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424B5 1 d429455d424b5.htm FINAL PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

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<b>Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Amount to be Registered</b>	<b>Ag Offe</b>
1.50% Senior Notes due November 15, 2017	\$500,000,000	99
2.75% Senior Notes due November 15, 2022	\$1,000,000,000	98
4.125% Senior Notes due November 15, 2042	\$500,000,000	98

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) of the Securities Act of 1933.

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**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

**November 2, 2012**

**(To Prospectus Dated December 2, 2011)**

**\$2,000,000,000**

**aetna**

**\$500,000,000 1.50% Senior Notes Due 2017**

**\$1,000,000,000 2.75% Senior Notes Due 2022**

**\$500,000,000 4.125% Senior Notes Due 2042**

We are offering \$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our 1.50% senior notes due 2017 (the “2017 Notes”), \$1,000,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our 2.75% senior notes due 2022 (the “2022 Notes”) and \$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our 4.125% senior notes due 2042 (the “2042 Notes”). The 2017 Notes, the 2022 Notes and the 2042 Notes are collectively referred to in this prospectus supplement as the “Notes.” The offering and sale of each series of Notes is separate from the offering and sale of any other series of Notes.

The 2017 Notes will bear interest at a rate of 1.50% per year and will mature on November 15, 2017. The 2022 Notes will bear interest at a rate of 2.75% per year and will mature on November 15, 2022. The 2042 Notes will bear interest at a rate of 4.125% per year and will mature on November 15, 2042. Interest on the Notes is payable on May 15 and November 15 of each year, beginning May 15, 2013. We may redeem the Notes of any series at any time, in whole or in part, as described in this prospectus supplement.

On August 19, 2012, Aetna Inc. (“Aetna”), Jaguar Merger Subsidiary, Inc. (“Merger Sub”) and Coventry Health Care, Inc. (“Coventry”) entered into a merger agreement (as amended, the “merger agreement”), pursuant to which, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of certain conditions, Aetna Inc. will acquire Coventry in a merger. The merger is valued at approximately \$7.3 billion, including the assumption of Coventry debt (the “merger”), based on the closing price of Aetna common stock on August 19, 2012. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to finance, together with cash on hand and approximately \$500 million of commercial paper, the cash requirements of the merger. See “Use of Proceeds.” If the merger has not been completed by November 19, 2013 (or such later date to which the end date for the merger is extended by agreement between Aetna and Coventry, as described herein) or if, prior to such date, the merger agreement is terminated, we will redeem the Notes at a redemption price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date (as defined herein). See “Description of the Notes—Special Mandatory Redemption.”

The Notes will be unsecured senior obligations of our company and will rank equally with all of our other existing and future unsecured senior obligations.

The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. Currently, there is no public market for the Notes.

**Investing in the Notes involves risks. See “[Risk Factors](#)” included or incorporated by reference herein and on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or the prospectus supplement or the related prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

Per 2017 Note

**Public Offering  
Price(1)**

99.519%

**Unde  
Disc  
Com**

2017 Note Total	\$ 497,595,000	\$ 3,
Per 2022 Note	98.309%	
2022 Note Total	\$ 983,090,000	\$ 6,
Per 2042 Note	98.457%	
2042 Note Total	\$ 492,285,000	\$ 4,
Total	<u>\$1,972,970,000</u>	<u>\$13,</u>

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from November 7, 2012, if settlement occurs after that date.

The underwriters expect to deliver the Notes in registered book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company and indirect participants, including Euroclear System (“Euroclear”) and Clearstream Banking, S.A. (“Clearstream”), to purchasers on or about

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*Joint Book-Running Managers*

**Goldman, Sachs & Co.**  
**J.P. Morgan**

**Morgan Stanley**

**Barclays**  
**Credit Suisse**  
**US Bancorp**

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*Senior Co-Managers*  
**BofA Merrill Lynch**  
**Mitsubishi UFJ Securities**  
**Wells Fargo Securities**

**BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC**  
**HSBC**

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*Co-Managers*

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We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by supplement and in the accompanying prospectus or in any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf or to which we have referred. Underwriters take any responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. If the information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on this prospectus supplement.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. The information in the accompanying prospectus may only be accurate as of the date of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the information therein, and the information in any free writing prospectus may only be accurate as of the date of such free writing prospectus. Our business operations and/or prospects may have changed since those dates.

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In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, all references to “Aetna,” the “Company,” “we,” “us” and “our” refer to Aetna and its subsidiaries, unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires. The “underwriters” refers to the financial institutions named on the prospectus supplement.

Unless specifically indicated, the information presented in this prospectus supplement does not give effect to our proposed acquisition of Coventry (“Coventry”), which we currently expect to complete in mid-2013.

We are offering the Notes globally for sale in those jurisdictions in the United States, Europe, Asia and elsewhere where it is lawful to do so. The offering of the Notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. For more information, see the prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus should inform themselves about and observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not lawful or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.

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**[Table of Contents](#)****SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights selected information about Aetna and this offering. It does not contain all of the information that may be necessary for you to make a decision about whether to purchase the Notes. We encourage you to read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the prospectus supplement, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") that are incorporated by reference herein prior to deciding whether to purchase the Notes.*

**THE COMPANY**

We are a diversified health care benefits company. We offer a broad range of traditional and consumer-directed health insurance products, including medical, pharmacy, dental, behavioral health, group life and disability plans, medical management capabilities, Medicaid health plans, and health information technology services. These products are offered on both an insured and employer-funded basis. Our subsidiaries offer products to a wide range of customers including employer groups, individuals, college students, part-time and hourly workers, health plans, health care providers, government sponsored plans, labor groups and expatriates. We also have a large case pensions business that manages a variety of retirement products and pension plans.

Our principal executive offices are located at 151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06156, and our telephone number is (860) 582-8000. You can obtain information about Aetna and its services at <http://www.aetna.com>. This text is not an active link, and our website and the information contained on that site, are not incorporated into this prospectus supplement.

[Table of Contents](#)**THE OFFERING**

The offering terms of the Notes are summarized below solely for your convenience. This summary is not a complete description of the text and more specific details contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. For a more detailed discussion under the caption “Description of the Notes” beginning on page S-23 of this prospectus supplement.

