Long-term Care Insurance: Basic Pricing and Rate Increase Concepts

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Purpose

- To provide a basic explanation of:
  - Long-term care (LTC) insurance product features
  - Pricing
  - Reserves
  - Premium rate increases
- The explanation is very simplified and meant for a non-technical audience
LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PRODUCTS
101
LTC Insurance Benefits

LTC INSURANCE PAYS OUT...

UPON DISABILITY

MANY POLICIES ALSO REQUIRE RECEIPT OF LTC SERVICES

AT HOME

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

NURSING HOME
LTC Insurance Benefits

Not a lump sum:
a benefit is paid each day up to a maximum benefit per day

Limit on total amount paid out

Many policies do not pay:
• During the entire disability episode
• Until the disability lasts a certain amount of time

By law, policies must cover the insured for his entire life.
• Option to automatically increase benefits each year is offered at purchase, so they keep up with increases in costs of care
The Chance of Using Benefits

**LOW chance of use**
- MARRIED COUPLES
- RIGHT AFTER PURCHASING COVERAGE

**HIGH chance of use**
- INDIVIDUALS LIVING ALONE
- + AGE

[Graph showing years after buying coverage vs. chance of use]
Premiums

Premium rates are expected to be at a level amount.
However, claims are expected to increase over time.

This creates a cash flow mismatch for insurers.
Premiums

Premium rates are expected to be at a **level amount**. However, **claims** are expected to **increase** over time. Insurers must set aside **some of the premiums** in early years in a **reserve**.
Premiums

Premium rates are expected to be at a level amount. However, claims are expected to increase over time. Insurers must set aside some of the premiums in early years in a reserve. Insurers use this reserve to fund claims in later years.
Setting Premiums Aside

Premium dollars are used as follows:

- Policy Administration
- Agent Commissions
- State & Federal Taxes
- Distribution to Shareholders as Profit
- Reserve Fund to Pay Future Benefits
The Reserve is Like a Savings Account

Like a savings account, it earns **INTEREST**

- The savings account is held for the benefit of all the policyholders.
- It can only be used to pay benefits for those who become disabled.
- It is not paid to people who die or stop paying premiums.
The Net Premiums are Like Scheduled Deposits

The scheduled deposit amount (premium rate) is determined at the beginning based on estimates about:

1. Amount that will be withdrawn (benefit payments)
2. Interest rate that will be earned

If either of these estimates are different, the account may not have enough to cover future withdrawals.
WHAT CAN GO WRONG?
Changes in economic conditions in the past 20 years have led to a dramatic drop in interest rates.

Many companies assumed that interest rates would be **6% to 8%** when products were priced in the **1990s**.

Rates have dropped to **3% to 4%**.
Withdrawals From the Savings Account

The amount of funds withdrawn is dependent on 3 key things:

1. The number of people that keep their policies up to the point when benefits begin to be paid

More people have kept their policies than originally expected. People are also living longer than originally expected.
Withdrawals From the Savings Account

Of the people who keep their policies, the number of people who use benefits

ASSUMPTION

REALITY

Industry experience has been mixed compared to what was originally thought.
Withdrawals From the Savings Account

Amount that is paid out to people who use benefits

Recall that a lump sum benefit is not paid when a person becomes disabled.

Amount paid will not be known in advance.

This amount paid is estimated based on past observations.

It will depend on:
- Number of days of disability
- Intensity of care
- Cost of care

Length of time in nursing homes has not changed much. However, more people are receiving care in assisted living facilities, where people live longer. This has led to higher benefits being paid.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ESTIMATES ARE NOT REALIZED?
A Simple Savings Plan Example

**ORIGINAL GOAL:** $10,000 in 10 years
When Not Enough is Saved: Need to “Catch-Up”

**ORIGINAL GOAL:** $10,000 in 10 years

**NEW GOAL AFTER 6\(^{TH}\) YEAR:** $12,000 is needed by 10\(^{th}\) year

Needed to **increase deposits by 50% (to $1,500)** to meet goal
With Hindsight

THE “HINDSIGHT” DEPOSIT SCHEDULE

Needed to increase deposits by 20% (to $1,200) to meet goal

YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 | YEAR 3 | YEAR 4 | YEAR 5 | YEAR 6 | YEAR 7 | YEAR 8 | YEAR 9 | YEAR 10

$0 | $2,000 | $4,000 | $6,000 | $8,000 | $10,000 | $12,000

$ SAVED
CURRENT YEAR

$ SAVED
PREVIOUS YEAR(S)
Application of the Simple Example: How it Should Work

In this example of a block of LTC policies, at a given point in time:

**EXAMPLE: NET PREMIUMS (DEPOSITS) AND THE RESERVE FUND ARE ENOUGH TO FUND FUTURE BENEFITS**

This model shows the two sides in balance.
Out of Balance

In this example of a block of LTC policies, at a given point in time:

**EXAMPLE: EXPECTED FUTURE WITHDRAWALS OUTWEIGH THE DEPOSIT SCHEDULE**

The two sides are out of balance. There will not be enough money to fund benefit payments.
restore balance: premium rate increase

in this example of a block of LTC policies, a premium rate increase is implemented to restore balance:

example: premium rate increases restore balance

balance is restored via rate increases.
In this example, a premium rate increase is implemented, but it is not enough to restore balance:

Other funding must come from:

**Company surplus:** one-time “deposit” which is ultimately from other policyholders or shareholders.

**Other policyholders:** Taken as needed from premiums of other policyholders.
QUESTIONS?