

# 2015 Tax Information

## Tax-Qualified Long Term Care Insurance

If you have questions, call the Genworth  
Advanced Sales team at 800.532.9116  
or email us at [advanced.sales@genworth.com](mailto:advanced.sales@genworth.com)



Long Term Care Insurance underwritten by  
Genworth Life Insurance Company, Richmond, VA, and in New York by  
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# General Information

Unless otherwise stated, any discussion in this guide relating to the tax treatment of tax-qualified long term care insurance (LTCI) premiums addresses only traditional LTCI, not linked benefit products such as life insurance policies and annuities that have tax-qualified LTCI riders.

## Tax-Qualified LTCI

For tax purposes, "tax-qualified" LTCI is generally treated as accident and health insurance (IRC §7702B). Premiums paid for tax-qualified LTCI and benefit payments from such insurance for long term care expenses may be afforded certain favorable income tax treatment under the tax code and regulations.

In general, the term "tax-qualified LTCI" means any insurance if:

- the only insurance protection provided is coverage for tax-qualified long-term care services;
- such insurance does not pay or reimburse expenses incurred for services or items to the extent that such expenses are reimbursable under Medicare or would be reimbursable if there was not a deductible or coinsurance amount;
- such insurance is guaranteed renewable;
- such insurance does not provide for a cash surrender value or other money that can be paid, assigned or pledged as collateral for a loan, or borrowed;
- all refunds of premiums, and all dividends or similar amounts under such insurance, are to be applied as a reduction in future premiums or to increase future benefits; and,
- such insurance meets certain specified consumer protection requirements.

## Eligible Premiums

Only "eligible" LTCI premiums are considered a deductible medical expense on an individual's income tax return (Internal Revenue Code (IRC

§213(d)). Eligible LTCI premiums are the lesser of the actual premiums paid and the age-based limit premiums shown below. Premiums exceeding that limit are not a deductible medical expense (IRC §213(d)). The age-based limits are adjusted annually for inflation.

## Age-Based Long Term Care Insurance Premiums

Age at End of Taxable Year	Premium Limit 2014 Amount	Premium Limit 2015 Amount
40 or less	\$370	\$380
41 through 50	\$700	\$710
51 through 60	\$1,400	\$1,430
61 through 70	\$3,720	\$3,800
71 and older	\$4,660	\$4,750

## Return of Premiums

Although tax-qualified LTCI must generally use any refunds or dividends to reduce future premiums, there are two exceptions: premium refunds paid on the insured's death; and premium refunds paid on surrender or cancellation.

- The tax code and regulations are silent as to whether premium refunds paid on the insured's death are taxable income (IRC §7702B(b)(2)(C)).
- Premium refunds paid on a complete surrender or cancellation of the insurance must be included in the taxpayer's gross income to the extent that the taxpayer was allowed a deduction or exclusion for the premium payments (IRC §7702B(b)(2)(C)).

This is federal law. Customers should seek advice from their tax advisor regarding any potential state tax liability associated with an LTCI premium refund where the taxpayer has received a deduction or credit under state law.

# General Information *(continued)*

## **Jointly Owned LTCI**

A couple may jointly own shared benefit LTCI which insures their joint lives. Some shared benefit LTCI policies are considered joint owners/joint insureds, others are treated as separate owners/insureds linked by a rider. For deductibility purposes, the eligible premium amount for each insured will be the lesser of the portion of the premium attributable to that insured or their age-based limit.

## **Tax Treatment for Same Sex Couples**

A number of states and countries have passed laws legalizing and/or recognizing same sex marriages. The federal Defense of Marriage Act, which became law in 1993, restricted the definition of marriage to a union between a man and a woman. In 2013, the United States Supreme Court, in *United States v. Windsor*, found unconstitutional a key provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. The Court decided that same-sex marital rights must generally be determined in accordance with state law. In subsequent guidance, the Internal Revenue Service ruled that for a same-sex couple to enjoy the same federal rights as an opposite sex married couple, the same-sex couple must be lawfully married under state or foreign law. Individuals in a relationship recognized under state law as a "domestic partnership" or "civil union," but not denominated under state law as a "marriage," should consult with legal counsel to determine their rights as the law continues to develop at both state and federal levels.

If an employer pays the premiums for LTCI on someone other than the employee, their spouse, or a legal dependent of the employee, those premiums are not deductible to the employer nor tax-free to the employee. This rule does not affect deductibility of premiums paid for the employee's LTCI; they will remain tax-deductible to the employer and tax-free to the employee.

Taxpayers are allowed to claim "qualifying relatives" as dependents. The IRC defines a qualifying relative as an individual who depends on the taxpayer for at least half their support during the year, lives in the same residence as the taxpayer and is a member of the taxpayer's household (IRC §152(d)(2)(H)). In appropriate circumstances, a same sex spouse (not recognized as married to the employee under state law) could qualify as a dependent under this definition.