Issuer	Aetna Inc.
Notes Offered	\$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 1.50% senior notes due 2017 \$1,000,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 2.75% senior notes due 2022 \$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 4.125% senior notes due 2042 Notes, the 2022 Notes and the 2042 Notes are collectively referred to in this prospectus supplement as the “Notes.” The offering and sale of each series of Notes is not conditioned on the sale of any other Notes.
Maturity	The 2017 Notes will mature on November 15, 2017. The 2022 Notes will mature on November 15, 2022. The 2042 Notes will mature on November 15, 2042.
Interest Payment Dates	May 15 and November 15, beginning May 15, 2013.
Optional Redemption	<p>At any time prior to October 15, 2017 (one month prior to the maturity date of the 2017 Notes), we may redeem the 2017 Notes, in whole or in part, at the redemption price described in this prospectus supplement, plus any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.</p> <p>At any time prior to August 15, 2022 (three months prior to the maturity date of the 2022 Notes), we may redeem the 2022 Notes, in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2022 Notes redeemed, plus any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.</p> <p>At any time prior to May 15, 2042 (six months prior to the maturity date of the 2042 Notes), we may redeem the 2042 Notes, in whole or in part, at the redemption price described in this prospectus supplement, plus any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption. At any time prior to May 15, 2042 (six months prior to the maturity date of the 2042 Notes), we may also redeem the 2042 Notes, in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2042 Notes redeemed, plus any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.</p>



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Special Mandatory Redemption	<p>We are not required to establish a sinking fund to retire or repay the Notes.</p> <p>If the merger has not been completed by November 19, 2013 (or such later date as may be determined by the consummation of the merger may be extended by agreement between us and the holders of the Notes herein) or if, prior to such date, the merger agreement is terminated, we will redeem the Notes at a redemption price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes and unpaid interest to, but not including, the special mandatory redemption date. The term “special mandatory redemption date” means the 30th day (or if such day is not a business day, the next business day) following the transmission of a notice of special mandatory redemption to the holders of the Notes more than 60 days after the occurrence of the event triggering redemption. See “Special Mandatory Redemption.”</p>
Repurchase upon Change of Control	<p>Upon the occurrence of both (1) a Change of Control (as defined in “Description of the Notes”) and (2) a downgrade of the Notes of a series below an investment grade rating by a nationally recognized rating agency (as defined in “Description of the Notes”) within a specified period, we will repurchase all of the Notes of such series at a price equal to 101% of the principal amount of such series, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to the date of repurchase. See “Repurchase Upon a Change of Control.”</p>
Ranking	<p>The Notes will be our senior unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank senior to our other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.</p>
Additional Issuances	<p>In the future we may, without the consent of the holders of the Notes of a series, issue additional Notes of a series of a principal amount of Notes of such series offered on the same terms and conditions as the Notes of such series (offering price, issue date and first interest payment date may vary).</p>
Use of Proceeds	<p>We expect to use the estimated \$1,956,595,000 in net proceeds after deducting estimated commissions and estimated offering expenses from this offering to finance the purchase price of the merger. See “Use of Proceeds.”</p>
Covenants	<p>The indenture for the Notes limits our ability to consolidate with or merge with or acquire other entities (other than in a merger or</p>

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	consolidation in which we are the surviving person) or sell our property or assets (other than the property or assets sold in whole or in part to any person. This covenant is subject to important qualifications. See “Description of Debt Securities—Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets” in the accompanying prospectus.
No Cross-Default	The indenture for the Notes does not restrict our ability to incur additional debt. In the event of default in the indenture for the Notes, the holders of the Notes will not have the benefit of the coverage provided by the insurance described under “Description of Debt Securities—Limitations on Liens and Subordination” in the accompanying prospectus.
Minimum Denominations	Under the terms of the Notes, the holders of the Notes will not have the benefit of the coverage provided by the insurance in the event of default in the indenture for the Notes described in the fourth bullet point under “Description of Debt Securities—Events of Default and Notice Thereof” in the accompanying prospectus.
Risk Factors	The Notes will be issued and may be transferred only in minimum denominations of \$1,000 in excess thereof.
	For a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in the Notes, see “Risk Factors” included or incorporated by reference herein, as described below in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

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[Table of Contents](#)**RISK FACTORS**

*In deciding whether to purchase the Notes, you should carefully consider the risks described below, which could cause our operations to be materially adversely affected, as well as other information and data included in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. See “Risk Factors” beginning on page 41 of our 2011 Aetna Annual Report, Financial Report to Shareholders incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, our Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, as updated by our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012. Following completion of the merger, Aetna will also be subject to the risks described in Coventry’s reports filed as an exhibit to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012 and incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.*

***We may be unable to redeem any or all of the Notes in the event of a special mandatory redemption.***

If the merger has not been completed by November 19, 2013 (or such later date to which the end date for the consummation of the merger is extended) between Aetna and Coventry, as described herein) or if, prior to such date, the merger agreement is terminated, we will be obligated to redeem the Notes at a price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the special mandatory redemption date (as defined herein). See “Description of the Notes—Special Mandatory Redemption.” We are not obligated to place the proceeds of the offering of any new debt securities in connection with the completion of the merger or to provide a security interest in those proceeds, and there are no other restrictions on our use of these proceeds other than our need to fund any special mandatory redemption using proceeds that we have voluntarily retained or from other sources of liquidity. In the event we do not have sufficient funds to purchase any or all of the Notes.

***In the event of a special mandatory redemption, holders of the Notes may not obtain their expected return on such Notes.***

If we redeem the Notes pursuant to the special mandatory redemption provisions, you may not obtain your expected return on the Notes. The proceeds from such special mandatory redemption in an investment that results in a comparable return. In addition, as a result of the special mandatory redemption of the Notes, the trading prices of the Notes may not reflect the financial results of our business or macroeconomic factors. You will have no right to demand a special redemption provisions if the merger closes, nor will you have any right to require us to repurchase your Notes if, between the closing of this merger, we experience any changes (including any material adverse changes) in our business or financial condition, or if the terms of the merger agreement materially respects.

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[Table of Contents](#)**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Our net proceeds from this offering are estimated to be approximately \$1,956,595,000 after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and other expenses. We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering to finance, together with cash on hand and approximately \$500 million of commercial debt, the purchase price of the merger. The completion of the merger is subject to approval by Coventry's stockholders, customary regulatory approvals and other conditions.

