

STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

A Stock Life Insurance Company
900 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204-1282
(503) 321-7000

People. Not Just Policies.®

CERTIFICATE

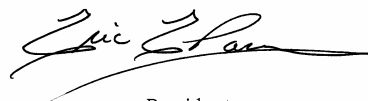
GROUP SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

Policyholder:	Southern Medical Association
Policy Number:	640885-F
Effective Date:	July 1, 2003
Classification:	Physicians, Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners

The Group Policy has been issued to the Policyholder. We certify that you will be insured as provided by the terms of the Group Policy. If the terms of this Certificate differ from the terms of the Group Policy, the latter will govern. If your coverage is changed by an amendment to the Group Policy, we will provide the Policyholder with a revised Certificate or other notice to be given to you.

Possession of this Certificate does not necessarily mean you are insured. You are insured only if you meet the requirements set out in this Certificate.

"You" and "your" mean the Member. "We", "us" and "our" mean Standard Life Insurance Company. Other defined terms appear with the initial letters capitalized. Section headings, and references to them, appear in boldface type.



President

GC190-STD/S399

Table of Contents

COVERAGE FEATURES	1
GENERAL POLICY INFORMATION	1
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE.....	1
PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS.....	2
INSURING CLAUSE.....	3
BECOMING INSURED	3
WHEN YOUR INSURANCE BECOMES EFFECTIVE	3
ACTIVE WORK PROVISIONS	4
WHEN YOUR INSURANCE ENDS.....	4
REINSTATEMENT OF INSURANCE.....	4
DEFINITION OF DISABILITY	5
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION EXPENSE BENEFIT	5
TEMPORARY RECOVERY.....	5
WHEN STD BENEFITS END	6
PREDISABILITY EARNINGS.....	6
BENEFITS AFTER INSURANCE ENDS OR IS CHANGED	7
EFFECT OF NEW DISABILITY	7
DISABILITIES EXCLUDED FROM COVERAGE.....	7
LIMITATIONS	8
CLAIMS	9
ALLOCATION OF AUTHORITY	11
TIME LIMITS ON LEGAL ACTIONS	11
INCONTESTABILITY PROVISIONS	11
CLERICAL ERROR, AGENCY AND MISSTATEMENT.....	12
TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE GROUP POLICY	12
DEFINITIONS.....	13

Index of Defined Terms

Active Work, Actively At Work, 4
Allowable Periods, 5

Benefit Waiting Period, 2, 13

Contributory, 13

Eligibility Waiting Period, 1
Employer, 13
Evidence Of Insurability, 3

Group Policy, 13
Group Policy Effective Date, 1
Group Policy Number, 1

Hospital, 13

Injury, 13

Maximum Benefit Period, 2, 13
Member, 1, 3

Mental Disorder, 13

Noncontributory, 13

Physical Disease, 13
Physician, 13
Policyholder, 1
Predisability Earnings, 6
Pregnancy, 13
Prior Plan, 13
Proof Of Loss, 9

Reasonable Accommodation Expense
Benefit, 5

STD Benefit, 1, 14

Temporary Recovery, 5

War, 7

COVERAGE FEATURES

This section contains many of the features of your short term disability (STD) insurance. Other provisions, including exclusions, limitations, appear in other sections. Please refer to the text of each section for full details. The Table of Contents and the Index of Defined Terms help locate sections and definitions.

GENERAL POLICY INFORMATION

Group Policy Number:	640885-F
Policyholder:	Southern Medical Association
Employer(s):	See Definitions
Group Policy Effective Date:	July 1, 2003
Policy Issued in:	Alabama

Member means:

1. A regular member or associate member in good standing of the Policyholder (or American College of Radiology by virtue of an institutional agreement) who is Actively At Work at least 30 hours each week; and
2. A citizen or resident of the United States or Canada.

Member does not include a temporary or seasonal employee, a full-time member of the armed forces of any country or a leased employee.

For purposes of the Member definition, Actively At Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as the person is capable of Active Work on those days.

SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

Eligibility Waiting Period:	You are eligible on one of the following dates: If you are a Member on the Group Policy Effective Date, you are eligible on that date. If you become a Member after the Group Policy Effective Date, you are eligible on the date you become a Member.
-----------------------------	--

Eligibility Waiting Period means the period you must be a Member before you become eligible for insurance.

STD Benefit:	You may apply for insurance in increments of \$500, from \$1,000 to \$2,500.
--------------	--

The amount of STD Benefit that you choose may not exceed 70% of your weekly Predisability Earnings.

Your choice of one of the following options:

Benefit Waiting Period:

	Option 1:	Option 2:	Option 3:	Option 4:
For Disability caused by accidental Injury:	14 days	14 days	29 days	29 days
For Disability caused by Physical Disease, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder:	14 days	14 days	29 days	29 days

Maximum Benefit Period: 75 days 165 days 60 days 150 days

However, STD Benefits will end on the date long term disability benefits become payable to you under a group plan, even if that occurs before the end of the Maximum Benefit Period.

If you are Disabled for less than one full week, we will pay one-seventh of the STD Benefit for each day of Disability.

PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Insurance is: Contributory

INSURING CLAUSE

If you become Disabled while insured under the Group Policy, we will pay STD Benefits according to the terms of the Group Policy after we receive Proof Of Loss satisfactory to us.

ST.IC.OT.1

BECOMING INSURED

To become insured you must be a Member, complete your Eligibility Waiting Period, and meet the requirements in **Active Work Provisions** and **When Your Insurance Becomes Effective**.

You are a Member if you are:

1. A regular member or associate member in good standing of the Policyholder (or American College of Radiology by virtue of an institutional agreement) who is Actively At Work at least 30 hours each week; and
2. A citizen or resident of the United States or Canada.

Member does not include a temporary or seasonal employee, a full-time member of the armed forces of any country or a leased employee.

For purposes of the Member definition, Actively At Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as the person is capable of Active Work on those days.

Eligibility Waiting Period means the period you must be a Member before you become eligible for insurance. Your Eligibility Waiting Period is shown in the **Coverage Features**.

(VAR MBR DEF) ST.BL.OT.1X

WHEN YOUR INSURANCE BECOMES EFFECTIVE

A. When Insurance Becomes Effective

Subject to the **Active Work Provisions**, your insurance becomes effective as follows:

Insurance subject to Evidence Of Insurability becomes effective on the date we approve your Evidence Of Insurability.

B. Takeover Provisions

You must submit satisfactory Evidence Of Insurability to become insured if you were eligible for insurance under the Prior Plan for more than 31 days but were not insured.

C. Evidence Of Insurability Requirement

Evidence Of Insurability satisfactory to us is required:

- a. For all Short Term Disability insurance.
- b. For late application for Contributory insurance.
- c. For Members eligible for more than 31 days but not insured under the Prior Plan.
- d. For reinstatements if required.

Providing Evidence Of Insurability means you must:

1. Complete and sign our medical history statement;
2. Sign our form authorizing us to obtain information about your health;
3. Undergo a physical examination, if required by us, which may include blood testing; and

4. Provide any additional information about your insurability that we may reasonably require.

(VAR EOI_NO 60 DAY PD) ST.EF.OT.1X

ACTIVE WORK PROVISIONS

A. Active Work Requirement

You must be capable of Active Work on the day before the scheduled effective date of your insurance or your insurance will not become effective as scheduled. If you are incapable of Active Work because of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder on the day before the scheduled effective date of your insurance, your insurance will not become effective until the day after you complete one full day of Active Work as an eligible Member.

Active Work and Actively At Work mean performing with reasonable continuity the Material Duties of your Own Occupation at your Employer's usual place of business.

B. Changes In Insurance

This Active Work requirement also applies to any increase in your insurance.