## **HSAs**

A Health Savings Account (HSA) may be used to help pay LTCI premiums on a tax-favored basis. See the discussion on page 15 of this guide for details.

## **Cafeteria Plans and FSAs**

LTCI cannot be offered as part of a cafeteria plan (IRC §125(f)). Additionally, premium payments for tax-qualified LTCI cannot be reimbursed tax-free from a Flexible Spending Account (IRC §106(c)).

## **LTCI Paid for Eligible Retired Public Safety Officers**

Under the Pension Protection Act, an eligible retired public safety officer may request a total of up to \$3,000 per year paid from his or her eligible retirement plan for tax-qualified LTCI premiums for themselves, their spouse and eligible dependents. The payment must be made directly from the plan to the insurer issuing the LTCI. It cannot be made to the individual. This feature is available only if the retirement plan offers it.

A public safety officer includes a paid or volunteer police officer, firefighter, rescue or ambulance squad member, or chaplain. He or she may also be someone who performs official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) duties that are related to disasters or emergencies, and are deemed hazardous. An "eligible retired" public safety officer is one who, because of disability or attainment of normal retirement age, has separated from service.

# General Information *(continued)*

An eligible retirement plan includes a qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plan. Governmental §457(b) plans and §403(b) plans or annuities are eligible retirement plans, but IRAs are not.

If your customer qualifies for the tax benefits under this section, he or she will not have to treat the distribution from their plan as taxable.

## **Linked-Benefit Policies or Contracts – LTCI Coverage Provided as Part of a Life Insurance Policy or Annuity Contract**

In addition to LTCI offered as stand-alone coverage, LTCI may also be provided by a separate rider on or as part of a life insurance policy or annuity contract (IRC §7702B(e)) – also commonly referred to as “linked benefit” policies or contracts. These riders may be either tax-qualified or non-tax-qualified (see explanation of “tax-qualified LTCI” on page 1). Note: LTCI on all Genworth linked benefit products is tax-qualified.

Premiums paid for linked benefit products are treated as premiums to fund the base contract (either a life insurance policy or annuity contract) and are not tax deductible. Monthly LTCI rider charges are also not tax deductible. These rider charges reduce cost basis in the underlying policy/contract, but not below zero.

If the LTCI rider is tax qualified, then benefits paid for qualified long term care expenses are not includible in income. Distributions from a linked benefit policy or contract, other than as qualified long term care benefits, are taxed according the rules governing the underlying life insurance policy or annuity contract.

## **Limited Pay Premiums**

LTCI may also offer the option of paying premiums for a limited time or until a certain date, after which the coverage is paid up. It is not certain that the entire amount paid is eligible for deductibility in the year paid. Customers must consult with their tax advisors.

## **Federal Income Tax Treatment of Benefits Paid**

Benefits paid under tax-qualified LTCI are treated as reimbursements for medical care and are excluded from the taxpayer’s income. There is no limit on this exclusion for insurance that reimburses for actual long term care expenses incurred (Genworth LTCI works this way). Some companies offer insurance that pays a per diem amount for long term care expenses. Benefits paid on a per diem basis, that do not exceed the per diem limit, are federal income tax free. For 2015, this limit is \$330 per day.

## **Gift Tax Issues**

Federal gift tax law allows you to pay the eligible LTCI premiums for another person without having to treat the premium as a taxable gift.

The eligible LTCI premium is the lesser of the age-based premium (see table on page 1) and the actual premiums paid. Under federal gift tax law, the eligible premium is considered a medical care expense (IRC §213(d)(1)(D)). Anyone may pay anyone else’s medical care expenses without the payment being treated as a gift (Reg. §25.2503-6), as long as they pay the money directly to the service provider or institution that provided the care. In the case of LTCI premiums, paying the eligible premiums directly to the insurance company qualifies those premiums for this special gift tax treatment.

Remember that individuals may pay LTCI premiums for their spouses and eligible dependents without those premiums being treated as a gift. In general, taxpayers who itemize their deductions may also deduct those premiums on their federal income tax returns to the extent that all the eligible premiums they paid, plus all other unreimbursed medical expenses, exceed a specified percentage of adjusted gross income.

# General Information *(continued)*

If an individual directly pays LTCI premiums for anyone else, only the eligible premium will be exempted from gift tax treatment. The balance of the premium will be treated as a gift (though no gift tax will be owing if the total gifts the donor makes to that individual during the year do not exceed the annual exclusion, \$14,000 in 2015). As stated above, there will be no deductibility for federal income tax purposes, though the taxpayer may be able to obtain some relief on their state income taxes, depending on the state.

## **State Income Tax Deductions and Credits**

Many states offer an income tax deduction or credit for LTCI premiums paid. See the appendix to this guide for a list of which states offer a deduction or credit. It is important that customers speak with a tax advisor to determine if they may take a state deduction or credit.

# Individual Taxpayers

Purchased by an individual on an after-tax basis.

