

TIPS ON T.I.P.S. SUMMARY

Waiting Periods for Visitor to Canada Plans

There is always a waiting period on a Visitor to Canada policy if insurance is purchased or Activated after arrival or after a prior 21st Century policy (insuring the same visit to Canada) has expired (eg. there is a gap in coverage). There are two exceptions as follows:

1. Another 21st Century policy is still in force when the next policy is purchased to start immediately after the existing policy expires (no gap in coverage), or
2. The waiting period is specifically waived by 21st Century (a Special Consideration Form must be approved by an authorized 21st Century representative)

Whether there is a gap in coverage or not, a waiting period also applies when certain changes in coverage are made from one policy to the next (insuring the same visit to Canada) as follows:

1. The next policy is purchased with a deductible that is lower than the deductible on the prior 21st Century policy. In this case, the higher deductible from the prior policy will apply throughout the waiting period on the new policy for any sickness.
2. The next policy is purchased to cover pre-existing conditions when the prior 21st Century policy did not cover pre-existing conditions. In this case, any sickness claims would be subject to the waiting period on the new policy.
3. The next policy is purchased with a higher coverage amount than the prior 21st Century policy. In this case, the lower coverage limit from the prior policy would apply during the waiting period on the new policy for any sickness.

Under age 86, the waiting period is 72 hours if a policy is purchased within 30 days of arrival (or if a Monthly pay policy is not Activated before arrival but is Activated within the first 30 days of arrival) and the waiting period is 7 days if purchased or Activated more than 30 days after arrival. For age 86+ (Basic Plan), whenever a waiting period applies, it is 15 days.

IMPORTANT - One of the most common misunderstandings we hear from agents relates to whether the 72 hour or the 7-day waiting period applies when there is a gap in coverage during a trip. It is important to remember that if an existing 21st Century policy expires before another policy is purchased to continue insurance for the same visit, there will be a waiting period and the length of the waiting period is determined based on the original arrival date – NOT based on the length of the gap in coverage.

Example:

Policy 1 is purchased prior to arrival for 90 days starting from the arrival date on Jan 1 up to and including March 31.

Policy 2 is purchased on April 1 at 9:00 am. There has been a 9-hour gap in coverage. The waiting period on policy 2 is therefore 7 days. It is 7 days because the policy is purchased 91 days after arrival. Some agents may think it should only be a 72-hour waiting period because the gap is less than 30 days but that is not the case. The waiting period is 7 days in this example.