The monthly premium is \$0.174/\$1000. Premiums are deducted twice per month (24 deductions per year). This benefit is cost-shared with the employer (employer pays 50% of total premium cost). Employees are covered for 2 times their annual salary (up to a maximum \$500,000) rounded up to the next thousand. Coverage is provided through Manulife Financial. Coverage begins after a thirty-day waiting period.

Employee Cost is: \$0.087/\$1,000 per month

BASIC ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE – Required for permanent or long assignment employees working at least 15 hours/week. The monthly premium is \$0.0141/\$1000. This benefit is cost-shared with the employer (Nova Scotia Health Authority pays 50% of total premium cost). Employees are covered for 2 times their annual salary (up to a maximum of \$500,000) rounded up to the next thousand. Coverage is provided through AXA Assurances. Coverage begins after a thirty-day waiting period.

Employee Cost is: \$0.00705/\$1,000 per month

OPTIONAL BENEFITS

If you wish to apply for any of the benefits below, please contact a benefit administrator to confirm eligibility and to request the required paperwork.

*Please note that Dependent Life Insurance can be applied for during your initial enrollment in the benefits. If applying after 31 days, you will be required to complete additional paperwork.

DEPENDENT LIFE INSURANCE – Participation is optional and available to all permanent or long assignment employees working at least 15 hours/week. This is Life Insurance in the amount of \$5,000 for a spouse and \$2,500 for each dependent child. This insurance is provided through Manulife Financial. Coverage begins after a thirty-day waiting period. Evidence of Insurability is required if you apply for insurance more than 31 days after becoming eligible to apply. Employee Cost is: \$2.41 per month

OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE – Participation is optional and available to all active permanent or long assignment employees working at least 15 hours/week. An employee can apply for insurance for themselves and/or their spouse in units of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$300,000. Rates are based on age, sex, and smoking status, as shown in the chart below. Medical evidence is required on a form that is provided through Manulife Financial. Employees pay 100% of the premium. Premiums are deducted twice per month.

Optional Life Rates (MONTHLY RATES per \$10,000)				
Age Band	MALE		FEMALE	
	Smoker	Non-Smoker	Smoker	Non-Smoker
<25	0.734	0.542	0.248	0.202
25-29	0.624	0.404	0.248	0.202
30-34	0.624	0.377	0.359	0.276
35-39	0.892	0.560	0.542	0.359
40-44	1.524	0.955	0.863	0.569
45-49	2.791	1.680	1.396	0.863
50-54	4.747	2.846	2.360	1.478
55-59	8.015	4.811	4.260	2.681
60-64	13.201	8.125	7.024	4.278
65-69	19.876	12.238	10.374	6.426

VOLUNTARY ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT – Participation is optional and available to all active permanent or long assignment employees working at least 15 hours/week status. This provides additional insurance in the event of loss of life, dismemberment, or paralysis. This is available to the Employee or to the Employee and Family, in units of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$300,000. Employees pay 100% of the monthly premium. The cost per \$10,000 of coverage is \$0.141 for Employee Plan or \$0.253 for Employee and Family Plan.

Employee Cost per \$10,000 is: \$0.0141/\$1,000 per month (employee plan)
 \$0.0253/\$1,000 per month (employee & family plan)

CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE– Participation is optional and available to all active permanent employees and employees in a long assignment of at least 4 years under the age of 70, working at least 0.4 full-time status. An employee can apply for insurance for themselves and/or their spouse in units of \$5,000 from a minimum of \$10,000 to an overall maximum of \$150,000. Medical evidence is required for amounts over \$25,000. Rates are based on age, sex, and smoking status, as shown in the chart below. Employees pay 100% of the premium. Premiums are deducted twice per month.

Optional Critical Illness Rates per \$5,000				
Rates as at September 1, 2015				
Age Band	Male Smoker	Male Non-Smoker	Female Smoker	Female Non-Smoker
< 20	0.19	0.19	0.22	0.22
20 – 24	0.34	0.31	0.34	0.34
25 – 29	0.59	0.46	0.71	0.59
30 – 34	0.80	0.53	1.11	0.80
35 – 39	1.20	0.65	1.57	0.99
40 – 44	2.49	1.02	2.80	1.39
45 - 49	4.90	1.73	4.47	1.81
50 – 54	8.22	2.71	6.92	2.52
55 – 59	12.75	4.10	8.81	3.01
60 – 64	19.43	6.38	13.86	4.81
65	21.37	7.01	15.25	5.29
66	23.51	7.72	16.77	5.82
67	25.86	8.49	18.45	6.40
68	28.44	9.33	20.29	7.04
69	31.29	10.27	22.32	7.74

DEPENDENT CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE– Participation is optional and available to all active permanent employees and employees in a long assignment of at least 4 years, under the age of 70, working at least 0.4 full-time status. An employee can apply for \$10,000 of insurance coverage for their dependent children. The cost is \$5.20 per month for \$10,000 of coverage per family. Employees pay 100% of the premium. Premiums are deducted twice per month.