## ASSUMPTION

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Mary has tax-qualified Genworth Life Insurance Company LTCI with a \$4,500 annual premium. She is 61 years old. In 2015, she had \$3,000 in medical expenses not covered by insurance. Her adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$50,000.

### Deduction for LTCI Premium

LTCI premiums for an individual taxpayer, his or her spouse and eligible dependents are deductible as itemized medical expenses (IRC §213(d)) up to the eligible premium limits (page 1), but only to the extent that those premiums and all other medical expenses not paid by insurance or otherwise reimbursed exceed 10% of AGI. Exception: The deduction threshold is 7.5% of AGI for any year between 2013 to 2016 that you are 65 or older (IRC §213(a)).

In 2015, Mary may apply only \$3,800 of her \$4,500 annual LTCI premium toward deductibility. \$3,800 is the lesser of her age-based limit and the actual premium she paid. To that amount she adds \$3,000 in medical expenses not covered by insurance for a total of \$6,800 in medical expenses.

Mary may deduct those medical expenses that exceed 10% of AGI. Her AGI is \$50,000. Ten percent of \$50,000 is \$5,000. She may therefore deduct \$1,800 from her taxable income (\$6,800 - \$5,000), assuming that she itemizes deductions.

Note that if Mary had not bought LTCI, she would not have had any deductible medical expenses because her other medical expenses totaled only \$3,000, less than 10% of AGI.

### Alternate Minimum Tax

The discussion in this guide and examples do not consider the effect of the Alternate Minimum Tax imposed on certain taxpayers by IRC §55. You should encourage customers who expect to owe this tax to consult with a qualified tax advisor before they take itemized deductions.

### Paying for LTCI Through a Tax-Free Exchange

IRC §1035 permits owners of non-qualified annuities and life insurance to exchange all or a portion of their contracts or policies for tax-qualified LTCI without being taxed on any unrealized gain at the time of transfer. (See also IRS Notice 2011-68.) As long as 1035 exchange requirements are met, any non-qualified deferred or immediate annuity may be used, subject to limitations set by the transferring company.

Any gains transferred as part of a 1035 exchange to pay LTCI premiums would be tax-free. The exchange may be either full or partial. If partial, gain and basis are transferred pro-rata.

Although the IRS has not provided specific guidance on this, it is likely that any premium paid by 1035 exchange would not be eligible for deduction as an itemized medical expense.

# Limited Liability Companies (LLC)

An LLC is not a classification for federal income tax purposes. An LLC with two or more members can choose to be taxed as a C Corporation, S Corporation or Partnership. If there is only one member, the LLC can choose between C Corporation, S Corporation or Sole Proprietorship status.

For LTCI deductibility purposes, please refer to the applicable section of this guide based on the federal income tax classification of the LLC.



# Sole Proprietors

Sole Proprietor pays LTCI premiums for self and/or employees. Coverage may be offered through individual policies or group certificates.

## ASSUMPTION

Mary is a sole proprietor and has tax-qualified Genworth Life Insurance Company LTCI with a \$4,500 annual premium. She is 61 years old. In 2015, she had \$3,000 in medical expenses not covered by insurance. Her adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$50,000.

## Deduction for LTCI Premium

A sole proprietor (with a reportable net profit) may deduct eligible LTCI premiums as accident and health insurance, including premiums that they pay for themselves, their spouse and eligible dependents. They need not consider the percentage of AGI threshold for deductibility of medical expenses (IRC §162(l)). Though often referred to as a deduction, this item is really an adjustment to income. It reduces a self-employed person's gross income, but does not reduce their net earnings subject to self-employment tax (IRC §162(l)(4)). Furthermore, to the extent that a self-employed person uses this adjustment to reduce income, the adjustment cannot be used to determine the amount the self-employed person may take as a medical expense deduction (IRC §162(l)(3)).

This adjustment is taken as an "above-the-line" deduction on the 1040 return.

Mary's LTCI premium is \$4,500, but her age-based premium is \$3,800. She may deduct \$3,800, her eligible premium, in 2015. Since she is self-employed, she may take this deduction without regard to whether this amount exceeds 10% of her AGI. The remaining \$700 of her LTCI premium is not considered a medical expense and is not deductible.

Because she deducted \$3,800 of her LTCI premium from her income, her AGI is reduced by \$3,800 to \$46,200. Although she had \$3,000 in other medical expenses not covered by insurance, she may not deduct them because \$3,000 does not exceed 10% of her new AGI.

In this example, Mary is self-employed for the entire year. The "Self-Employed Health Insurance Deduction Worksheet" in IRS Publication 535 says that Mary may not deduct LTCI premiums for any month she may have participated in a LTCI plan subsidized by her employer or her spouse's employer. (Even though she is self-employed, she could still be an employee of another business.) Note that eligibility to participate is what makes Mary lose this deduction; it is not important whether she actually participates.

The tax treatment discussed here results in greater deductibility for Mary than she would have had as an individual. Had Mary added the \$3,800 eligible LTCI premium to the \$3,000 she had in medical expenses not covered by insurance (\$6,800 in total), her deduction would be only \$1,800 (\$6,800 - \$5,000 [10% x \$50,000]), \$2,000 less than the deduction she may take as a self-employed person.

