Paying For Long Term Care

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
"Self Insurance" CDs, mutual funds, individual stocks and bonds, 401(k), pension plan.	You can obtain the type of long-term care you prefer. If it will cover long-term care costs, you won't have to spend down your assets.	 You'll need to accurately estimate future costs of long-term care and set aside enough money to cover those costs for several years. Most people will not be disciplined enough to do this.
Long Term Care Insurance Specific medical expense coverage related to long-term care.	You may not have to spend down your retirement assets. For pennies on the dollar you can secure your assets and rest easy that you never need be a burden to your family.	 Premiums vary, depending on benefits and benefit periods. If you never require long-term care, the premiums may not be returnable.
Linked or Accelerated Benefits Life Insurance Accelerates policy's death benefit to reimburse qualified long-term care expenses.	 Some policies allow a one-time premium. Some policies offer return of premium riders (for an additional cost).* You could have more money to pay for long-term care than the actual premium paid. 	 Any loans, withdrawals, or benefits paid will reduce the amount of any premiums returned. Returned premiums may have tax implications. You may have to pay for care up front then be reimbursed by the insurance company.