



## MANULIFE DISABILITY MANAGEMENT – PILOT PROGRAM

### Pharmacogenetic testing to help speed up plan member treatment

Discovering new ways to improve recovery times and plan member outcomes

#### PHARMACOGENETICS

The study of how genes affect a person's response to drugs

#### TREATMENT FOCUS

Providing access to pharmacogenetics testing to help determine more relevant treatment options for chronic pain, depression and anxiety

#### PARTNER

BiogeniQ

#### PILOT START DATE

Winter 2018

For many, finding the right medication can be a frustrating trial-and-error process

**7%**

of emergency room visits are due to adverse drug reactions<sup>1</sup>

**50%**

of medications prescribed are not taken or are stopped prematurely because of adverse effects<sup>2</sup>

**20+**

different kinds of antidepressant medication<sup>3</sup>

**38%**

of patients do not benefit from a prescribed antidepressant<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lauren Walker, ... Munir Pirmohamed, in Handbook of Pharmacogenomics and Stratified Medicine, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Will Pharmacogenetics Help Your Health? By Pat Allen, USNews.com Oct. 23, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments (CANMAT) 2016 Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Adults with Major Depressive Disorder, p.543.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ScienceResearch/SpecialTopics/PersonalizedMedicine/UCM372421.pdf>, p.12.

# Using pharmacogenetics to find a better treatment, faster

## TREATMENT APPROACH

- Pharmacogenetic testing for plan members to assist their doctor to make appropriate treatment decisions and prescribe the most effective medication more quickly
- Plan members taking chronic pain, anxiety or antidepressant medication can volunteer to participate if they are experiencing unwanted side effects or poor results from their drugs
- Pharmacogenetic test provider will send a test kit to an eligible plan member to complete and send back
- Test results will be sent to the plan member and, if the members consents, to their doctor as well

# Expected key outcomes of the pilot

## FOR MEMBERS

1. Access to personalized medical treatment based on their genetic makeup
2. Lower risk of adverse drug side effects
3. Improved effectiveness of medication in treating their condition
4. Has the potential to reduce length of disability and facilitate safe return to work

## FOR SPONSORS

1. May help shorten absence duration for employees
2. Potentially reduced backfill costs, with less disruption to the workplace
3. Better likelihood of the employee's recovery
4. Potential for reduced drug waste and cost

## ABOUT BIOGENIQ

With headquarters in Québec, BiogeniQ's mission is to offer actionable recommendations based on an individual's DNA in real time, in order to make health care more personalized.