The 162(l) deduction is available even if the taxpayer owns the LTCI in his or her name rather than in the name of the business (ILM 200524001 dated 5/17/2005 as to medical insurance costs).

# Sole Proprietors *(continued)*

## **Self-Employed Person Pays Premiums for LTCI on Employee-Spouse**

Many self-employed persons employ their spouse in their business. If the spouse is legitimately employed, the self-employed person may pay the premiums for tax-qualified LTCI on the employee/spouse and deduct the premiums without regard to the age-based limits on page 1 (IRC §162). The employee/spouse does not need to include those premiums in income (IRC §106(a)). Note, however, that this strategy will not work with S Corporations (see page 11).

## **Tax Treatment of LTCI Premiums Paid for Employee**

Employees are not taxed on premiums paid by their employer for LTCI on the employee, the employee's spouse, and the employee's eligible dependents (as defined by IRC §152), even if the premiums exceed the age-based limits discussed on page 1 of this guide (IRC §106(a)). An eligible dependent is someone who depends on the taxpayer for at least half their annual support (IRC §152). Generally, if the taxpayer can claim the person as a dependent on their 1040 return, they are an eligible dependent.

Generally, the employer may deduct such premiums from income (IRC §162), even premiums in excess of the age-based limits. The employer's deduction is allowed for amounts paid for personal services

rendered by the employee to the employer, as long as the total amount paid to the employee, including LTCI premiums, does not represent unreasonable compensation (IRC §162(l) and Rev. Rul. 58-90, 1958-1 C.B. 88). However, see discussion of limited pay premiums on page 3. It is not clear whether premiums paid for employees on a limited pay basis are fully deductible in the year paid.

If the employer is directly or indirectly a beneficiary under the coverage, the employer's deduction will be denied (Rev. Rul. 58-90, 1958-1 C.B. 88).

Although an employer is generally free to select the employees for whom it will pay for long term care insurance coverage, such selection should be based on the individuals' position or performance or other job-related criteria. In the selection of whom to cover, an employer remains subject to generally applicable employment discrimination laws that forbid discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age and other suspect classifications under federal and/or state law. The company should consult with legal counsel familiar with such matters before embarking on a program to provide long term care insurance coverage and should periodically review any such program to ensure that it satisfies all legal requirements.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Genworth will not accept LTCI premiums paid by an employer for a non-owner employee unless it is 100% of the premium cost.

# Partnerships

Partnership pays LTCI premiums for partners and/or employees. Coverage may be offered through individual policies or group certificates.

## ASSUMPTION

ABC is a partnership. It pays the \$4,500 annual premium for a tax-qualified Genworth Life Insurance Company LTCI Mary owns. Mary is 61 years old. In 2015, she had \$3,000 in medical expenses not covered by insurance. Her adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$50,000, not counting the \$4,500 LTCI premiums ABC pays.

## Tax Treatment of Employer

Generally, a partnership may deduct all premiums it pays for accident and health insurance (including premiums paid for tax-qualified LTCI) for its employees, their spouses and eligible dependents (IRC §§152 and 162).

If Mary is an employee (and not a partner), the partnership may pay and deduct the entire LTCI premiums for coverage on Mary, her spouse, and eligible dependents (IRC §152) – even premiums in excess of the age-based limits on page 1 (IRC §162).

If Mary is a partner or the spouse or eligible dependent of a partner (IRC §152), ABC may pay the entire LTCI premiums for Mary, her spouse and eligible dependents – even premiums in excess of the age-based limits on page 1 (IRC §162).

See discussion on page 14 regarding the offering of LTCI only to highly compensated employees.

As long as the LTCI premiums are paid without regard to partnership income they will be considered “guaranteed”<sup>1</sup> payments under IRC §707(c). As such, they will be deductible to the partnership under IRC §162 (subject to IRC §263), and includable in the partners’ incomes under IRC §61 (Rev. Rul. 91-26, 1991-1, C.B. 184).

In our example, the premiums are paid without regard to partnership income (they are “guaranteed”). As a result, ABC may deduct the full \$4,500 premium it pays for Mary’s LTCI regardless of whether Mary is an employee or a partner. If Mary is a partner, ABC reports the premium it pays for Mary’s coverage (and for coverage on Mary’s spouse and eligible dependents) as income to Mary.

## Non-Deductible Premium Payments

Instead of treating premiums as guaranteed payments, the terms of a partnership agreement may account for LTCI premiums paid for a partner as a reduction in distributions to that partner. If so, the premiums would not be deductible by the partnership, nor would payment of those premiums affect distributive shares of partnership income and deductions.

