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FINANCIAL SERVICES

The critical factor

Are you protected should serious illness strike?

Although we're four times more likely to claim on a critical illness policy than a life insurance policy before the age of 65^[1], fewer than one in 10 (8%) of us have critical illness insurance, and only a third (33%) have life cover, according to Scottish Widows^[2].

COMMON DIAGNOSES

According to the statistics published, prostate cancer is the most common cause of cancer in men in the UK, with around 130 being diagnosed every day, and one in eight having this type of cancer during their lifetime^[3]. And ovarian cancer is the sixth most common cancer in females in the UK, with around 20 women being diagnosed every day.

Meanwhile, 16,000 people each year are diagnosed with a brain tumour, and more people under 40 die of a brain tumour than from any other cancer^[4]. Scottish Widows paid out more than £5.5million in critical illness claims relating to prostate cancer, ovarian cancer and brain tumours in 2014^[5], which collectively accounted for more than 10% of all cancer claims that year.

The average age of diagnosis for prostate cancer in 2014 was 56, while the average age for ovarian cancer was 50. Almost three quarters (74%) of brain tumour claimants were male, with the youngest just 13 years of age.

DECREASING PRIORITY

While medical advances mean that more people are surviving conditions that might have caused death in earlier generations, financial protection

is becoming a decreasing priority for most of us. The research has revealed that 80% consider broadband as essential for daily living, while 71% can't get by without a mobile phone. In contrast, only 28% feel that protecting their families in case they become critically ill or unable to work is a necessity. ■

Source data:

- [1] ONS
- [2] Scottish Widows Protection Report 2015
- [3] Cancer Research UK
- [4] Brain Tumour Research
- [5] Based on Scottish Widows and Clerical Medical claims

TIME TO REVIEW YOUR SITUATION?

Although the here and now tends to dominate when it comes to the way we assess our needs, it's more important now than ever to have an appropriate plan in place at the right time to protect your home and family. To make sure you have the right plans in place, or to review your situation, please contact us – we look forward to hearing from you.

Information is based on our current understanding of taxation legislation and regulations. Any levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation are subject to change. Tax treatment is based on individual circumstances and may be subject to change in the future. Although endeavours have been made to provide accurate and timely information, we cannot guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No individual or company should act upon such information without receiving appropriate professional advice after a thorough review of their particular situation. We cannot accept responsibility for any loss as a result of acts or omissions.