As you are aware, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Rest assured that we have been monitoring the situation closely. It’s fluid and unprecedented, but as it evolves, we’ve been acting quickly. The health and safety of our policyholders and their plan participants is of utmost importance to us. We also want to make sure our stakeholders are armed with the necessary information to keep their businesses running. Below is some guidance and we will continue to provide updates as the situation evolves.

**With respect to COVID-19 approved and authorized diagnostic testing** and in support of our customers, QBE is agreeable to no rate impact to QBE issued excess loss policies if the plan sponsor chooses to waive member cost share under the Plan. To the extent the plan sponsors choose not to waive member cost share, we will refer to the underlying Plan language associated with the relevant QBE issued excess loss policy.

Changes to member cost share for COVID-19 diagnostic testing are at the discretion of the Plan. We have noted considerable variances in cost by region and provider for COVID-19 diagnostic testing. We trust that payors will apply the appropriate discounting.

**With respect to COVID-19 treatment**, QBE refers to the medical necessity provision of the underlying Plan. In the event the underlying Plan requires an amendment to modify plan language, please send a copy of the proposed amendment to QBE for review and await confirmation that the Plan change will be considered eligible under the QBE issued excess loss policy.

**With respect to early refills of medication to ensure participants have a 30-day supply** – We will allow these additional costs to apply under the stop loss coverage. No prior notification will be required.

**With respect to eligibility requirements due to extended leave as a result of COVID-19** and how employers decide to manage/implement/mandate a work from home plan or office shut down, QBE wants to prevent any barriers that may arise around the Plan eligibility language as it pertains to COVID-19. We will not require a formal plan document amendment to be submitted, but will accept on company’s and/or administrator’s letterhead, the COVID-19 plan for extended leave to ensure the appropriate eligibility remains in place for participants of the Plan.

We all benefit from ensuring our policyholders take the appropriate steps to ensure the health and welfare of their population. As always, for the full terms and conditions of coverage, please refer to the relevant QBE issued excess of loss policy.

Please stay safe and take all the necessary precautions in the coming weeks.

Best,

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