QUANTUM WEALTH SYSTEMS

Six Multiple-Carrier Comparison

Whole Life PUA Disability Waiver

Purpose

Clarify whether each carrier's disability waiver protects only the base whole life premium or also protects a scheduled paid-up additions funding stream, and explain what happens if that scheduled funding stops.

Core Conclusion

Guardian and New York Life can protect a defined scheduled direct-PUA funding stream during qualifying disability. OneAmerica documents a separate disability-PUA rider. MassMutual, Penn Mutual, and Lafayette Life expressly exclude their principal direct-PUA rider premiums from disability waiver in the materials reviewed.

Carriers reviewed: Guardian • New York Life • OneAmerica / AUL • MassMutual • Penn Mutual • Lafayette Life

Disclaimer: This report is for educational and informational purposes only. It is not intended to be the end-all, be-all resource on these riders or carrier provisions. Policy forms, riders, state variations, and carrier materials should be reviewed directly and independently for accuracy and current applicability. This report summarizes cited sources and is not legal, tax, or insurance advice.

Executive Summary

The key distinction: a disability waiver can protect base premium, a scheduled direct-PUA contribution, both, or neither. The phrase “PUA rider” by itself does not answer the disability question. What matters is the exact rider language.

Carrier	Base premium waived?	Scheduled direct PUA waived?	Main takeaway
Guardian	Yes	Yes — through WSA	A true scheduled direct-PUA waiver exists, but it is tightly linked to the scheduled premium arrangement.
New York Life	Yes	Yes — billed / Check-O-Matic OPP	Scheduled direct-PUA protection exists and is more flexible after a missed payment than Guardian.
OneAmerica / AUL	Yes	Separate disability-PUA rider documented	Public sources verify the rider exists, but do not publish the key operational mechanics.
MassMutual	Yes	No — ALIR / PALIR excluded	Direct ALIR / PALIR premiums are excluded; separate LISR is a different blended rider.
Penn Mutual	Yes	No — EPPUA / APPUA excluded	Direct EPPUA / APPUA premiums are excluded; Flexible Protection Rider is different.
Lafayette Life	Yes	No — LPUA / FPUA excluded	Direct LPUA / FPUA premiums are excluded, even though the riders themselves have funding flexibility.

Best advisor wording: “Some carriers can insure a predetermined scheduled direct-PUA premium stream during qualifying disability. That is different from waiving every optional PUA contribution.”

What not to say: “The company waives your PUA rider.” That is too broad and can imply the carrier replaces every future optional PUA contribution or preserves a waiver amount regardless of future funding behavior.

Rider guide in plain English

- Direct PUA rider: a rider whose main purpose is purchasing paid-up additions with extra premium. Examples in this report include OPP, ALIR, PALIR, EPPUA, APPUA, LPUA, and FPUA.
- Scheduled direct-PUA premium: a recurring extra premium amount elected in advance.
- Unscheduled direct-PUA premium: an ad hoc or lump-sum additional contribution.
- Blended rider: a rider that mixes term insurance and paid-up additions. Examples here include MassMutual's LISR and Penn Mutual's Flexible Protection Rider.
- WSA: Guardian's Waiver of Specified Amount — a rider that can protect a defined scheduled PUA amount.

Guardian

Waiver of Specified Amount (WSA) + Scheduled Paid-Up Additions

Why this carrier matters: Guardian is one of the clearest examples of a carrier that truly protects a scheduled direct-PUA amount during disability. The right mental model is not “all PUAs are waived,” but rather “a specific scheduled PUA amount has its own disability protection.”

What is covered	What is not	If funding stops
Base premium: traditional Waiver of Premium can protect eligible policy premium. Scheduled PUA: WSA can protect a specified scheduled PUA amount, subject to rider terms.	Unscheduled PUA: not covered by WSA. Open-ended future PUA capacity: not protected merely because the rider can accept more premium.	Under the detailed Guardian rider version reviewed, if a Scheduled PUA payment is not paid within the stated period, the scheduled arrangement and WSA terminate. Scheduled PUA can later resume within renewal limits, but restoring WSA requires evidence of insurability.

Why this rider structure matters

Guardian's structure shows why stop/restart mechanics matter. The disability benefit follows the scheduled contribution arrangement. Once that arrangement breaks, the direct-PUA protection can disappear even though the underlying policy remains in force.

Primary references

- Official carrier page — Waiver of Premium: https://www.guardianlife.com/life-insurance/waiver-of-premium
- Current administration form referencing Scheduled PUA and WSA: https://assets.ctfassets.net/gau1nv66ynug/4RSTZ2DuQX6OjMILmfcQjU/30064a7889b125c7850e098bd499088e/V167Admin.pdf
- Carrier-branded guide used for detailed WSA mechanics: https://www.centurionagencyltd.com/guardian_life_riders_agent_guide_12-2019.pdf

New York Life

Disability Waiver of Premium + Option to Purchase Paid-Up Additions (OPP)

Why this carrier matters: New York Life reaches a similar economic result to Guardian — it can protect a scheduled direct-PUA stream — but it gets there through different mechanics. Scheduled OPP is the part that receives disability protection; unscheduled OPP is explicitly outside the waiver.