<sup>1</sup> The term “guaranteed” in this context carries a restricted meaning under the IRC. It means that the payment of the LTCI premium for the partners does not come from the partners’ draws (or from the net income left at the end of the year used to make those draws). The partners are “guaranteed” their LTCI premiums only in the limited sense that the partnership treats the LTCI premium payments to them as expenses that must be paid regardless of whether the partnership makes money in a given year or not.

# Partnerships *(continued)*

## **Tax Treatment of Partner**

The IRS treats partners as self-employed persons. As a result, LTCI premiums the partnership pays for each partner (including premiums paid for coverage on a partner's spouse and eligible dependents (IRC §152) are included in the partner's individual income, and reported on each partner's Schedule K-1.

A partner with reportable net income from the partnership may deduct eligible LTCI premiums as accident and health insurance, including premiums for coverage on themselves, their spouse and eligible dependents. The percentage of AGI threshold for deductibility of medical expenses (IRC §162(l)) does not apply. Though often referred to as a deduction, this item is really an adjustment to income. It reduces a partner's gross income, but does not reduce their net earnings subject to self-employment tax (IRC §162(l)(4)). Furthermore, to the extent that a partner uses this adjustment to reduce income, the adjustment cannot be used to determine the amount the partner may take as a medical expense deduction (IRC §162(l)(3)).

This adjustment is taken as an "above-the-line" deduction on the 1040 return.

A partner may not deduct LTCI premiums for any month that she or her spouse is eligible to participate in an employer subsidized LTCI plan. See the discussion on page 7. In this example, Mary is self-employed for the entire year.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Genworth will not accept LTCI premiums paid by an employer for a non-owner employee unless it is 100% of the premium cost.

After ABC pays each partner's LTCI premiums, (and assuming they deduct them as guaranteed payments), the partners' incomes decline by the total amount of premium paid. Since Mary is a partner, her income also declines in proportion to her share of ABC's net income. However, ABC then attributes to her the premium it paid for her LTCI, causing her income to rise by \$4,500.

Since Mary is taxed as a self-employed person, this increase in income is partly offset by the \$3,800 she may deduct (her eligible premium). If the partnership pays the same LTCI premiums for each partner, and if all the partners own equal shares in the partnership, Mary may effectively deduct all but \$700 of her LTCI premium.

## **Tax Treatment of LTCI Premiums Paid for Employees**

If Mary is an employee, she does not include in income the premiums ABC pays for her LTCI, or the premiums ABC pays for LTCI coverage on her spouse or eligible dependents (IRC §152).

However, see the discussion of limited pay premiums on page 3. It is not clear whether premiums paid for employees on a limited pay basis are fully deductible in the year paid.

Although an employer is generally free to select the employees for whom it will pay for long term care insurance coverage, such selection should be based on the individuals' position or performance or other job-related criteria. In the selection of whom to cover, an employer remains subject to generally applicable employment discrimination laws that forbid discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age and other suspect classifications under federal and/or state law. The company should consult with legal counsel familiar with such matters before embarking on a program to provide long term care insurance coverage and should periodically review any such program to ensure that it satisfies all legal requirements.

# S Corporations

S Corporation pays LTCI premiums for shareholders and/or employees. Coverage may be offered through individual policies or group certificates.

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## ASSUMPTION

ABC Corp is an S Corporation. It pays the \$4,500 annual premium for tax-qualified Genworth Life Insurance Company LTCI coverage on Mary. Mary is 61 years old. In 2015, she had \$3,000 in medical expenses not covered by insurance. Her adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$50,000, not counting the \$4,500 LTCI premiums ABC pays.

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### Tax Treatment of Employer

An S Corporation may deduct LTCI premiums paid both on behalf of its owners (shareholders who individually own more than 2% of the stock) and its employees (including shareholders who individually own 2% or less of the stock). To be deductible, premiums must be paid in consideration for services rendered. The deductions taken by the corporation are not limited to the age-based limits on page 1.

See discussion on page 14 regarding the offering of LTCI only to highly compensated employees.

In our example, ABC may deduct the full \$4,500 premium it pays for Mary's LTCI, regardless of whether Mary is an employee or an owner.

### Tax Treatment of Owner

The IRS treats greater-than-2% S Corporation shareholders as self-employed persons (IRC §1372). As a result, LTCI premiums the S Corporation pays for each greater-than-2% shareholder (including premiums paid for the shareholder's spouse and eligible dependents) are included in the shareholder's income under IRC §61, and reported on their Form W-2 as wages.

However, while Rev. Rul. 91-26 requires an S Corporation owner to include in income (as wages) amounts paid by an S Corporation for accident and health insurance covering them, such payments are not wages for Social Security, Medicare and FUTA tax purposes (IRS Publication 15-B; Announcement 92-16, 1992-5 I.R.B. 53).

S Corporation owners may deduct eligible premiums for accident and health insurance, including LTCI premiums that the S Corporation pays for themselves, their spouses, and eligible dependents. The premiums must be paid under a plan "established by the S Corporation." A plan is considered "established" if the premiums are either directly paid by the S Corporation or paid by the owner and reimbursed by the S Corporation (IRC Notice 2008-1). An owner takes the the adjustment as an "above-the-line" deduction on his or her personal income tax return. The percentage of AGI threshold for deductibility of medical expenses (IRC §162(l)) does not apply.