ST.AW.OT.1

WHEN YOUR INSURANCE ENDS

Your insurance ends automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date the last period ends for which a premium, contribution was made for your insurance.
2. The date the Group Policy terminates.
3. The date your employment terminates.
4. The date you cease to be a Member. However, your insurance will be continued until the March 31, June 30, September 30 or December 31 immediately following the date you cease to be Actively at Work, but not beyond the date you become eligible for long term disability coverage under any other group disability plan.

ST.EN.OT.1X

REINSTATEMENT OF INSURANCE

If your insurance ends, you may become insured again as a new Member. However, the following will apply:

1. If you cease to be a Member because of a covered Disability, your insurance will end. However, if you become a Member again immediately after the later of the dates in a. and b., below, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived.
 - a. The date STD Benefits end;
 - b. If you are covered under a group long term disability policy issued by us to the Policyholder, the date long term disability benefits end, provided the long term disability benefits are payable for the same Disability.
2. If you cease to be a Member because of a Disability that is not covered solely because of the exclusion for work related Disabilities, your insurance will end. However, if you become a Member again immediately after workers' compensation temporary benefits end, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived.
3. If your insurance ends because you cease to be a Member for any reason other than item 1 or 2 above, and if you become a Member again within 90 days, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived.

4. If your insurance ends because you fail to make a required premium contribution, you must provide Evidence Of Insurability to become insured again.
5. If your insurance ends because you are on a federal or state-mandated family or medical leave of absence, and you become a Member again immediately following the period allowed, your insurance will be reinstated pursuant to the federal or state-mandated family or medical leave act or law.
6. In no event will insurance be retroactive.

(NONOCC) ST.RE.OT.1

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

You are Disabled if you meet the following Own Occupation definition of Disability.

You are required to be Disabled only from your Own Occupation. You are Disabled from your Own Occupation if, as a result of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder you are unable to perform with reasonable continuity the Material Duties of your Own Occupation.

Note: You are not Disabled merely because your right to perform your Own Occupation is restricted, including a restriction or loss of license.

Own Occupation means any employment, business, trade, profession, calling or vocation that involves Material Duties of the same general character as the occupation you are regularly performing for your Employer when Disability begins. In determining your Own Occupation, we are not limited to looking at the way you perform your job for your Employer, but we may also look at the way the occupation is generally performed in the national economy. If your Own Occupation involves the rendering of professional services and you are required to have a professional or occupational license in order to work, your Own Occupation is as broad as the scope of your license.

Material Duties means the essential tasks, functions and operations, and the skills, abilities, knowledge, training and experience, generally required by employers from those engaged in a particular occupation, that cannot be reasonably modified or omitted. In no event will we consider working an average of more than 40 hours per week to be a Material Duty.

(WITH 40_NO PARTL) ST.DD.OT.1

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION EXPENSE BENEFIT

If you return to work in any occupation for any employer, not including self-employment, as a result of a reasonable accommodation made by such employer, we will pay that employer a Reasonable Accommodation Expense Benefit in an amount agreed to by us, but not to exceed the expenses incurred.

The Reasonable Accommodation Expense Benefit is payable only if the reasonable accommodation is approved by us in writing prior to its implementation.

ST.RA.OT.1

TEMPORARY RECOVERY

You may temporarily recover from your Disability during the Maximum Benefit Period, and then become Disabled again from the same cause or causes, without having to serve a new Benefit Waiting Period. Temporary Recovery means you cease to be Disabled for no longer than the applicable allowable period. See **Definition Of Disability**.

A. Allowable Period

The allowable period of recovery during the Maximum Benefit Period is: a total of 30 days of recovery.

B. Effect Of Temporary Recovery

If your Temporary Recovery does not exceed the Allowable Period, the following will apply.

1. The Predisability Earnings used to determine your STD Benefit will not change.
2. The period of Temporary Recovery will not count toward your Maximum Benefit Period.
3. No STD Benefits will be payable for the period of Temporary Recovery.
4. No STD Benefits will be payable after benefits become payable to you under any other disability insurance plan under which you become insured during your period of recovery.
5. Except as stated above, the provisions of the Group Policy will be applied as if there had been no interruption of your Disability.