Pending completion of the merger, we may invest the proceeds temporarily in investment-grade securities or similar assets. If the merger is not completed by November 19, 2013 (or such later date to which the end date for the consummation of the merger may be extended by agreement between Aetna and Coventry) or if, prior to such date, the merger agreement is terminated, we will be obligated to redeem all of the Notes at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the special mandatory redemption date (as defined herein). See "Description of the Notes—Redemption."

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The following table sets forth our selected consolidated financial data as of, and for each of the years ended December 31, 2007 through 2009, and for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2012 and September 30, 2011. The financial data as of, and for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2011 is derived from our unaudited financial statements. The unaudited financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting only of normal accruals, to give fair presentation of our financial position and results of operations during that period and as of that date. Operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 are not necessarily indicative of those to be expected for the full fiscal year.

The following information should be read in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” included in our consolidated financial statements and related notes included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2011, and our Annual Report, each filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. For additional information, see “Where You Can Find More Information” in this prospectus supplement.

The selected financial information presented below does not reflect our proposed acquisition of Coventry. See “Aetna and Coventry Combined Financial Statements” included in this prospectus supplement.

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Years Ended December 31,	
	2012	2011	2011	2010 (Millions)
<b>INCOME STATEMENT DATA:</b>				
Total revenue	\$ 26,667.4	\$ 25,207.5	\$ 33,779.8	\$ 34,246.0
Health care costs	17,613.5	16,060.3	21,653.5	22,719.6
Current and future benefits	1,511.1	1,433.9	1,876.5	2,013.4
Operating expenses	4,952.0	4,971.5	6,804.4	6,519.0
Interest expense	192.2	187.3	246.9	254.6
Amortization of other acquired intangible assets	108.9	83.6	120.7	95.2
Loss on early extinguishment of long-term debt	35.4	—	—	—
Reduction of reserve for anticipated future losses on discontinued products	—	—	—	—
Total benefits and expenses	24,413.1	22,736.6	30,702.0	31,601.8
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	2,254.3	2,470.9	3,077.8	2,644.2
Income taxes	786.5	857.8	1,092.1	877.4
Income from continuing operations	\$ 1,467.8	\$ 1,613.1	\$ 1,985.7	\$ 1,766.8
<b>BALANCE SHEET DATA (AT PERIOD END):</b>				
Total assets	\$ 39,838.4	\$ 38,694.2	\$ 38,593.1	\$ 37,739.4
Debt:				
Short-term	\$ 70.0	\$ 449.9	\$ 425.9	\$ —
Current portion of long-term	—	—	—	899.9
Long-term, less current portion	4,615.6	3,977.1	3,977.7	3,482.6
Total debt	\$ 4,685.6	\$ 4,427.0	\$ 4,403.6	\$ 4,382.5
Shareholders’ equity	\$ 10,896.8	\$ 10,528.7	\$ 10,120.2	\$ 9,890.8

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**[Table of Contents](#)****AETNA AND COVENTRY UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of income for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, and for the six months ended June 30, 2012, and the unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet as of June 30, 2012, combines the historical consolidated statements of income of Aetna Inc. (“Aetna”) and Coventry Health Care, Inc. (“Coventry”), giving effect to the merger of Aetna (“Merger Sub”) with and into Coventry (which is referred to as the merger) as if it had occurred on the first day of each period presented. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet as of June 30, 2012, combines the historical consolidated balance sheets of Aetna and Coventry, giving effect to the merger as if it had occurred on the first day of each period presented. The historical consolidated financial information has been adjusted in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements to give effect to the merger as if it had occurred on the first day of each period presented. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been adjusted to give effect to the merger as if it had occurred on the first day of each period presented. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information should be read in conjunction with the accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements. In addition, the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information was based on and derived from the following historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes:

- separate historical financial statements of Aetna as of, and for the year ended, December 31, 2011, and the related notes included in Aetna’s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011;
- separate historical financial statements of Coventry as of, and for the year ended, December 31, 2011, and the related notes included in Coventry’s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011;
- separate historical financial statements of Aetna as of, and for the six months ended, June 30, 2012, and the related notes included in Aetna’s Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2012; and
- separate historical financial statements of Coventry as of, and for the six months ended, June 30, 2012, and the related notes included in Coventry’s Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2012.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared by Aetna using the acquisition method of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Aetna has been treated as the acquirer in the merger for accounting purposes. The acquisition accounting is based on preliminary valuation and other studies that have yet to commence or progress to a stage where there is sufficient information for a definitive measurement. Aetna has not yet received the necessary approvals from governmental authorities, and under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended thereunder (which is referred to in this prospectus supplement as the HSR Act) and other relevant laws and regulations, before completion of the acquisition. There are limitations regarding what Aetna can learn about Coventry. The assets and liabilities of Coventry have been measured based on various preliminary estimates that Aetna believes are reasonable based on information that is currently available. Differences between these preliminary estimates and the actual results and those differences could have a material impact on the accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and the results of operations and financial position. The pro forma adjustments are preliminary and have been made solely for the purpose of providing unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Aetna intends to commence the necessary valuation and other studies required to complete the acquisition accounting promptly upon completion of the acquisition and to finalize the acquisition accounting as soon as practicable within the required measurement period in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification 805.

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Accounting Standards Codification (which is referred to in this prospectus supplement as ASC) 805, but in no event later than one year following the completion of the merger.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been presented for informational purposes only. The unaudited financial information does not purport to represent the actual results of operations that Aetna and Coventry would have achieved had the combined company existed for the periods and is not intended to project the future results of operations that the combined company may achieve after the merger. The unaudited financial information does not reflect the realization of any cost savings following completion of the merger and also does not reflect any related charges to achieve those cost savings. Material intercompany transactions between Aetna and Coventry during the periods presented in the unaudited combined financial statements have been eliminated (refer to *Note 7. Income Statement Pro Forma Adjustments* and *Note 8. Balance Sheet Pro Forma Adjustments*).