# S Corporations *(continued)*

A self-employed person may not deduct LTCI premiums for any month when she or her spouse is eligible to participate in an employer subsidized LTCI plan. See the discussion on page 7. In this example, Mary is self-employed for the entire year.

After ABC pays each owner's LTCI premiums, their incomes decline by the total amount of premium paid. If Mary is a greater-than-2% shareholder, her income declines in proportion to her share of ABC's net income. However, ABC has reported on her W-2 the premium it paid for her LTCI, causing her income to rise by \$4,500.

Since Mary is taxed as a self-employed person, this increase in income is partly offset by the \$3,800 she may deduct (her eligible premium). If the S Corporation pays the same LTCI premiums for each owner, and if all the owners have equal shares in the S Corporation, Mary has effectively been able to deduct all but \$700 of her LTCI premium.

## **Tax Treatment of LTCI Premiums Paid for Employees**

If Mary is an employee (including an employee who is also a 2%-or-less shareholder), she does not include in income the premiums ABC pays for her LTCI, or the premiums ABC pays for LTCI owned by her spouse or eligible dependents.

However, see discussion of limited pay premiums on page 3. It is not clear whether premiums paid for employees on a limited pay basis are fully deductible in the year paid.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Genworth will not accept LTCI premiums paid by an employer for a non-owner employee unless it is 100% of the premium cost.

## **S Corporation Owner Pays LTCI Premiums on Employee/Spouse**

One strategy that many self-employed persons use to deduct premiums paid for an employee/spouse's tax-qualified LTCI – employing their spouse in the business – will not work with an S Corporation. The family attribution rules under IRC §318 cause ownership of an individual's S Corporation stock to be attributed to their spouse, children, grandchildren and parents.

As a result, the spouse and family members employed by the S Corporation will be treated as if they were self-employed, not as if they were employees, even if, in fact, they do not personally own any S Corporation stock. They will have to include the LTCI premiums the S Corporation pays for them in income, and will be able to deduct the eligible premium (lesser of paid premiums and the age-based premiums) as if they were self-employed.

Although an employer is generally free to select the employees for whom it will pay for long term care insurance coverage, such selection should be based on the individuals' position or performance or other job-related criteria. In the selection of whom to cover, an employer remains subject to generally applicable employment discrimination laws that forbid discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age and other suspect classifications under federal and/or state law. The company should consult with legal counsel familiar with such matters before embarking on a program to provide long term care insurance coverage and should periodically review any such program to ensure that it satisfies all legal requirements.

# C Corporations

C Corporation employer pays premium on employees' LTCI. Coverage may be offered through individual policies or group certificates.

## ASSUMPTION

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ABC Corp is a C Corporation. It pays the \$4,500 annual premium for tax-qualified Genworth Life Insurance Company LTCI coverage on Mary. Mary is 61 years old, and is an employee of ABC. In 2015, she had \$3,000 in medical expenses not covered by insurance. Her adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$50,000, not counting the \$4,500 LTCI premiums ABC pays.

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## Tax Treatment of Employer

Generally, a C Corporation may deduct all premiums it pays for accident and health insurance (including premiums paid for tax-qualified LTCI) for its employees, their spouses and eligible dependents (IRC §152) – even premiums in excess of the eligible premium limits on page 1 (IRC §162).

See discussion on page 14 regarding the offering of LTCI only to highly compensated employees.

It may not deduct LTCI premiums paid for stockholders who are not employees, or for employees who are not actively participating in the corporation's business, unless that stockholder or inactive employee is also a spouse or eligible dependent of an active employee.

## Selectivity – C Corporation Paying LTCI for Owners

A C Corporation may establish a plan to provide LTCI benefits only to a select group of employees. The plan should be in writing and approved by the corporation's legal counsel. It should clearly define which employees are eligible using classifications

reasonably based on seniority, job title or other criteria related to employment status. It may be possible for the class to include only owner/employees provided the classification used is not also a threshold qualification of ownership. In the selection of whom to cover, an employer remains subject to generally applicable employment discrimination laws that forbid discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age and other suspect classifications under federal and/or state law.

However, if a plan discriminates in favor of C Corporation owner/employees as a class of participants defined solely by ownership status, the IRS may treat the premium payments as dividends to the extent of profits, and then income thereafter.

The corporation should consult with legal counsel familiar with such matters before embarking on a program to provide long term care insurance coverage and should periodically review any such program to ensure that it satisfies all legal requirements.

A C Corporation may deduct the LTCI premiums whether the coverage is provided under group LTCI or under individual LTCI. In our example, ABC Corp may deduct the full \$4,500 premium it pays for Mary's LTCI regardless of whether Mary is a non-owner employee or an owner/employee (even an owner/employee who owns all of the shares of ABC Corp).

