

How do you feel about you giving your parent a bath? Long Term Care Insurance?

There always is a certain joy that glows in a parents face when they are taking care of a new born child that is sparked by love. However, that same love for a parent doesn't change the expression of fear that shows on that same child's face at the prospect of giving their parent a bath.

Many of the articles you read today are based on the importance of saving for retirement! While we must all save for retirement, it is equally important for us to also make arrangements to protect those assets from depleting. Health care costs could greatly deplete those savings; however, it is about much much more than that?

What if you were if were stricken with a long term illness or injury? Who will take care of you? What are the costs? How will that injury or illness affect the other members of your family? How will it affect your family members emotionally?

The Employee Benefit Research Institute in June 2009 projected that a male retiree will need somewhere between \$68,000-\$173,000 in savings to have a 50% probability of being able to cover retirement health care premiums and out-of-pocket expenses. For women, the projected need is somewhere between \$98,000-\$242,000 in savings and the probability is the same.

From the Guide for Long-Term Insurance produced by the America's Health Insurance Plans a study by the US Department of Health and Human Services indicates that people that reach age 65 have a 40% chance of entering a nursing home during their lifetime.

Let's put this in perspective, if you had a chance 40% chance of winning the lottery, how many lottery tickets would you buy? For those of you that enjoy a day at the race-track, if your horse has a 40% chance of winning, would you bet on that horse? In both cases the answer is a resounding, YES!

However, when we look into the future, many people we talk to believe that they are never going to need any assistance in life even though the statistics show it is quite possible. Then they say that if a long term injury or illness does happen, their kids are going to take care of them.

Do they have the training, the time or space to take care of their loved one? If a child answers NO to that question, then they are faced with the decision hiring a home health care aide or do they decide to place their parent in a nursing home? What is best?

The average cost for a 1 year stay in a semi-private room in a nursing home around Chicago is approximately \$66,000. The costs for a Home Health Care in Illinois can range from \$13 to \$200 per hour for care. Those fees don't include the expenses of maintaining a home, medication and regular daily living expenses.

So with the high cost of health care after the age of 65, what is a person to do? The answer is that each family (especially if there is a history of long term illnesses) should consider the purchase of a long term care policy.

A long term care policy will provide the funds needed

Kids will accept the responsibility of taking care of a loved one and most of the time it is because they don't have a choice.