

The New Jersey Auto Insurance Buyer's Guide provides crucial information for consumers regarding auto insurance policies in the state, emphasizing that car insurance is mandatory and can be purchased at any time, not just during renewal periods. Policyholders have the right to modify their coverage and limits at any time, with the potential for a refund on unused premiums if changes are made within 60 days. The guide encourages consumers to understand their personal needs, coverage options, and rights, including the right to fair treatment and access to information.

There are two primary types of policies: Standard and Basic. The Standard Policy, which is the most commonly selected, offers a range of coverage options, while the Basic Policy is more affordable but provides limited benefits sufficient only to meet minimum legal requirements. Additionally, a special policy is available for Medicaid recipients, offering medical coverage at a low annual cost. Key coverages include Personal Injury Protection (PIP), which covers medical expenses and lost wages regardless of fault, and liability coverage, which compensates others for damages caused by the insured, divided into Bodily Injury and Property Damage. Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Coverage protects against accidents involving drivers lacking sufficient insurance, while Collision and Comprehensive Coverage are optional under the Standard Policy, covering damages to the insured vehicle from various incidents.

The policy outlines coverage options for the insured, their spouse, children, and other relatives living with them who are not covered under another automobile insurance policy. It presents two lawsuit options: the Unlimited Right to Sue, allowing for claims for pain and suffering from any auto accident injury, and the Limited Right to Sue, which restricts claims for pain and suffering unless specific permanent injuries are sustained. Regardless of the lawsuit option selected, medical expenses and certain economic losses from auto accidents will be covered up to the limits of the PIP coverage. The policy clarifies that insurance companies and their representatives are not liable for the policyholder's choice of lawsuit option or coverage amounts, and the policyholder cannot sue the insurer if the Limited Right to Sue option is imposed by law due to a lack of selection on the

coverage form.

Coverage limits are specified, with liability limits ranging from \$300,000 to \$500,000 and PIP medical expense limits from \$15,000 to \$250,000, along with options for deductibles and additional PIP benefits. Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Coverage and Collision and Comprehensive Coverage options are also available with varying deductibles. The guide serves as a general resource for making informed coverage choices but is not a substitute for the actual policy language, which governs the terms. For further assistance, contact details for the insurer and the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance are provided.