A plan may cover one or more employees, and there may be different plans for different employees or classes of employees.

# C Corporations *(continued)*

## **Tax Treatment of Owner or Non-owner Employees**

Mary would have no taxable income from the employer-paid LTCI premiums nor would any benefits she receives under the tax-qualified LTCI be taxable income to her. This applies whether Mary is a non-owner employee or an owner/employee, even an owner/employee who owns all the shares of the employer (IRC §106(a)).

Mary may not treat the \$4,500 premium or any part of it as a medical expense. As a result, she has only \$3,000 in medical expenses for 2015. Since these expenses do not exceed 10% of her AGI ( $\$50,000 \times 10\% = \$5,000$ ), she may not deduct them from income (IRC §213(a)).

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Genworth will not accept LTCI premiums paid by an employer for a non-owner employee unless it is 100% of the premium cost.

## **Offering LTCI Only to Highly Compensated Employees**

Our opinion is that employers may continue to provide LTCI underwritten by the Genworth companies only to highly compensated employees without violating the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Note: Other carriers may offer LTCI bundled with medical insurance that would fall under the non-discrimination rules.

The law: Employers have long been subject to rules under IRC §105(h) prohibiting discrimination in favor of highly compensated employees with respect to self-insured health plans. Additional rules prohibiting discrimination on the basis of salary were adopted with respect to insured health plans in section 1001 of the recently enacted PPACA, adding a new section 2716 to the Public Health Services Act (PHSA). An employer violating the new rules, with respect to

“plan years” beginning on or after September 23, 2010, could be subject to an excise tax of \$100 per day, per insured employee.

Since a tax-qualified LTCI is treated as accident and health insurance under IRC §7702B(a)(1), the concern has been raised regarding whether it is still viable for employers to provide LTCI only for, typically, the business owners, their spouses and a select group of highly paid employees.

The resolution of this important question appears to turn on an exception found in another part of the PHSA, as amended by the PPACA.

As codified in the United States Code (USC) at 42 USC §300gg-21(d)(1), the exception states that the requirements of the portion of the PHSA that include new §2716 do not apply to any health insurance coverage providing “excepted benefits” under §300gg-91(c)(2) if the benefits “(A) are provided under a separate policy, certificate, or contract of insurance; or (B) are otherwise not an integral part of the plan.” Excepted benefits under 42 USC §300gg-91(c)(2), “Benefits not subject to requirements if offered separately,” include “(B) Benefits for long-term care, nursing home care, home health care, community-based care, or any combination thereof.”

There is no official guidance as to what is meant by “are otherwise not an integral part of the plan.” Genworth, though, believes that this provision is addressing LTCI bundled with medical insurance that would be subject to the non-discrimination rules and other existing provisions of the PHSA.

Thus, group and individual LTCI appear to be generally exempt from the new non-discrimination rules adopted in the PPACA.

Given the sanction for non-compliance, any employer maintaining medical insurance, with or without LTCI, is strongly advised to review existing and proposed plans with legal counsel familiar with the new non-discrimination rules.



# Paying LTCI Premiums through a Health Savings Account (HSA)

## ASSUMPTION

Mary is single, and a non-owner employee of ABC. She is 61 years old. Her adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$50,000. She is covered by ABC's high deductible health care plan and otherwise qualifies to open an HSA.

The Medicare Act of 2003 allows individuals to create Health Savings Accounts (HSA). Contributions to an HSA are made on a pre-tax basis, while withdrawals for qualified medical expenses are made tax-free. Any growth inside an HSA is tax-free if withdrawals are made for qualified medical expenses, or tax-deferred if withdrawals are made for other purposes.

Tax-qualified LTCI premiums are a qualified medical expense (IRS Notice 2004-50, Q and A 41). As a result, an individual may withdraw money tax free from their HSA to pay tax-qualified LTCI premiums. Tax-qualified LTCI premiums are the eligible premiums (lesser of the actual premiums paid and the eligible "aged-based" premiums; see page 1). Therefore, only eligible LTCI premiums may be withdrawn tax free from an HSA.

Any other type of distribution is included in taxable income and subject to a 20% penalty tax.<sup>2</sup> HSA account balances are not forfeited if not entirely withdrawn by the end of the year.

<sup>2</sup> The penalty tax does not apply if the distributions are made after death, disability or attaining age 65.

## Some of the Criteria for Owning an HSA are:

The individual must be covered by a high deductible health plan (IRC §223(c)(1)(A)(i)), with:

- Annual deductible of at least \$2,200 and not more than \$3,300 for individuals, not less than \$4,450 or more than \$6,650 for a family (2015 limits)
- Annual out-of-pocket limits not exceeding \$4,450 for an individual, \$8,150 for a family (2015 limits)

The individual may not be covered under a non-high deductible health plan (HDHP) or a plan that duplicates benefits of their own plan (IRC §223(c)(1)(A)(ii)), such as a spouse's plan through the spouse's employer.

