

# Moving forward

Your guide to the new Insurance Ireland  
Code of Practice for Underwriting Mortgage  
Protection Insurance for Cancer Survivors



Customer guide

 ROYAL  
LONDON  
IRELAND

# About this new Code

Royal London Ireland proudly supports and is firmly committed to complying fully with the **Insurance Ireland Code of Practice for Underwriting Mortgage Protection Insurance for Cancer Survivors (the Code)**.

The Code aims to ensure fair treatment regarding access and affordability of Mortgage Protection life cover for cancer survivors.

## We will follow the principles outlined in the Code and disregard any disclosed cancer diagnosis where:

- the application is for Mortgage Protection life cover in connection with a mortgage on a principal private residence,
- the insurance cover sought is for €500,000 or less, and
- treatment for cancer ended more than seven years prior to the application, or more than five years prior if the applicant was under 18 at the time of diagnosis.

It's important to note that if you qualify to avail of the provisions of this Code, you still need to answer all application questions fully, including those specifically related to cancer. But we will not use this information in relation to a cancer diagnosis to underwrite your policy.

The Code only applies to the first €500,000 of Mortgage Protection life cover per applicant and not to any other product or type of cover.

## What is specifically meant by 'treatment for cancer'?

### When we say treatment for cancer has ended, we mean:

- that the applicant is in complete remission, and
- any active treatment has ended.

A cancer survivor's treating oncologist determines whether they are in complete remission. This includes the absence of signs and symptoms related to a cancer diagnosis which may be determined by, but not limited to, physical examination, radiological investigation, and serum biomarkers.

Active treatment means the use of surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, biological agents, immunotherapy, bone marrow transplant or any evidence-based medical approaches to cure a cancer.

Active treatment does not include anti-hormonal medications, or any form of preventative therapy or medicine designed to reduce recurrence risk following complete remission.

# Case study examples

To help understand this new Code better, we've provided some examples below. Your Financial Broker can help advise you on your own personal circumstances and explain how this Code may affect you.



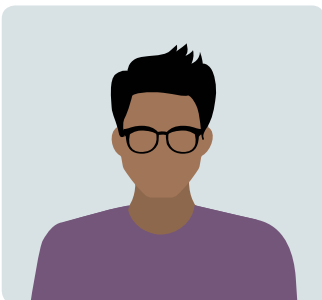
**Andy is 43 and is applying for Mortgage Protection through his Financial Broker. He has a history of skin cancer and no other health issues. It's more than seven years since he received cancer treatment. His last treatment ended 7 years and one month ago.**

Andy is buying a home where he will live (it will be his principal private residence) and needs a Mortgage Protection policy of €500,000 for his mortgage loan.

Before this Code was implemented, Andy's policy would have been subject to normal underwriting in relation to his history of cancer. This might have led to an additional charge (a premium loading) being added to Andy's policy

which would have increased the amount of total monthly premiums for the policy.

Andy's Financial Broker applies to Royal London Ireland for a Mortgage Protection life cover policy of €500,000. As part of the standard application process, Andy will be asked when his cancer treatment ended. Once he confirms that treatment ended seven years ago or more, some additional questions will be asked to establish Andy's eligibility to avail of the Code (for instance, whether or not the home will be his principal private residence). Once eligibility has been established, Andy's policy will not be underwritten for cancer and he will be offered cover at standard rates.



**Michael, age 39, is applying for a Mortgage Protection policy through his Financial Broker and has a history of bowel cancer. It was 11 years ago when Michael was diagnosed and completed his treatment. As part of his routine follow-ups with his specialist, Michael is due to have a colonoscopy in three months.**

Michael is taking out a mortgage for €420,000 and plans to live in his new home permanently. He needs a Mortgage Protection policy, and his Financial Broker applies for one on his behalf with Royal London Ireland.

