

Applying for Mortgage Protection after recovering from cancer

Zurich, along with the other members of Insurance Ireland, have signed up to a new Code of Practice called the **Insurance Ireland Code of Practice for Underwriting Mortgage Protection Insurance for Cancer Survivors**. This new code aims to ensure that former cancer patients who have successfully overcome their illness can get easier access to mortgage protection policies.

What does the new Code mean for cancer survivors?

The introduction of the new code means that when underwriting **decreasing mortgage term protection** Zurich will disregard a disclosed cancer diagnosis if:

- Treatment ended more than seven years prior to the application for mortgage protection (or more than five years if the applicant was under age 18 at the time of diagnosis); and,
- the insured sum does not exceed €500,000 per applicant; and,
- the policy is connected to a mortgage on a principal private residence; and,
- the application is for a new individual decreasing term life policy with no serious illness attached i.e. only applies for pure life cover.



What is the definition of ‘treatment has ended’?

Treatment has ended means being in “*complete remission*” and “*active treatment*” having ended seven or more years prior to the date of the application where the cancer was diagnosed when the applicant was aged over 18; and having ended five or more years prior to the date of application where the applicant was aged under 18 at time of diagnosis.

“*Complete remission*” is determined by a cancer survivor’s treating oncologist. This includes the absence of signs and symptoms related to a disclosed cancer diagnosis which may be determined by, but not limited to, physical examination, radiological investigation, and serum biomarkers.

The term “*active treatment*” represents the use of surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, biological agents, immunotherapy, bone marrow transplant or any evidence-based medical approaches to cure a cancer. These therapies may have been employed in both the primary (adjuvant and neoadjuvant) settings and secondary setting. The term “*active treatment*” excludes anti-hormonal medications, or any form of preventative therapy or medicine designed to reduce recurrence risk following complete remission.

How does the new code improve access to mortgage protection?

Under the new code, Zurich will disregard any cancer history when underwriting a policy for cancer survivors that qualify under the code. Instead, we will consider the case under the new Code of Practice and will not seek medical evidence unless other medical conditions necessitate this evidence.

Zurich will not charge an additional premium and will not refuse cover as a result of these previous cancers. However, you should note, if you have other medical issues, these may result in an additional premium or refusal of cover, even with a cancer history being disregarded.

Do cancer survivors that meet the criteria still need to disclose their history of cancer?

Yes, regardless of the new code, cancer survivors are still legally obliged to answer the questions in the application form honestly and with reasonable care. However, provided the necessary criteria is met, Zurich will underwrite the policy and give them a premium rate as if the cancer never happened.



For more detail on what this means for you, simply speak to your Financial Broker or Advisor, or visit zurich.ie

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Intended for distribution within the Republic of Ireland.

GR: 8296 Print Ref: ZL PSA 8296 1123