ST.TR.OT.2

WHEN STD BENEFITS END

Your STD Benefits end automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date you are no longer Disabled.
2. The date your Maximum Benefit Period ends.
3. The date you die.
4. The date long term disability benefits become payable to you under a group long term disability policy, even if that occurs before the end of the Maximum Benefit Period.
5. The date benefits become payable to you under any other disability insurance plan under which you become insured through employment during a period of Temporary Recovery.
6. The date you fail to provide proof of continued Disability and entitlement to STD Benefits.
7. The date you begin working for any employer.

(NO PARTL_REV LTD LIM) ST.BE.OT.3

PREDISABILITY EARNINGS

Your Predisability Earnings will be based on your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work. Any subsequent change in your earnings will not affect your Predisability Earnings.

Predisability Earnings means your weekly rate of earnings from your Employer, including:

1. Contributions you make through a salary reduction agreement with your Employer to:
 - a. An Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 401(k), 403(b), 408(k), 408(p), or 457 deferred compensation arrangement; or
 - b. An executive nonqualified deferred compensation arrangement.
2. Commissions averaged over the prior 52 weeks or over the period of your employment if less than 52 weeks.
3. Bonuses averaged over the prior 36 months or over the period of your employment if less than 36 months.
4. Shift differential pay.
5. Amounts contributed to your fringe benefits according to a salary reduction agreement under an IRC Section 125 plan.

Predisability Earnings does not include:

1. Overtime pay.
2. Your Employer's contributions on your behalf to any deferred compensation arrangement or pension plan.
3. Any other extra compensation.

If you are paid on an annual contract basis, your weekly rate of earnings is one fifty-second (1/52nd) of your annual contract salary.

If you are paid hourly, your weekly rate of earnings is based on your hourly pay rate multiplied by the number of hours you are regularly scheduled to work per week, but not more than 40 hours. If you do not have regular work hours, your weekly rate of earnings is based on the average number of hours you worked per week during the preceding 52 weeks (or during your period of employment if less than 52 weeks), but not more than 40 hours.

(REG WITH COM_BON) ST.PD.OT.1

BENEFITS AFTER INSURANCE ENDS OR IS CHANGED

During each period of continuous Disability, we will pay STD Benefits according to the terms of the Group Policy in effect on the date you become Disabled. Your right to receive STD Benefits will not be affected by:

1. Any amendment to the Group Policy that is effective after you become Disabled; or
2. Termination of the Group Policy after you become Disabled.

ST.BA.OT.1

EFFECT OF NEW DISABILITY

If a period of Disability is extended by a new cause while STD Benefits are payable, STD Benefits will continue while you remain Disabled. However, 1 and 2 below will apply.

1. STD Benefits will not continue beyond the end of the original Maximum Benefit Period.
2. All provisions of the Group Policy, including the **Disabilities Excluded From Coverage** and **Limitations** sections, will apply to the new cause of Disability.

ST.ND.OT.1

DISABILITIES EXCLUDED FROM COVERAGE

A. War

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by War or any act of War. War means declared or undeclared war, whether civil or international, and any substantial armed conflict between organized forces of a military nature.

B. Intentionally Self-Inflicted Injury

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by an intentionally self-inflicted Injury, while sane or insane.

C. Work Related

You are not covered for a Disability arising out of or in the course of any employment for wage or profit.

D. Violent Or Criminal Conduct

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by your committing or attempting to commit an assault or felony, or actively participating in a violent disorder or riot. Actively participating does not include being at the scene of a violent disorder or riot while performing your official duties.

E. Loss Of License Or Certification

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by the loss of your professional license, occupational license or certification.

(NONOCC) ST.XD.OT.1

LIMITATIONS

A. Care Of A Physician

You must be under the ongoing care of a Physician in the appropriate specialty as determined by us during the Benefit Waiting Period. No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are not under the ongoing care of a Physician in the appropriate specialty as determined by us.