What is covered	What is not	If funding stops
Base premium: covered subject to the disability rider. Scheduled OPP: billed or Check-O-Matic OPP can be paid by New York Life during qualifying disability.	Unscheduled lump-sum OPP: not waived. Unlimited OPP capacity: not automatically preserved as a blanket disability entitlement.	If a scheduled OPP payment is missed, the Billable OPP arrangement is discontinued and OPP changes to lump-sum mode. The underlying OPP rider does not necessarily terminate from that single event. Billable OPP can be reinstated while the OPP rider remains in force, subject to the carrier's limits and underwriting rules.

Why this rider structure matters

This is why New York Life generally looks more forgiving after one missed scheduled payment. The billable arrangement can end without automatically killing the underlying OPP rider, which creates more administrative flexibility than Guardian's cited WSA structure.

Primary references

- Official carrier page — Whole Life: https://www.newyorklife.com/products/insurance/whole-life
- Carrier-branded Life Products Rider Guide: https://www.fmiagent.com/wp-content/uploads/NewYorkLife_LifeProductRiderGuide.pdf

OneAmerica / AUL

Paid-Up Additions Rider (PUAR) + separate Credit of Paid-Up Additions for Disability rider

Why this carrier matters: OneAmerica is structurally unique in this comparison. The public materials reviewed show a separate rider specifically aimed at crediting paid-up additions during disability, which is different from simply bundling everything into an ordinary base-premium waiver.

What is covered	What is not	If funding stops
Base premium: a standard Waiver of Premium Disability Rider is listed. Separate disability-PUA benefit: the product guide separately lists a Credit of Paid-Up Additions for Disability Rider.	Public materials reviewed do not disclose the disability rider's exact credit formula, whether the credited amount equals a scheduled PUAR amount, or the precise reinstatement mechanics.	The ordinary PUAR itself is described as flexible: it can be cancelled, payments can be skipped, and payments may be made up later within guidelines. But those ordinary PUAR funding rules do not, by themselves, prove how the separate disability-PUA rider behaves after a skipped PUAR contribution.

Why this rider structure matters

The right conclusion is to acknowledge exactly what the public record proves: the specialized rider exists, and the ordinary PUAR is flexible. It would be overreaching to state Guardian- or NYL-style mechanics unless the actual rider form says so.

Primary references

- Official carrier page — Whole Life: https://www.oneamerica.com/individuals/offerings/life-insurance-products/whole-life
- Carrier-branded Individual Products Guide: https://allegisfp.com/downloads/IndividualProductsGuide.pdf
- Carrier-branded Paid-Up Additions Rider Overview: https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.contentres.com/media/documents/3136f421-e1c4-40ad-8caf-e9d9ca4447bf.pdf

MassMutual

Direct PUA riders: ALIR and PALIR; blended rider nuance: LISR

Why this carrier matters: MassMutual gives one of the cleanest answers in the entire comparison. On the direct-PUA issue, the current product guide expressly excludes ALIR and PALIR premiums from Waiver of Premium.

What is covered	What is not	If funding stops
Base premium: eligible for Waiver of Premium when the insured satisfies the rider. Separate nuance: certain non-direct rider premiums may be treated differently.	ALIR premium: expressly excluded. PALIR premium: expressly excluded.	ALIR and PALIR may have their own funding flexibility, but stopping or restarting those payments is not a disability-waiver issue because Waiver of Premium does not replace those direct rider premiums in the first place.

Why this rider structure matters

The nuance is LISR. LISR is a blended rider, not a direct PUA rider. Its premium can be waiver-eligible even though ALIR and PALIR are not. That distinction prevents an overbroad statement like “MassMutual never waives any PUA-related funding.”

Primary references

- Current MassMutual Whole Life Series Product Reference Guide: https://www.massmutual.com/digitalhub/LI10804e-sd/

Penn Mutual

Direct PUA riders: EPPUA and APPUA; blended rider nuance: Flexible Protection Rider

Why this carrier matters: Penn Mutual is another straightforward “no” on the direct-PUA waiver question. The rider materials expressly exclude the two main direct PUA rider premiums.

What is covered	What is not	If funding stops
Base / eligible premiums: can be waived under the applicable disability rider, subject to contract terms.	EPPUA premium: expressly not waived. APPUA premium: expressly not waived under either standard or Enhanced Disability Waiver.	Because EPPUA and APPUA are excluded from the disability waiver, there is no direct-PUA waiver benefit to preserve or restore for those rider premiums.

Why this rider structure matters

The required nuance is Flexible Protection Rider. It is a blended rider and should not be casually lumped into EPPUA or APPUA. The report therefore keeps the direct-PUA conclusion narrow and precise.

Primary references

- Official Penn Mutual rider brochure T4522: https://gateway.pennmutual.com/static-assets/files/products/riders/t4522.pdf
- Official Penn Mutual product announcement for Accumulation Whole Life: https://www.pennmutual.com/about-us/news/press-releases/2024/09/new-accumulation-whole-life

Lafayette Life

Direct recurring PUA riders: LPUA and FPUA; related single-premium rider: SPUA

Why this carrier matters: Lafayette belongs with MassMutual and Penn Mutual on the direct recurring-PUA waiver question: the principal direct recurring PUA rider premiums are not protected by the disability waiver.