However, an individual may be covered under some types of insurance that do not require high deductibles (such as tax-qualified LTCI) and still own an HSA (IRC §223(c)(1)(B)(ii)).

## Deductibility for Contributions to an HSA is Denied When:

- The individual is claimed as a dependent on another's income tax return (IRC §223(b)(6)), or
- The individual becomes covered by Medicare (IRC §223(b)(7)).

## Contribution Limits

The maximum monthly contribution amount is 1/12 of the statutory annual maximum (\$3,350 for individuals and \$6,650 for families (IRC §223(b)(2), 2015 limits, amounts indexed to inflation). These limits are decreased by aggregate contributions made to an Archer MSA (IRC §223(b)(4)).

# Paying LTCI Premiums through a Health Savings Account (HSA) *(continued)*

Individuals who first become eligible on or before December 1 of a tax year are treated as though they had been eligible for that entire year. The individual, though, must continue to be eligible for a 12-month period beginning in December of the enrollment year. Otherwise, contributions attributed to months prior to the month of enrollment will be included in taxable income and subject to a 20% penalty tax.

Individuals age 55 or older who are otherwise eligible to make HSA contributions may also make additional catch-up contributions. The additional allowed catch-up contribution is \$1,000.

## **Paying LTCI Premiums from an HSA**

Mary has an HSA and also owns Genworth Life Insurance Company LTCI. Her annual premiums are \$4,500. Her eligible age-based premium is \$3,800. ABC does not pay any part of her LTCI premiums. However, Mary's eligible premiums are a qualified medical expense for HSA purposes. As a result, Mary may withdraw up to \$3,800 tax free from her HSA to help pay her LTCI premiums. The balance of her LTCI premium, \$700, is not a qualified medical expense, and Mary may not withdraw HSA funds to pay for it.

In 2015, Mary also had \$3,000 in qualified medical expenses not covered by insurance, in addition to her LTCI premiums. Mary can pay those additional medical expenses from her HSA, assuming there are sufficient funds available in the account.

## **Transfer of IRA Money to HSA**

Individuals may make a one-time tax-free transfer of money from their traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to their Health Savings Account (HSA) in the amount of the maximum deductible contribution they could make to their HSA for the year of the transfer.

IRA money transferred in a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer to an HSA under IRC §408(d) will not be treated as income, nor will it be subject to the 10% federal penalty tax applicable to premature distributions from IRAs and qualified plans. The transfer must be a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer. A rollover, in which the IRA owner withdraws money from their IRA and deposits it to their HSA, will not receive the favorable tax treatment this law provides.

Transfers of amounts to an HSA from an ongoing Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA or SIMPLE IRA do not qualify for the tax treatment under these Code sections.

# Changes to “Grandfathered/Tax-Qualified” LTCI

Final IRS Regulations are in effect for “grandfathered” LTCI, those issued before January 1, 1997. Here are the changes to grandfathered Genworth Life Insurance Company LTCI that will be considered disqualifying, and those which will not (Treas. Regs. § 1.7702B-2).

## **Changes Not Considered Disqualifying (will NOT affect tax-qualified status)**

- Reductions in Coverage (at lower premiums)
  - Decrease in Daily Benefit Amount
  - Increase in the Length of the Elimination Period
  - Decrease to Benefit Period or Policy Maximum Benefit Amount
  - Deletion of Inflation or Benefit Increase Rider
- Changes in Premium Mode
- Adding a Couple Discount

## **Changes Considered Disqualifying (WILL affect tax-qualified status)**

- Increase in Daily Benefit Amount
- Decrease in the Length of the Elimination Period
- Increase in Benefit Period/Policy Maximum Benefit Amount
- Addition of Currently Available Inflation or Benefit Increase Riders

# Appendix:

## State LTCI Tax Credits and Deductions

State	Deduction or Credit	State	Deduction or Credit
Alabama	Deduction	Missouri	Deduction
Arizona	Deduction	Montana	Deduction and Credit
Arkansas	Deduction	Nebraska	Deduction
California	Deduction	New Jersey	Deduction****
Colorado	Credit	New Mexico	Deduction and Credit
District of Columbia	Deduction	New York	Credit***
Hawaii	Deduction	North Carolina	Credit
Idaho	Deduction	North Dakota	Credit
Indiana	Deduction	Ohio	Deduction
Iowa	Deduction	Oklahoma	Deduction
Kansas	Deduction	Oregon	Credit
Kentucky	Exclusion	Utah	Deduction
Louisiana	Credit	Vermont	Deduction
Maine	Deduction and Credit**	Virginia	Deduction
Maryland	Credit***	West Virginia	Deduction
Minnesota	Credit	Wisconsin	Deduction
Mississippi	Credit		

Note: Not all states offer a full deduction or credit.

\*\* Individual deduction/employer credit.

\*\*\* Separate credits offered for both individual and employer paid premiums.

\*\*\*\* New Jersey allows a deduction for "medical expenses," which may include premiums paid for LTCI.

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