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**Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined  
Statement of Income  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2011**

	<u>Aetna</u>	<u>Coventry</u>	<u>Disposition (Note 6)</u> (Millions, except per comm
Revenue:			
Health care and other premiums	\$28,965.0	\$ 11,015.0	\$ (138.4)
Fees and other revenue	3,884.0	1,191.3	—
Net investment income	930.8	69.4	(.8)
Total revenue	<u>33,779.8</u>	<u>12,275.7</u>	<u>(139.2)</u>
Benefits and expenses:			
Health care costs and benefits	23,530.0	9,324.9	(125.2)
Selling, general and administrative expenses	6,925.1	1,993.6	(14.5)
Interest expense	246.9	99.1	—
Total benefits and expenses	<u>30,702.0</u>	<u>11,417.6</u>	<u>(139.7)</u>
Income before income taxes	<u>3,077.8</u>	<u>858.1</u>	<u>.5</u>
Income tax expense	1,092.1	315.0	.2
Net income	<u>\$ 1,985.7</u>	<u>\$ 543.1</u>	<u>\$ .3</u>
Earnings per common share:			
Basic	<u>\$ 5.33</u>	<u>\$ 3.75</u>	
Diluted	<u>\$ 5.22</u>	<u>\$ 3.70</u>	
Weighted-average shares:			
Basic	<u>372.5</u>	<u>144.8</u>	
Diluted	<u>380.2</u>	<u>146.7</u>	

See the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, which are an integral part of these statements, for more information. The adjustments are explained in *Note 7. Income Statement Pro Forma Adjustments*.

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**Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined  
Statement of Income  
For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2012**

	<u>Aetna</u>	<u>Coventry</u>	<u>Disposition</u> <u>(Note 6)</u> (Millions, except per com
Revenue:			
Health care and other premiums	\$15,300.4	\$ 6,595.9	\$ (76.4)
Fees and other revenue	1,987.1	632.4	—
Net investment income	463.4	36.4	(.5)
Total revenue	<u>\$17,750.9</u>	<u>\$ 7,264.7</u>	<u>\$ (76.9)</u>
Benefits and expenses:			
Health care costs and benefits	\$12,760.0	\$ 5,700.6	\$ (67.2)
Selling, general and administrative expenses	3,387.2	1,087.5	(8.0)
Interest expense	123.7	50.2	—
Total benefits and expenses	<u>16,270.9</u>	<u>6,838.3</u>	<u>(75.2)</u>
Income before income taxes	<u>1,480.0</u>	<u>426.4</u>	<u>(1.7)</u>
Income tax expense	511.4	163.9	(.6)
Net income	<u>\$ 968.6</u>	<u>\$ 262.5</u>	<u>\$ (1.1)</u>
Earnings per common share:			
Basic	<u>\$ 2.80</u>	<u>\$ 1.86</u>	
Diluted	<u>\$ 2.76</u>	<u>\$ 1.85</u>	
Weighted-average shares:			
Basic	<u>346.0</u>	<u>139.2</u>	
Diluted	<u>351.5</u>	<u>139.9</u>	

See the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, which are an integral part of these s are explained in *Note 7. Income Statement Pro Forma Adjustments*.

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**Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined  
Balance Sheet  
As of June 30, 2012**

	<u>Aetna</u>	<u>Coventry</u>	<u>Disposition (Note 6) (Millions)</u>
Assets:			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 922.1	\$ 1,516.0	\$ (9.1)
Investments	2,347.0	177.9	—
Premiums and other receivables, net	1,625.9	1,207.3	(20.4)
Other current assets	1,579.7	202.2	(.4)
Total current assets	<u>6,474.7</u>	<u>3,103.4</u>	<u>(29.9)</u>
Long-term investments	18,331.0	2,535.0	—
Goodwill	6,202.2	2,590.0	(3.0)
Intangibles	885.3	351.6	—
Other long-term assets	2,238.4	293.4	—
Separate Accounts assets	5,321.1	—	—
Total assets	<u>\$39,452.7</u>	<u>\$ 8,873.4</u>	<u>\$ (32.9)</u>
Liabilities and shareholders' equity:			
Current liabilities:			
Health care costs payable and unpaid claims	\$ 3,494.7	\$ 1,491.4	\$ (19.5)
Short term debt	—	—	—
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	4,940.4	910.9	(13.4)
Total current liabilities	<u>8,435.1</u>	<u>2,402.3</u>	<u>(32.9)</u>
Long-term debt, less current portion	4,706.3	1,584.9	—
Other long-term liabilities	10,734.4	379.9	—
Separate Accounts liabilities	5,321.1	—	—
Total liabilities	<u>29,196.9</u>	<u>4,367.1</u>	<u>(32.9)</u>
Shareholders' equity:			
Common stock and additional paid-in-capital (1)	1,039.8	30.0	(9.5)
Retained earnings	10,270.9	4,410.5	11.4
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(1,054.9)	65.8	(1.9)
Total shareholders' equity	<u>10,255.8</u>	<u>4,506.3</u>	<u>—</u>
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	<u>\$39,452.7</u>	<u>\$ 8,873.4</u>	<u>\$ (32.9)</u>

(1) On an historical basis, share information of Aetna is as follows: 2.6 billion shares authorized; 334.2 million shares issued and outstanding. On a pro forma combined basis, share information is as follows: 3.6 billion shares authorized; 386.2 million shares issued and outstanding.

See the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, which are an integral part of these statements. The adjustments to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements are explained in *Note 8. Balance Sheet Pro Forma Adjustments*.

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**NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED  
COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. Description of Transaction**

On August 19, 2012, Aetna, Merger Sub and Coventry entered into the Agreement and Plan of Merger (which, as amended, is referred to as the merger agreement), pursuant to which, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the merger agreement, Merger Sub will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Aetna. Upon completion of the merger, each share of Coventry common stock issued and outstanding will be converted into \$27.30 in cash, without interest, and 0.3885 of an Aetna common share.

At completion of the merger, each option to purchase shares of Coventry common stock outstanding under any Coventry employee benefit plan that is exercisable, with a per share exercise price less than the sum of (a) \$27.30 and (b) the product of (i) the Aetna closing price multiplied by 0.3885 (the "in-the-money" options), will be cancelled and converted into the right to receive the merger consideration and which options are referred to as in-the-money options), will be cancelled and converted into the right to receive the merger consideration, net of interest and less applicable withholding taxes, equal to the product of (x) the excess of (i) the equity award cash consideration over (ii) the amount of the in-the-money option multiplied by (y) the total number of shares of Coventry common stock underlying that in-the-money option. The average of the trading prices for Aetna common shares on the New York Stock Exchange for each of the five trading days ending on the trading day that the merger is completed is referred to as the Aetna closing price.