B. Occupational Benefits

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period when you are eligible to receive benefits for your Disability under a workers' compensation law or similar law. If your claim for these benefits is accepted, compromised or settled (whether disputed or undisputed), you must repay us for the full amount of any payments we make to you while your claim for occupational benefits is pending.

C. Paid Sick Leave Or Other Salary Continuation

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period when you are receiving paid sick leave pay, annual or personal leave pay, or other salary continuation, including donated amounts, (but not vacation pay) from your Employer.

D. Working

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period: (a) when you are working for wage or profit for any employer; or (b) when you are self-employed. This limitation applies whether you are working in your Own Occupation or another occupation.

E. Imprisonment

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are confined for any reason in a penal or correctional institution.

F. Return To Work Responsibility

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are able to work in your Own Occupation and able to earn at least 20% of your Predisability Earnings, but you elect not to work.

G. Rehabilitation Program

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are not participating in good faith in a plan, program or course of medical treatment or vocational training or education approved by us unless your Disability prevents you from participating.

(NONOCC_NO PARTL_RTW RSP_MAND REHB) ST.LM.OT.1

CLAIMS

A. Filing A Claim

Claims should be filed on our forms. If you do not receive our forms within 15 days after you ask for them, you may submit your claim in a letter to us. The letter should include the date Disability began, and the cause and nature of the Disability.

B. Time Limits On Filing Proof Of Loss

You must give us Proof Of Loss within 90 days after the end of the Benefit Waiting Period. If you cannot do so, you must give it to us as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than one year after that 90-day period. If Proof Of Loss is filed outside these time limits, your claim will be denied. These limits will not apply while you lack legal capacity.

C. Proof Of Loss

Proof Of Loss means written proof that you are Disabled and entitled to STD Benefits. Proof Of Loss must be provided at your expense.

For claims of Disability due to conditions other than Mental Disorders, we may require proof of physical impairment that results from anatomical or physiological abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques.

D. Documentation

Completed claims statements, a signed authorization for us to obtain information, and any other items we may reasonably require in support of a claim must be submitted at your expense. If the required documentation is not provided within 45 days after we mail our request, your claim may be denied.

E. Investigation Of Claim

We may investigate your claim at any time.

At our expense, we may have you examined at reasonable intervals by specialists of our choice. We may deny or suspend STD Benefits if you fail to attend an examination or cooperate with the examiner.

F. Time Of Payment

We will pay STD Benefits within 60 days after you satisfy Proof Of Loss.

STD Benefits will be paid to you at the end of each week you qualify for them. STD Benefits remaining unpaid at your death will be paid to your estate.

G. Notice Of Decision On Claim

We will evaluate your claim promptly after you file it. Within 45 days after we receive your claim we will send you: (a) a written decision on your claim; or (b) a notice that we are extending the period to decide your claim for 30 days. Before the end of this extension period we will send you: (a) a written decision on your claim; or (b) a notice that we are extending the period to decide your claim for an additional 30 days. If an extension is due to your failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim, the extended time period for deciding your claim will not begin until you provide the information or otherwise respond.

If we extend the period to decide your claim, we will notify you of the following: (a) the reasons for the extension; (b) when we expect to decide your claim; (c) an explanation of the standards on which entitlement to benefits is based; (d) the unresolved issues preventing a decision; and (e) any additional information we need to resolve those issues.

If we request additional information, you will have 45 days to provide the information. If you do not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may decide your claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of your claim, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
- c. Reference to any internal rule or guideline relied upon in making our decision.
- d. A description of any additional information needed to support your claim.
- e. Information concerning your right to a review of our decision.
- f. Information concerning your right to bring a civil action for benefits under section 502(a) of ERISA if your claim is denied on review.

H. Review Procedure

If all or part of a claim is denied, you may request a review. You must request a review in writing within 180 days after receiving notice of the denial.

You may send us written comments or other items to support your claim. You may review and receive copies of any non-privileged information that is relevant to your request for review. There will be no charge for such copies. You may request the names of medical or vocational experts who provided advice to us about your claim.

