OPTIONAL BASIC ECONOMIC LOSS (OBEL) COVERAGE

A coverage known as Optional Basic Economic Loss (OBEL) coverage is available and is being offered to you as an enhancement of the Basic No-Fault coverage you are presently required to purchase. But before we describe this new coverage, we would like to advise you what benefits Basic No-Fault coverage does and does not provide.

No-Fault coverage, otherwise known as Personal Injury Protection or "PIP" coverage, pays for expenses incurred by persons injured in a motor vehicle accident. This coverage does not pay to repair damage to your automobile.

Basic No-Fault, which you are required by law to purchase, provides coverage of up to $50,000 per person in benefits for:

1. all necessary doctor and hospital bills and other health service expenses, payable in accordance with fee schedules established or adopted by the New York State Insurance Department;
2. 80% of lost earnings up to a maximum monthly payment of $2,000 for up to three years following the date of accident; and
3. up to $25 per day for a period of one year from the date of the accident for other reasonable and necessary expenses the injured person may have incurred because of an injury resulting from the accident, such as the cost of hiring a housekeeper or necessary transportation expenses to and from a health service provider.
4. a $2,000 death benefit, payable to the estate of a covered person, in addition to the $50,000 coverage for economic loss described above.

No-Fault benefits will be reduced by other benefits that are payable under Workers’ Compensation, Social Security Disability, New York State Disability, and certain employer "wage continuation" plans where an employee does not lose any future sick leave benefits.

In addition to the basic No-Fault coverage described, higher limits of up to $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, including payment of up to $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for loss of earnings and up to $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for other reasonable and necessary expenses, are available for purchase upon request.

In addition to Basic No-Fault Coverage, you may now also purchase OBEL coverage that will pay certain expenses, up to $25,000, above the Basic No-Fault limit of $50,000. OBEL coverage is different from other coverages in that a claimant can adjust the kinds of benefits to be paid under OBEL.

If you purchase OBEL coverage and if it appears likely that a claimant will use up the Basic No-Fault coverage, your insurer will send the claimant a form for the claimant to choose what expenses the $25,000 in OBEL coverage will be used to pay. Under No-Fault, a claimant could include you, family members, passengers in your car, or pedestrians, if injured in an auto accident.

The claimant will be able to choose one of the following four OBEL options and thereby direct the insurer to pay expenses for:

1. basic economic loss, whether health care expenses, loss of earnings from work, or other reasonable and necessary expenses;
2. loss of earnings from work;
3. psychiatric, physical or occupational therapy and rehabilitation; or
4. a combination of options 2 and 3.

The additional $25,000 of OBEL coverage will be used only for costs incurred under the chosen option, which, once selected, the claimant cannot change.

You must let us know now if you wish to purchase OBEL coverage.

If you have any questions, please contact your company or agent.