During the 60-day period following the date of the merger agreement, Aetna and Coventry discussed the treatment of each option to purchase shares of Coventry common stock outstanding under any Coventry employee benefit plan, whether or not vested or exercisable, with a per share exercise price greater than the Aetna closing price (which options are referred to as underwater options), taking into account the appropriate terms and conditions of each such option and the treatment of such underwater options upon completion of the merger. Aetna has agreed to pay the holders of underwater options that execute customary acceleration provisions an amount in cash calculated by reference to the exercise price of the underwater options and equivalent to \$1.00 to \$4.00 for each share of Coventry common stock underlying an underwater option. For active employees of Coventry, such payment will also be conditioned upon such employee remaining employed by Coventry for one year following the closing of the merger (subject to acceleration upon certain terminations of employment).

At completion of the merger, each outstanding restricted share of Coventry common stock (which represents a share of Coventry common stock subject to forfeiture restrictions) will be converted into the right to receive the merger consideration payable to holders of shares of Coventry common stock, net of applicable withholding taxes.

At completion of the merger, each Coventry performance share unit and restricted stock unit outstanding under any Coventry employee benefit plan (referred to as Coventry stock units) that, pursuant to its terms as of the date of the merger agreement, is vested or becomes vested upon completion of the merger, other than the Coventry stock unit held by Allen F. Wise, which are collectively referred to as cashed-out units, will be converted into the right to receive an amount in cash, net of applicable withholding taxes, equal to the product of (a) the equity award cash consideration multiplied by (b) the number of shares of Coventry common stock underlying a cashed-out unit.

At completion of the merger, each Coventry stock unit outstanding under any Coventry employee benefit plan that, pursuant to its terms as of the date of the merger agreement, is not vested and will not become vested upon completion of the merger (other than the Coventry stock units held by Mr. Wise), will

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rollover units, will be converted into a cash-settled Aetna restricted stock unit with the number of Aetna common shares underlying that cash-settled unit equal to the product of (x) the number of shares of Coventry common stock underlying that rollover unit immediately prior to completion of the merger and (y) the ratio of (i) the equity award cash consideration divided by (ii) the Aetna closing price. Each such cash-settled Aetna restricted stock unit will be subject to the same vesting conditions (including service-based vesting) as applied to the corresponding rollover unit immediately prior to completion of the merger.

The merger is subject to adoption of the merger agreement by Coventry stockholders, early termination or expiration of the waiting period, and other governmental authorizations having been obtained and being in full force and effect and other usual and customary conditions to completion. Pursuant to this prospectus supplement, the merger is expected to be completed in mid-2013.

## **2. Basis of Presentation**

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information was prepared using the acquisition method of accounting and was based on the financial statements of Aetna and Coventry. The acquisition method of accounting is based on ASC 805 and uses the fair value concepts defined in ASC 820.

ASC 805 requires, among other things, that most assets acquired and liabilities assumed be recognized at their fair values as of the date of the acquisition. ASC 805 requires that the consideration transferred be measured at the date the merger is completed at the then-current market price. This requirement may result in a measurement component that is different from the amount assumed in these unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements.

ASC 820 defines the term “fair value” and sets forth the valuation requirements for any asset or liability measured at fair value, expands the definition of fair value, and specifies a hierarchy of valuation techniques based on the nature of the inputs used to develop the fair value measures. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is based on the valuation of the asset or liability. In addition, market participants are assumed to be buyers and sellers in the principal (or the most advantageous) market for the asset or liability. Fair value measurements for an asset assume the highest and best use by these market participants. As a result of these standards, Aetna may be required to value assets which are not intended to be used or sold and/or to value assets at fair value measures that do not reflect Aetna’s intended use of those assets. Fair value measurements can be highly subjective, and it is possible that other professionals, applying reasonable judgment to the same facts and circumstances, could arrive at a different range of alternative estimated amounts.

Under the acquisition method of accounting, the assets acquired and liabilities assumed will be recorded, as of completion of the merger, at their fair values and added to those of Aetna. Financial statements and reported results of operations of Aetna issued after completion of the merger will be retroactively restated to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of Coventry.

Under ASC 805, acquisition-related transaction costs (e.g., advisory, legal, valuation and other professional fees) are not included as part of the consideration transferred but are accounted for as expenses in the periods in which the costs are incurred. Total acquisition-related transaction costs expected to be incurred by Coventry are estimated to be approximately \$128 million and \$45 million, respectively, of which none had been incurred as of June 30, 2012. Total acquisition-related transaction costs expected to be incurred by Aetna include estimated fees related to a bridge financing commitment and agreement and estimated interest costs on the debt of long-term transaction-related debt in the fourth quarter of 2012. Those

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costs are reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet as an increase to accrued expenses and other current liabilities and the after tax impact reflected as an increase in other current assets and the after tax impact presented as a decrease to retained earnings.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements do not reflect the projected realization of cost savings following completion of the merger. The cost savings opportunities are from administrative cost savings, as well as network and medical management savings. Although Aetna projects that following completion of the merger, there can be no assurance that these cost savings will be achieved. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements do not reflect restructuring and integration charges associated with the projected cost savings, which are projected to be approximately \$250 million to \$300 million following completion of the merger. Such restructuring and integration charges will be expensed in the appropriate accounting periods after completion of the merger.

**3. Accounting Policies**

At completion of the merger, Aetna will review Coventry's accounting policies. As a result of that review, Aetna may identify differences between the accounting policies of the two companies that, when conformed, could have a material impact on the combined financial statements. At this time, Aetna is not aware of any such differences that would have a material impact on the combined financial statements. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements assume there are no such differences.

