

**Great-West Life**  
your Benefits Solutions People

# GroupLine

News and updates  
for advisors and  
plan sponsors



## Federal government changes EI maximum

The federal government recently announced an increase in the employment insurance (EI) maximum insurable earnings amount and a corresponding increase in the EI weekly maximum benefit. Effective Jan. 1, 2015, maximum insurable earnings will increase to \$49,500 per year. Accordingly, the new maximum EI benefit amount will be \$524 per week (\$49,500 at 55 per cent, over 52 weeks).

Short-term disability (STD) plans that have a maximum set at the EI maximum, rather than at a specific amount, will automatically increase effective Jan. 1.

If your plan has a specific dollar maximum that is less than \$524 per week, and you participate in the EI premium reduction program, you will need to amend your plan to at least \$524 per week in order to remain eligible for the program.

If your STD plan has a specific dollar maximum and you participate in the EI premium reduction program, you may wish to consider amending your plan to a maximum that is automatically adjusted to the EI maximum. This will avoid the need for future amendments whenever the EI maximum changes.

### For more information

Please contact your benefit advisor or Great-West Life representative if you have questions about this change or its impact on your benefit plan.

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