As part of the standard application process, Michael will be asked some questions about his history of cancer, along with some questions to establish his eligibility to avail of the Code. As Michael's cancer treatment ended more than seven years ago, his application is for less than €500,000 and his mortgage loan relates to his principal private residence, his eligibility is confirmed. Although his colonoscopy is being done because of his history of cancer, he should still disclose this on his application, even if he has no symptoms or concerns.

Royal London Ireland will defer a decision on Michael's policy application until the outcome of his colonoscopy is known.



**Michelle is 46 and through her Financial Broker is applying for a Mortgage Protection policy for €300,000 related to a mortgage loan for a property that she plans to live in. She has a history of breast cancer which was successfully treated with surgery and chemotherapy, leading to complete remission eight years ago.**

To reduce the risk of a recurrence, her specialist prescribed a course of treatment called Tamoxifen and this ended three years ago.

Michelle also had an operation to remove her ovaries three years ago to further reduce her risk of developing related cancers.

Michelle's broker completes her application, fully answering all relevant questions. Michelle is eligible under the Code, as her cancer treatment ended more than seven years ago. Tamoxifen and the surgical removal of her ovaries are preventative treatments designed to reduce the risk of recurrence and therefore do not prevent her from availing of the Code.

# Frequently Asked Questions

This section aims to answer some of the more frequent questions people have about this Code. It's not an exhaustive list though so if you have a question that isn't covered, please get in touch. **Your Financial Broker can also provide tailored advice based on your specific circumstances.**

## What is the purpose of this new Code?

The purpose of the Code is to improve access to Mortgage Protection life cover for cancer survivors. It aims to provide a faster, more streamlined process for impacted cancer survivors and ensure availability and affordability of Mortgage Protection life cover for as many consumers as possible.

## Under what circumstances will a cancer diagnosis be disregarded and not used to underwrite a policy?

There are three criteria that need to be met, and once they are a person's history of cancer will not be used to underwrite their policy.

- 1 The application is for Mortgage Protection life cover in connection with a mortgage on a principal private residence.
- 2 The amount of cover being applied for is €500,000 or less.
- 3 Treatment for cancer ended more than seven years before the application, or more than five years prior if the applicant was under 18 at the time of diagnosis.

## Which types of life assurance are included under the Code?

Only Mortgage Protection life cover policies are included.

## How much cover is allowable under the Code?

€500,000 is the maximum amount of cover that qualifies under the Code. However, with Royal London Ireland, you can apply for a single policy for any sum assured and we will apply the terms of the Code to the first €500,000 of cover. Normal underwriting criteria will then apply to any amount above €500,000.

## Can I apply for Mortgage Protection and avail of the Code if my treatment was 6 years and 6 months ago?

Yes, but only if you were under 18 at the time of your cancer diagnosis. The Code covers treatment for cancer that ended more than seven years before your application, or more than five years if you were under 18 at the time of diagnosis. You can only avail of the Code when these timelines have been met.

## I would like to apply for a decreasing term assurance policy, for €300,000, as personal life cover. Would I be covered under the Code?

No. The life cover must be for Mortgage Protection for your principal private residence, as specified in the Code. As this policy would be used for personal cover, rather than connected to a mortgage loan, it would not qualify under the Code.

## I already have a policy for my principal private residence and I'm taking out a mortgage on an investment property. Is it possible for me to get cover under the Code for my investment property of €500,000?

No. As the mortgage is not for your principal private residence you cannot avail of the Code

## I was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was 28 and had surgery, followed by chemotherapy which ended eight years ago. However, I was on Tamoxifen until three years ago. When Royal London Ireland asks when I last had treatment, what date do I give?

The date that you finished your chemotherapy treatment will be regarded as the date of last treatment. So that is the date you should provide. Treatment is defined as therapies that are designed to cure cancer (such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy etc.). Therapies designed to reduce the risk of recurrence, such as anti-hormonal treatments like Tamoxifen, are not included as a treatment under the Code.

# Get in touch

If you have any other questions about this Code or about applying for a policy in general, please get in touch with us, or for tailored advice, please contact your Financial Broker.



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