**4. Estimate of Consideration Expected to be Transferred**

The following is a preliminary estimate of consideration expected to be transferred to effect the acquisition of Coventry:

	<u>Conversion Calculation</u> (Millions)
Consideration Transferred:	
Number of shares of Coventry common stock outstanding at October 15, 2012	133.2
Multiplied by Aetna's share price at October 15, 2012, multiplied by the exchange ratio (\$43.92*0.3885)	\$ 17.00
Multiplied by the per common share cash consideration	\$ 27.30
Number of shares underlying in-the-money Coventry stock options vested and unvested outstanding as of October 15, 2012, expected to be canceled and exchanged for cash	4.6
Multiplied by the excess, if any, of (1) the sum of (x) the per common share cash consideration plus (y) Aetna's stock price at October 15, 2012, multiplied by the exchange ratio (\$43.92*0.3885) over (2) the weighted-average exercise price of such in-the-money stock options	\$ 15.84
Number of Coventry performance share units and restricted stock units outstanding at October 15, 2012, expected to be canceled and paid in cash (a)	1.2
Multiplied by the Equity Award Cash Consideration	\$ 44.36
Number of Coventry restricted shares outstanding at October 15, 2012	1.2
Multiplied by Aetna's stock price at October 15, 2012, multiplied by the exchange ratio (\$43.92*0.3885)	\$ 17.00
Multiplied by the per common share cash consideration	\$ 27.30
Estimate of Total Consideration Expected to be Transferred (b)	

*Certain amounts may reflect rounding adjustments.*

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- (a) Pursuant to the terms of the Employment Agreement between Coventry and Allen F. Wise, dated April 30, 2009, as amended on June 1, 2013, Mr. Wise is entitled to receive Coventry stock units with a grant date fair value of \$7,600,000, which is referred to as the Wise 2013 Grant. The Wise 2013 Grant is not reflected in the table above.
- (b) The estimated consideration expected to be transferred reflected in these unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements is the actual consideration that will be transferred when the merger is completed. In accordance with ASC 805, the fair value of equity securities consideration transferred will be measured on the date the merger is completed at the then-current market price. This requirement will result in a common share component of the purchase consideration and a per share equity component different from the \$17.06 assumed in these unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, and that difference may be material. For example, if the price of Aetna's common shares on the date the merger is completed decreased by 10% from the price assumed in these unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, the consideration transferred would be reduced by approximately \$237 million, which would be reflected in these unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements as a decrease of approximately \$237 million.

**5. Estimate of Assets to be Acquired and Liabilities to be Assumed**

The following is a preliminary estimate of the assets to be acquired and the liabilities to be assumed by Aetna in the merger, reconciled to the consideration expected to be transferred:

**Assets Acquired and Liabilities Assumed:**

Net book value of net assets acquired

Less historical:

Goodwill

Intangible assets

Capitalized internal-use software

Deferred tax assets on outstanding equity awards

Deferred tax liabilities on historical internal-use software

Deferred tax liabilities on historical intangible assets

Adjusted book value of net assets acquired

Adjustments to:

Goodwill (a)

Identified intangible assets (b)

Deferred tax liabilities (c)

Fair value adjustment to debt (d)

Property and equipment (e)

Total adjustments

Consideration transferred

- (a) Goodwill is calculated as the difference between the acquisition date fair value of the total consideration expected to be transferred and the fair value of the net assets acquired and liabilities assumed. Goodwill is not amortized.
- (b) As of completion of the merger, identifiable intangible assets are required to be measured at fair value, and these acquired assets could be used or sold or that are intended to be used in a manner other than their highest and best use. For purposes of these unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, the fair value of these intangible assets is based on the highest and best use of the assets.





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combined financial statements and consistent with the ASC 820 requirements for fair value measurements, it is assumed that all assets be used in a manner that represents the highest and best use of those assets, but it is not assumed that any market participant synergies

The fair value of identifiable intangible assets is determined primarily using variations of the “income approach,” which is based on cash flows attributable to each identified intangible asset. Other valuation methods, including the market approach and cost approach, fair value. Under the HSR Act and other relevant laws and regulations, there are significant limitations on Aetna’s ability to obtain sp intangible assets prior to completion of the merger.

At this time, Aetna does not have sufficient information as to the amount, timing and risk of cash flows of all of Coventry’s identifiable fair value. Some of the more significant assumptions inherent in the development of intangible asset values, from the perspective of a and timing of projected future cash flows (including revenue and profitability); the discount rate selected to measure the risks inherent assessment of the asset’s life cycle and the competitive trends impacting the asset. However, for purposes of these unaudited pro form statements and using publicly available information, such as historical revenues, Coventry’s cost structure, industry information for co other high-level assumptions, the fair value of Coventry’s identifiable intangible assets and their weighted-average useful lives have b

	<u>Estimate d</u> <u>Fair Value</u> (Millions)
Customer lists	\$ 625.0
Provider networks	525.0
Trademarks/tradenames	120.0
Technology	30.0
Total	<u>\$1,300.0</u>

These preliminary estimates of fair value and weighted-average useful life will likely be different from the final acquisition accounting material impact on the accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements. Once Aetna has full access to in assets, additional insight will be gained that could impact (i) the estimated total value assigned to intangible assets, (ii) the estimated finite-lived and indefinite-lived intangible assets and/or (iii) the estimated weighted-average useful life of each category of intangible values and their useful lives could be impacted by a variety of factors that may become known to Aetna only upon access to additional such factors that may occur prior to completion of the merger. These factors include, but are not limited to, changes in the regulatory, l competitive environments. Increased knowledge about these and/or other elements could result in a change to the estimated fair value assets and/or to the estimated weighted-average useful lives from what Aetna has assumed in these unaudited pro forma condensed co combined effect of any such changes could then also result in a significant increase or decrease to Aetna’s estimate of associated amo

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- (c) As of completion of the merger, Aetna will establish deferred taxes and make other tax adjustments as part of the accounting for the acquisition. The estimated fair value adjustments for identifiable intangible assets and debt (see (b) and (d)). The pro forma adjustment to record the acquisition is as follows:

Estimated fair value of identifiable intangible assets to be acquired

Estimated fair value adjustment of debt to be assumed

Total estimated fair value adjustments of assets to be acquired and liabilities to be assumed

Deferred taxes associated with the estimated fair value adjustments of assets to be acquired and liabilities to be assumed, at 35% (\*)

(\*) Aetna assumed a 35% tax rate when estimating the deferred tax aspects of the acquisition.

