



DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM (DIP)

LONG TERM DISABILITY (LTD) CLAIM APPEALS PROCESS

INITIAL CLAIM FILING OR REQUEST FOR BENEFIT EXTENSION

1. Employee files initial LTD claim or a request for an extension of LTD benefits with The Hartford.
2. The Hartford reviews the claim and approves or denies the request for LTD benefits or the request for an extension of LTD benefits.
3. **IF** LTD benefits are **DENIED OR TERMINATED**, The Hartford provides the employee with specific reason(s) in writing for the denial or termination of benefits, making specific references to LTD policy provisions on which the denial is based. LTD claims that were never in an approved status are considered “denied” claims. LTD claims that were approved for a period of time and then stopped or ended by The Hartford are considered “terminated” claims.

APPEAL – ADMINISTERED BY THE HARTFORD

4. The employee may file an appeal with The Hartford within 180 days of the postmark date of the notice to deny or terminate benefits from The Hartford. The written appeal should be mailed to the following address:

The Hartford Group Benefit Appeals
P.O. Box 14868
Lexington, KY 40512
Tel: (800) 549-6514/ Fax: (866) 411-5613

The written request must include:

- The employee’s name and ID number
- The “State of Delaware” as the name of the program sponsor
- The employee’s disability claim number, and
- Any new information that was not previously submitted to The Hartford. This could mean medical records, test results, or other documentation that supports why the employee is unable to perform the essential duties of their occupation.

DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM (DIP)

LONG TERM DISABILITY (LTD) CLAIM APPEALS PROCESS (CONT'D)

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR APPEAL DEADLINE RELATED TO THE COVID-19 NATIONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES:

Due to COVID-19, a National and a Public Health Emergency were declared which impact the time you have to appeal an adverse determination. The COVID-19 National Emergency ended on April 10, 2023. The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended on May 11, 2023. The period of March 1, 2020 through July 10, 2023 will be disregarded when determining your long term disability appeal filing timeframe. The days during this period will not be counted toward the 180-day deadline to appeal an adverse benefit determination. If you had a denied claim between March 1, 2020 through July 10, 2023, you have until January 6, 2024 to send The Hartford a written appeal request. Be sure to send that on time so you do not lose your right to appeal.

5. Within 45 days of receiving the written appeal, The Hartford will approve, extend, or deny benefits LTD benefits. If the appeal review requires an extension of time, The Hartford will make their decision no more than 90 days from the date the appeal is received. The appeal determination will include specific references to the LTD policy provisions on which the decision is based.