2.11 CRITICAL ILLNESSES means the following Illnesses:

2.11.1 CANCER means

I. A malignant tumour characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of malignant cells with invasion and destruction of normal tissues. This diagnosis must be supported by histological evidence of malignancy. The term cancer includes leukaemia, lymphoma and sarcoma.

II. The following are excluded -

i. All tumors which are histologically described as carcinoma in situ, benign, pre-malignant, borderline malignant, low malignant potential, neoplasm of unknown behavior, or non-invasive, including but not limited to: Carcinoma in situ of breasts, Cervical dysplasia CIN-1, CIN-2 and CIN-3.

ii. Any non-melanoma skin carcinoma unless there is evidence of metastases to lymph nodes or beyond.

iii. Malignant melanoma that has not caused invasion beyond the epidermis.

iv. All tumors of the prostate unless histologically classified as having a Gleason score greater than 6 or having progressed to at least clinical TNM classification T2N0M0

v. All Thyroid cancers histologically classified as T1N0M0 (TNM Classification) or below;

vi. Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia less than RAI stage 3

vii. Non-invasive papillary cancer of the bladder histologically described as TaN0M0 or of a lesser classification,

viii. All Gastro-Intestinal Stromal Tumors histologically classified as T1N0M0 (TNM Classification) or below and with mitotic count of less than or equal to 5/50 HPFs;

ix. All tumors in the presence of HIV infection.

2.11.2 MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION (FIRST HEART ATTACK OF SPECIFIED SEVERITY)

I. The first occurrence of heart attack or myocardial infarction, which means the death of a portion of the heart muscle as a result of inadequate blood supply to the relevant area. The diagnosis for Myocardial Infarction should be evidenced by all of the following criteria:

i. a history of typical clinical symptoms consistent with the diagnosis of Acute Myocardial Infarction (for e.g. typical chest pain)

ii. New characteristic electrocardiogram changes

iii. Elevation of infarction specific enzymes, Troponins or other specific biochemical markers.

II. The following are excluded:

i. Other acute Coronary Syndromes

ii. Any type of angina pectoris.

iii. A rise in cardiac biomarkers or Troponin T or I in absence of overt ischemic heart disease OR following an intra-arterial cardiac procedure.

2.11.3 OPEN CHEST CABG

I. The actual undergoing of heart surgery to correct blockage or narrowing in one or more coronary artery(s), by coronary artery bypass grafting done via a sternotomy (cutting through the breast bone) or minimally invasive keyhole coronary artery bypass procedures. The diagnosis must be supported by a coronary angiography and the realization of surgery has to be confirmed by a cardiologist.

II. The following are excluded:

i. Angioplasty and/or any other intra-arterial procedures

2.11.4 OPEN HEART REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR OF HEART VALVES

I. The actual undergoing of open-heart valve Surgery is to replace or repair one or more heart valves, as a consequence of defects in, abnormalities of, or disease-affected cardiac valve(s). The diagnosis of the valve abnormality must be supported by an echocardiography and the realization of Surgery has to be confirmed by a specialist Medical Practitioner. Catheter based techniques including but not limited to, balloon valvotomy/valvuloplasty are excluded.

2.11.5 COMA OF SPECIFIED SEVERITY

I. A state of unconsciousness with no reaction or response to external stimuli or internal needs. This diagnosis must be supported by evidence of all of the following:

i. No response to external stimuli continuously for at least 96 hours;

ii. Life support measures are necessary to sustain life; and

iii. Permanent neurological deficit which must be assessed at least 30 days after the onset of the coma.

II. The condition has to be confirmed by a specialist Medical Practitioner. Coma resulting directly from alcohol or drug abuse is excluded.

2.11.6 KIDNEY FAILURE REQUIRING REGULAR DIALYSIS

I. End stage renal disease presenting as chronic irreversible failure of both kidneys to function, as a result of which either regular renal dialysis (haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) is instituted or renal transplantation is carried out. Diagnosis has to be confirmed by a specialist Medical Practitioner.

2.11.7 STROKE RESULTING IN PERMANENT SYMPTOMS

I. Any cerebrovascular incident producing permanent neurological sequelae. This includes infarction of brain tissue, thrombosis in an intracranial vessel, haemorrhage and emobilisation from an extracranial source. Diagnosis has to be confirmed by a specialist Medical Practitioner and evidenced by typical clinical symptoms as well as typical findings in CT scan or MRI of the brain. Evidence of permanent neurological deficit lasting for at least 3 months has to be produced

II. The following are excluded:

i. Transient ischemic attacks (TIA)

ii. Traumatic injury of the brain

iii. Vascular disease affecting only the eye or optic nerve or vestibular functions.

2.11.8 MAJOR ORGAN /BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT

I. The actual undergoing of a transplant of:

i. One of the following human organs: heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas, that resulted from irreversible end-stage failure of the relevant organ, or

ii. Human bone marrow using haematopoietic stem cells. The undergoing of a transplant has to be confirmed by a specialist Medical Practitioner.

II. The following are excluded:

i. Other stem-cell transplants

ii. Where only islets of Langerhans are transplanted

2.11.9 PERMANENT PARALYSIS OF LIMBS

I. Total and irreversible loss of use of two or more limbs as a result of injury or disease of the brain or spinal cord. A **specialist** Medical Practitioner must be of the opinion that the paralysis will be permanent with no hope of recovery and must be present for more than 3 months.

2.11.10 MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE WITH PERMANENT SYMPTOMS

I. Motor neurone disease diagnosed by a specialist Medical Practitioner as spinal muscular atrophy, progressive bulbar palsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or primary lateral sclerosis. There must be progressive degeneration of cortico spinal tracts and anterior horn cells or bulbar efferent neurons. There must be current significant and permanent functional neurological impairment with objective evidence of motor dysfunction that has persisted for a continuous period of at least 3 months.

2.11.11 MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WITH PERSISTING SYMPTOMS

I. The definite occurrence of multiple sclerosis. The diagnosis must be supported by all of the following:

i. Investigations including typical MRI and CSF findings, which unequivocally confirm the diagnosis to be multiple sclerosis and

ii. There must be current clinical impairment of motor or sensory function, which must have persisted for a continuous period of at least 6 months.

II. Other causes of neurological damage such as SLE and HIV are excluded.