- (d) As of completion of the merger, debt is required to be measured at fair value. Aetna has calculated the pro forma adjustment using published market rates. Aetna believes the pro forma adjustment amount to be reasonable.
- (e) As of completion of the merger, property and equipment is required to be measured at fair value, unless those assets are classified as held for sale. The acquired assets can include assets that are not intended to be used or sold, or that are intended to be used in a manner other than that intended by the seller. Aetna does not have sufficient information at this time as to the specific nature, age, condition or location of Coventry's property and equipment, and therefore has used an appropriate valuation premise, in-use or in-exchange, as the valuation premise requires a certain level of knowledge about the assets and the associated market participants. All of these elements can cause differences between fair value and net book value. Accordingly, for the pro forma condensed combined financial statements, Aetna has assumed that the current Coventry book values represent the best estimate of fair value for internal-use software for which the historical book value was eliminated as the fair value was estimated in (b) above. This estimate is subjective and could vary materially from the actual value on the date the merger is completed.

## 6. Disposition

Aetna and Coventry each have a Missouri Medicaid business. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information assumes that Aetna will continue to operate Coventry's Missouri Medicaid business at the time of the merger and continue to operate Coventry's Missouri Medicaid business. Specifically, the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements of income reflect the elimination of the revenues associated with Aetna's Missouri Medicaid business as well as elimination of the expenses associated with that revenue. Aetna does not currently have market participant bids or other information regarding similar transactions that may be indicative of the fair value of that business. As a result, the unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet reflects the disposal of Aetna's Missouri Medicaid business at book value. The fair value of that business approximates fair value, and also assumes cash consideration received equal to book value.

## 7. Income Statement Pro Forma Adjustments

This note should be read in conjunction with Note 1. Description of Transaction; Note 2. Basis of Presentation; Note 4. Estimate of Cash to be Received; Note 5. Estimate of Cash to be Transferred; and Note 5. Estimate of Assets to be Acquired and Liabilities to be Assumed. Adjustments included in the column under the heading "Pro Forma Adjustments" represent the following:

- (a) Elimination of intercompany transactions between Aetna and Coventry primarily related to network rental fees, consisting of aggregated amounts of \$9.1 million for the year ended 2011 and \$9.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012.

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- (b) For purposes of these unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, Aetna estimated foregone interest income associated with cash, cash equivalents and long-term investments assumed to have been used to partially fund the merger. For purposes of such financial statements, the estimated foregone interest income of the combined entity in 2011 and for the six months ended June 30, 2012, is approximately \$10.4 million and \$5.1 million, respectively. A weighted-average annual interest rate on cash, cash equivalents and long-term investments in 2011 of 0.80% and for the six months ended June 30, 2012 of 0.80% was used.
- (c) For purposes of these unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, Aetna estimated foregone interest income associated with the fair value adjustment of Coventry's investment portfolio to fair value as of completion of the merger. Foregone interest income due to fair value adjustments of Coventry's investment portfolio using the acquisition method of accounting is projected to be approximately \$25.4 million and \$8.5 million in 2011 and for the six months ended June 30, 2012, respectively.
- (d) To adjust amortization expense, as follows:

	<u>Year Ended</u> <u>December 31, 2011</u>
Eliminate Coventry's historical intangible asset amortization expense	\$ (64.4)
Estimated intangible asset amortization*	108.3
Estimated adjustment to intangible asset amortization expense	<u>\$ 43.9</u>

(\*) Assumes an estimated \$1.3 billion of finite-lived intangibles and a weighted average amortization period of 12 years (Refer to *Acquired and Liabilities to be Assumed*).

- (e) Aetna estimates additional general and administrative expense of about \$1.1 million in 2011 and \$0.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012, associated with the amortization of debt issuance costs associated with the approximately \$2.0 billion of long-term debt securities Aetna expects to issue to partially fund the merger. Amortization of those long-term debt securities related to those long-term debt securities are assumed to be amortized over an estimated weighted average term of approximately 14 years.
- (f) Aetna estimates interest expense of \$30.5 million in 2011 and \$15.7 million in the six months ended June 30, 2012, associated with the amortization of the estimated fair value adjustment to Coventry's debt:
- Additional interest expense of approximately \$63.0 million in 2011 and \$31.5 million in the six months ended June 30, 2012, based on the amortization of the estimated fair value adjustment to Coventry's long-term fixed-rate debt securities Aetna expects to issue to partially fund the merger. The calculation of interest expense on the estimated fair value adjustment to Coventry's debt is based on maturity tranches of 5, 10, and 30 years and an estimated weighted average annual interest rate of 3.15%. If interest rates were to increase or decrease from the rates assumed in estimating this pro forma adjustment to interest expense, pro forma interest expense could increase or decrease by approximately \$5.0 million in 2011 and \$5.0 million in the six months ended June 30, 2012.
  - Additional interest expense of approximately \$2.3 million in 2011 and \$1.6 million in the six months ended June 30, 2012, based on the amortization of the estimated fair value adjustment to Coventry's commercial paper Aetna expects to issue to partially fund the merger. The interest expense on the commercial paper was estimated based on a weighted average annual interest rate of 0.62%. The pro forma income statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 and the six months ended June 30, 2012, each assume the issuance of \$500 million of commercial paper borrowings over a one-year period. Commercial paper issued to partially fund the merger is assumed to be issued on January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012, and to be reduced to \$250 million on each of June 30, 2011 and June 30, 2012, and, for the year ended December 31, 2011, further reduced to zero on December 31, 2011.

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2011. As a result of this assumed pattern of retirement, interest expense in the pro forma income statement for the six months ended June 30, 2011 is expected to be higher than the interest expense on the expected commercial paper retirement as \$500 million will remain outstanding for the entire six month period. If commercial paper interest rates decrease by 0.5% from the rate that was assumed in estimating this pro forma adjustment to interest expense, pro forma interest expense will decrease by approximately \$1.9 million in 2011 and \$1.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012.

- In connection with the merger, Aetna has amended its unsecured \$1.5 billion five-year revolving credit agreement to increase the amount of the facility to \$2.0 billion. Aetna does not expect to draw on that facility; however Aetna assumes that it would have incurred an estimated \$0.5 million of interest expense on the incremental commitment in 2011 and for the six months ended June 30, 2012, respectively, which is reflected in the respective pro forma interest expense for these periods.
  - Additional interest expense associated with incremental debt issued to finance the merger is offset by estimated reductions to interest expense of \$17.6 million in 2011 and \$17.6 million in the six months ended June 30, 2012. These reductions are from the amortization of the estimated fair value of debt over the remaining weighted-average life of its outstanding debt of 5.4 years. Debt is required to be measured at fair value using the fair value accounting.
- (g) Aetna assumed a blended 35% tax rate when estimating the tax impact of the acquisition, representing the federal statutory tax rate and state tax rates which are unknown at this time but expected to be immaterial. The effective tax rate of the combined company could be significantly different from the post-acquisition activities of the combined company.
- (h) The combined basic and diluted earnings per share for the periods presented are based on the combined weighted average basic and diluted shares outstanding. The historical weighted average basic and diluted shares of Coventry were assumed to be replaced by the shares expected to be issued by the combined company.