What is covered	What is not	If funding stops
Base / other eligible premiums: WP-05 can waive policy premiums and eligible attached benefits after a qualifying disability and waiting period, subject to rider terms.	LPUA: expressly excluded. FPUA: expressly excluded. SPUA: a single-premium rider; there is no recurring future premium stream to waive.	LPUA: the agent manual explains that catch-up can be allowed during the initial period within stated limits; if less than the minimum annual premium is paid in a year, no future rider premiums are accepted. FPUA: two short-payment years are allowed before the fixed amount ratchets down; there is no catch-up provision.

Why this rider structure matters

Lafayette is a good example of why rider funding flexibility and disability-waiver coverage are different issues. A carrier can allow a rider to have catch-up or adjustment rules and still refuse to waive that rider's premium during disability.

Primary references

- Official company page: https://www.llic.com/
- Official product page — Whole Life 100: https://www.llic.com/product/whole-life-100/
- Lafayette WP-05 Rider Specifications LL-2727 (10/23): https://www.fmiagent.com/wp-content/uploads/2023-12-06_Lafayette_Waiver_of_Premium_DI_Benefit_Rider_Specifications_LL-2727_10-23.pdf
- Lafayette Agent Reference Manual Life (2024): https://www.allintolife.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Lafayette-Agent-Reference-Manual-Life-2024.pdf

Final Synthesis

What the six-carrier audit actually says: Guardian and New York Life can protect a defined scheduled direct-PUA stream during qualifying disability. OneAmerica documents a separate disability-PUA rider, but the public materials reviewed do not publish the final operational mechanics. MassMutual, Penn Mutual, and Lafayette Life expressly exclude their principal direct-PUA rider premiums from the disability-waiver structures reviewed.

Different riders explained a little more

- Guardian WSA is a disability rider focused on a specified scheduled PUA amount.
- New York Life OPP is a direct PUA rider, and the waiver applies only to the scheduled billable / Check-O-Matic version, not to unscheduled lump sums.
- OneAmerica Credit of Paid-Up Additions for Disability appears to be a dedicated disability-PUA rider distinct from ordinary Waiver of Premium.
- MassMutual ALIR / PALIR are direct PUA riders. LISR is a different blended rider that combines term coverage and PUAs.
- Penn Mutual EPPUA / APPUA are direct PUA riders. Flexible Protection Rider is a separate blended rider.
- Lafayette LPUA / FPUA are direct recurring PUA riders, while SPUA is a single-premium rider rather than an annual recurring rider.

Expanded Reference Appendix

The list below expands the source trail by carrier so the report reads more like a polished reference document and less like a short audit memo.

Guardian

- Official carrier page — Waiver of Premium: https://www.guardianlife.com/life-insurance/waiver-of-premium
- Current administration form referencing Scheduled PUA and WSA: https://assets.ctfassets.net/gau1nv66ynug/4RSTZ2DuQX6OjMILmfcQjU/30064a7889b125c7850e098bd499088e/V167Admin.pdf
- Carrier-branded guide used for detailed WSA mechanics: https://www.centurionagencyltd.com/guardian_life_riders_agent_guide_12-2019.pdf

New York Life

- Official carrier page — Whole Life: https://www.newyorklife.com/products/insurance/whole-life
- Carrier-branded Life Products Rider Guide: https://www.fmiagent.com/wp-content/uploads/NewYorkLife_LifeProductRiderGuide.pdf

OneAmerica / AUL

- Official carrier page — Whole Life: https://www.oneamerica.com/individuals/offerings/life-insurance-products/whole-life
- Carrier-branded Individual Products Guide: https://allegisfp.com/downloads/IndividualProductsGuide.pdf
- Carrier-branded Paid-Up Additions Rider Overview: https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.contentres.com/media/documents/3136f421-e1c4-40ad-8caf-e9d9ca4447bf.pdf

MassMutual

- Current MassMutual Whole Life Series Product Reference Guide: https://www.massmutual.com/digitalhub/LI10804e-sd/

Penn Mutual

- Official Penn Mutual rider brochure T4522: https://gateway.pennmutual.com/static-assets/files/products/riders/t4522.pdf
- Official Penn Mutual product announcement for Accumulation Whole Life: https://www.pennmutual.com/about-us/news/press-releases/2024/09/new-accumulation-whole-life

Lafayette Life

- Official company page: https://www.llic.com/
- Official product page — Whole Life 100: https://www.llic.com/product/whole-life-100/
- Lafayette WP-05 Rider Specifications LL-2727 (10/23): https://www.fmiagent.com/wp-content/uploads/2023-12-06_Lafayette_Waiver_of_Premium_DI_Benefit_Rider_Specifications_LL-2727_10-23.pdf
- Lafayette Agent Reference Manual Life (2024): https://www.allintolife.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Lafayette-Agent-Reference-Manual-Life-2024.pdf