The person conducting the review will be someone other than the person who denied the claim and will not be subordinate to that person. The person conducting the review will not give deference to the initial denial decision. If the denial was based on a medical judgement, the person conducting the review will consult with a qualified health care professional. This health care professional will be someone other than the person who made the original medical judgement and will not be subordinate to that person. Our review will include any written comments or other items you submit to support your claim.

We will review your claim promptly after we receive your request. Within 45 days after we receive your request for review we will send you: (a) a written decision on review; or (b) a notice that we are extending the review period for 45 days. If the extension is due to your failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim on review, the extended time period for review of your claim will not begin until you provide the information or otherwise respond.

If we extend the review period, we will notify you of the following: (a) the reasons for the extension; (b) when we expect to decide your claim on review; and (c) any additional information we need to decide your claim.

If we request additional information, you will have 45 days to provide the information. If you do not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may conclude our review of your claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of your claim on review, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
- c. Reference to any internal rule or guideline relied upon in making our decision.
- d. Information concerning your right to receive, free of charge, copies of non-privileged documents and records relevant to your claim.
- e. Information concerning your right to bring a civil action for benefits under section 502(a) of ERISA.

The Group Policy does not provide voluntary alternative dispute resolution options. However, you may contact your local U.S. Department of Labor Office and your State insurance regulatory agency for assistance.

I. Assignment

The rights and benefits under the Group Policy are not assignable.

(REV PRIV WRDG) ST.CL.OT.2

ALLOCATION OF AUTHORITY

Except for those functions which the Group Policy specifically reserves to the Policyholder or Employer, we have full and exclusive authority to control and manage the Group Policy, to administer claims, and to interpret the Group Policy and resolve all questions arising in its administration, interpretation, and application of the Group Policy.

Our authority includes, but is not limited to:

1. The right to resolve all matters when a review has been requested;
2. The right to establish and enforce rules and procedures for the administration of the Group Policy and any claim under it;
3. The right to determine:
 - a. Eligibility for insurance;
 - b. Entitlement to benefits;
 - c. Amount of benefits payable;
 - d. Sufficiency and the amount of information we may reasonably require to determine a., b., or c., above.

Subject to the review procedures of the Group Policy, any decision we make in the exercise of our authority is conclusive and binding.

ST.AL.OT.1

TIME LIMITS ON LEGAL ACTIONS

No action at law or in equity may be brought until 60 days after you have given us Proof Of Loss. No such action may be brought more than three years after the earlier of:

1. The date we receive Proof Of Loss; and
2. The time within which Proof Of Loss is required to be given.

ST.TL.OT.1

INCONTESTABILITY PROVISIONS

A. Incontestability Of Insurance

Any statement you make to obtain or to increase insurance is a representation and not a warranty.

No misrepresentation will be used to reduce or deny a claim or contest the validity of insurance unless:

1. The insurance would not have been approved if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given you or any person claiming benefits a copy of the signed written instrument which contains your misrepresentation.

After insurance has been in effect for two years, during the lifetime of the insured, we will not use a misrepresentation to reduce or deny the claim, unless it was a fraudulent misrepresentation.

B. Incontestability Of The Group Policy

Any statement made by the Policyholder or Employer to obtain the Group Policy is a representation and not a warranty.

No misrepresentation by the Policyholder or your Employer will be used to deny a claim or to deny the validity of the Group Policy unless:

1. The Group Policy would not have been issued if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given the Policyholder or Employer a copy of a written instrument signed by the Policyholder or Employer which contains the misrepresentation.

The validity of the Group Policy will not be contested after it has been in force for two years, except for nonpayment of premiums or fraudulent misrepresentations.

ST.IN.OT.1

CLERICAL ERROR, AGENCY AND MISSTATEMENT

A. Clerical Error

Clerical error by the Policyholder, your Employer, or their respective employees or representatives will not:

1. Cause a person to become insured.
2. Invalidate insurance under the Group Policy otherwise validly in force.
3. Continue insurance under the Group Policy otherwise validly terminated.

