

Underwriting philosophy for offering Insurance coverage to Persons with Mental Illness and Disability

Mental and psychological illnesses are often challenging to deal with and need long drawn treatments. Today, more and more people are open about mental issues than they were in the past and this gradual shift has impacted the way insurance policies need to be framed.

“Mental Illness” refers to a variety of illness and medical conditions as listed in widely accepted manuals like the Diagnostic and Statistical manual of Mental disorders (DSM) or the International classification of Disease (ICD).

Mental health disorders are syndromes characterized by significant disturbance in a person’s cognition, emotional regulation and behavior resulting from a disturbance in the psychological, biological or developmental processes that underpin mental functioning. Mental illness can also be a reflection of underlying organic disease like people suffering from incurable cancer etc, who can be depressed sometimes. Treatment will be based on the overall risk factors.

Likewise, there are a wide range of medical conditions classified under 'Disabilities', most common being physical and mental disabilities.

Types of Disabilities:

- Physical disability- disability pertaining to person’s mobility
- Intellectual or Learning Disabilities
- Psychiatric disabilities
- Visual or hearing impairments
- Neurological disabilities

KLI offers insurance cover to applicants suffering from mental illness / disability on a case to case basis depending on our underwriting guidelines.

To ensure fair underwriting decision, the following information is considered whilst underwriting the proposal for insurance from applicants with disability and/or mental illness. The underwriting practice for these illnesses is in line with the underwriting practices followed for any other medical conditions. (e.g.: Diabetes, Heart Disease etc.)

Below information will assist in fair risk assessment and equitable underwriting decision on the proposal:

- Ability of the applicant to enter a legally valid contract
- Insurable interest & need for Insurance cover
- Exact medical diagnosis, cause and duration of onset. Treatment modalities since inception of the medical condition, including previous medical records and all follow up papers till date



- Gainful employment
- Lifestyle related information
- Medical examination if required as per underwriting guidelines
- Appropriate medical questionnaires and other relevant documents as required

The on-boarding of risk will be based on objective underwriting criteria and basis the risk represented. Actual selection criteria & extra premiums for each condition depends on variability of presentation of the case.

The intent is to ensure that every applicant is underwritten on merit and that there is no discrimination in granting Insurance coverage to people suffering from Disabilities or Mental illnesses.