

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Chew, Chair of Financial Analysis Solvency Tools (E) Working Group
Eli Snowbarger and John Litweiler, Co-Chairs of Financial Examiners Handbook (E) Technical Group

FROM: Steve Drutz, Chair of Health Risk-Based Capital (E) Working Group

DATE: March 22, 2024

RE: Referral for Pandemic Risk

In 2020, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Health Risk-Based Capital (E) Working Group added into its working agenda an item to consider impact of COVID-19 and pandemic risks in the Health Risk-Based Capital (RBC) formula. During subsequent meetings held in 2023 and 2024, the Working Group evaluated whether RBC is the appropriate tool to capture pandemic risk. Some of the actions include:

- Looked into 2014 Health RBC interrogatories to analyze how companies allocated surplus or model for pandemic and biological risks.
- Received presentation by Texas Department of Insurance on “Pandemic Risk and Insurer Solvency – A Review of Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) on Healthcare Before, During, and After the COVID-19 Pandemic”.
- Reviewed RBC trends for an extended period (2015-2021).
- Considered capital requirements for pandemic risk in other jurisdictions (e.g., Solvency II).

One specific trend noted from the Texas Department of Insurance presentation was the decrease in healthcare expenditures during the pandemic, and the return to historical norms that occurred as the pandemic subsided. This appeared to increase the difficulty in adequately pricing policies post pandemic. Based on the work and findings above, the Working Group concluded that changes, resulting from pandemic risks, to the Health RBC formula are not warranted for the time being. The Working Group would like to ask the Financial Analysis Solvency Tools (E) Working Group and Financial Examiners Handbook (E) Technical Group to evaluate whether the pandemic risk is being sufficiently addressed from their perspective, and if not, the need for enhancement in the financial analysis and/or financial examination process.

If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss, please contact the Health Risk-Based Capital (E) Working Group chair or vice chair (Steve Drutz, Matthew Richard), or NAIC staff Maggie Chang (mchang@naic.org).

Cc: Julie Gann, Maggie Chang, Eva Yeung, Rodney Good, Bill Rivers, Ralph Villegas, Bailey Henning