

Specialty benefits and planning for the unexpected

Be prepared. It's the Scout motto, but it can also apply to businesses. You never know what's going to happen, so it's best to plan for the unexpected.

Your health plan helps cover your medical costs when you're sick or in an accident, but what about other costs? What if you need help with lost wages or living expenses while you recover? Specialty benefits can help you plan for the unexpected. Paired with a medical plan, they can help you extend your coverage and protect your finances. Sometimes employers will provide these benefits to their employees at a discounted price, other times these types of benefits can be purchased on their own by individuals. Some examples of specialty benefits include:

- **A disability plan:** A disability plan is like paycheck protection. It replaces some of your income to help with living expenses while you recover.
- **Accident insurance:** If you're injured, you might be off work for a while as bills come in from your recovery. Accident insurance can help your deal with some of those costs.
- **Critical illness insurance:** When you have a critical illness, you can face substantial costs. A critical illness plan can help pay lost income, out-of-pocket costs and treatments your health plan may not cover. Critical illness insurance provides a lump-sum benefit upon diagnosis of a covered disease.
- **Life insurance:** Get peace of mind with a life insurance plan. Extending your coverage can help protect your loved ones' financial future. The benefits can help pay for personal debts, medical bills and funeral expenses.
- **Dental and vision coverage:** Complete your health plan with the addition of dental and vision plans.



Talk to your employer about what specialty benefits may be available to you. Every company has different strategies, financial goals and objectives, and employee needs. Ask questions and be an informed consumer.