B. Agency

The Policyholder and your Employer act on their own behalf as your agent, and not as our agent. The Policyholder and your Employer have no authority to alter, expand or extend our liability or to waive, modify or compromise any defense or right we may have under the Group Policy.

C. Misstatement Of Age

If a person's age has been misstated, we will make an equitable adjustment of premiums, benefits, or both. The adjustment will be based on:

1. The amount of insurance based on the correct age; and
2. The difference between the amount paid and the amount which would have been paid if the age had been correctly stated.

ST.CE.OT.1

TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE GROUP POLICY

The Group Policy may be terminated by us or the Policyholder according to its terms. It will terminate automatically for nonpayment of premium. The Policyholder may terminate the Group Policy in whole, and may terminate insurance for any class or group of Members, at any time by giving us written notice.

Benefits under the Group Policy are limited to its terms, including any valid amendment. No change or amendment will be valid unless it is approved in writing by one of our executive officers and given to the Policyholder for attachment to the Group Policy. If the terms of the certificate differ from the Group Policy, the terms stated in the Group Policy will govern. The Policyholder, your Employer, and

their respective employees or representatives have no right or authority to change or amend the Group Policy or to waive any of its terms or provisions without our signed written approval.

We may change the Group Policy in whole or in part when any change or clarification in law or governmental regulation affects our obligations under the Group Policy, or with the Policyholder's consent.

Any such change or amendment of the Group Policy may apply to current or future Members or to any separate classes or groups of Members.

ST.TA.OT.1

DEFINITIONS

Benefit Waiting Period means the period you must be continuously Disabled before STD Benefits become payable. No STD Benefits are payable for the Benefit Waiting Period. See **Coverage Features**.

Contributory means insurance is elective and Members pay all or part of the premium for insurance.

Employer means an employer which (1) participates in the Southern Medical Association, (2) has elected coverage under the Group Policy and (3) has been approved in writing by the Policyowner and us.

Group Policy means the group STD insurance policy issued by us to the Policyholder and identified by the Group Policy Number.

Hospital means a legally operated hospital providing full-time medical care and treatment under the direction of a full-time staff of licensed physicians. Rest homes, nursing homes, convalescent homes, homes for the aged, and facilities primarily affording custodial, educational, or rehabilitative care are not Hospitals.

Injury means an injury to the body.

Maximum Benefit Period means the longest period for which STD Benefits are payable for any one period of continuous Disability, whether from one or more causes. It begins at the end of the Benefit Waiting Period. No STD Benefits are payable after the end of the Maximum Benefit Period, even if you are still Disabled. See **Coverage Features**.

Mental Disorder means any mental, emotional, behavioral, psychological, personality, cognitive, mood or stress-related abnormality, disorder, disturbance, dysfunction or syndrome, regardless of cause (including any biological or biochemical disorder or imbalance of the brain) or the presence of physical symptoms. Mental Disorder includes, but is not limited to, bipolar affective disorder, organic brain syndrome, schizophrenia, psychotic illness, manic depressive illness, depression and depressive disorders, anxiety and anxiety disorders.

Noncontributory means (a) insurance is nonelective and the Policyholder or Employer pay the entire premium for insurance; or (b) the Policyholder or Employer require all eligible Members to have insurance and to pay all or part of the premium for insurance.

Physical Disease means a physical disease entity or process that produces structural or functional changes in your body as diagnosed by a Physician.

Physician means a licensed M.D. or D.O., acting within the scope of the license. Physician does not include you or your spouse, or the brother, sister, parent, or child of either you or your spouse.

Pregnancy means your pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including complications of pregnancy.

Prior Plan means your Employer's group short term disability insurance plan in effect on the day before the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy and which is replaced by the Group Policy.

STD Benefit means the weekly benefit payable to you under the terms of the Group Policy.

ST.DF.OT.1X

AL/STDC2000X