The following table summarizes the computation of the unaudited pro forma combined weighted average basic and diluted shares outstanding:

	<u>Year Ended December 31,</u>
Aetna weighted average shares used to compute basic EPS	3,125,000
Coventry shares outstanding at October 15, 2012, converted at the exchange ratio (133.2*0.3885)	51,250,000
Combined weighted average basic shares outstanding	<u>54,375,000</u>
Number of Coventry restricted shares outstanding at October 15, 2012, converted at the exchange ratio (1.2*0.3885)	466,000
Pro forma weighted average basic shares outstanding	<u>55,041,000</u>
Dilutive effect of Aetna's outstanding stock-based compensation awards (1)	1,000,000
Pro forma weighted average shares used to compute diluted EPS	<u>56,041,000</u>

*Certain amounts may reflect rounding adjustments.*

- (1) Does not include Coventry's outstanding performance share units, restricted stock units or vested or unvested stock options that will be exercised upon completion of the merger as described in *Note 4. Estimate of Consideration Expected to be Transferred.*

[Table of Contents](#)**8. Balance Sheet Pro Forma Adjustments**

This note should be read in conjunction with Note 1. Description of Transaction; Note 2. Basis of Presentation; Note 4. Estimate of Cash to be Transferred; and Note 5. Estimate of Assets to be Acquired and Liabilities to be Assumed. Adjustments included in the column under the heading "Pro Forma Adjustments" represent the following:

- (a) To reflect the use of an estimated \$947 million of available cash and an estimated \$350 million of cash raised by liquidating long-term debt of approximately \$1.3 billion of cash in order to fund a portion of the total consideration expected to be transferred to fund the merger. The remainder of the cash to be transferred to fund the merger is expected to be financed with approximately \$2.0 billion of long-term debt securities and approximately \$500 million of commercial paper (See Note 4. *Estimate of Consideration Expected to be Transferred*). Estimated debt issuance costs of approximately \$15.1 million are assumed to be paid from cash assets.
- (b) To eliminate intercompany accounts receivable and accrued expenses primarily related to network rental fees of \$2.4 million.
- (c) To adjust current tax assets to include \$49.5 million related to estimated acquisition-related transaction costs.
- (d) To adjust goodwill to an estimate of acquisition-date goodwill, as follows:

Eliminate Coventry's historical goodwill  
 Estimated transaction goodwill  
 Total

- (e) To adjust intangible assets to an estimate of fair value, as follows:

Eliminate Coventry's historical intangible assets  
 Estimated fair value of intangible assets acquired  
 Total

- (f) To eliminate Coventry's historical capitalized internal use software of \$89.5 million.
- (g) Aetna expects to issue approximately \$2.5 billion of debt to partially fund the merger, comprised of approximately \$2.0 billion of long-term debt securities and approximately \$500 million of commercial paper.
- (h) To record estimated acquisition-related transaction costs. Total acquisition-related transaction costs estimated to be incurred by Aetna and Coventry are \$45 million, respectively. Pursuant to requirements for the preparation of pro forma financial information under Article 11 of Regulation S-X, acquisition-related transaction costs are not included in the pro forma condensed combined income statements.
- (i) To record long-term debt incurred by Aetna to effect the merger and to adjust Coventry's debt to an estimate of fair value, as follows:

Establish incremental long-term debt to effect the merger  
 Estimated fair value increase to debt assumed  
 Total

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- (j) To adjust tax liabilities as follows:

Eliminate Coventry's deferred tax liability on intangible assets  
 Eliminate Coventry's deferred tax liability on internal-use software  
 Eliminate Coventry's deferred tax asset on outstanding equity/unit awards  
 Estimated transaction deferred tax liability on identifiable intangible assets  
 Estimated transaction deferred tax asset for fair value increase to assumed debt  
 Estimated transaction current tax liability for debt issuance costs  
 Total

- (k) To eliminate Coventry's historical common stock and additional paid-in capital and record the stock portion of the merger consideration:

Eliminate Coventry's historical common stock and additional paid-in capital  
 Issuance of Aetna common shares  
 Total

- (l) To eliminate Coventry's historical retained earnings, to estimate the after-tax portion of the remaining merger-related transaction costs and debt issuance costs as follows:

Eliminate Coventry's historical retained earnings  
 Transaction costs incurred  
 Debt issuance costs incurred  
 Total

- (m) To eliminate Coventry's historical accumulated other comprehensive income.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements do not present a combined dividend per share amount. On both April 9, 2012 and July 9, 2012, Aetna paid dividends of \$0.175 per Aetna common share. In addition, on September 28, 2012, Aetna declared a dividend of \$0.175 per Aetna common share. On October 26, 2012, and is not reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements. On both April 9, 2012 and July 9, 2012, Coventry paid dividends of \$0.125 per share of Coventry common stock. In addition, on August 27, 2012, Coventry declared a dividend of \$0.125 per share of Coventry common stock. On October 8, 2012, and is not reflected in the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements. Coventry is not permitted to declare a dividend other than its regular quarterly cash dividend in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, in an amount not in excess of the amount of cash on hand and cash equivalents available to Coventry at the time of the dividend. Coventry common stock prior to completion of the merger, and any future payment of Coventry's quarterly dividend is subject to future approval by the board of directors. Prior to completion of the merger, Aetna is not permitted to declare, set aside or pay any dividend or other distribution of cash or property other than its regular quarterly cash dividend in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice. The dividend policy of Aetna following completion of the merger will be determined by the board of directors following completion of the merger.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements do not reflect the projected realization of cost savings following completion of the merger. The cost savings opportunities are from administrative cost savings, as well as network and medical management savings. Although Aetna management expects to realize some cost savings from the merger, there can be no assurance that these cost savings will be achieved.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

The Notes offered by this prospectus supplement consist of three separate series of “senior debt securities” as described in the accompanying prospectus. This prospectus supplement describes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities found in the accompanying prospectus.

Capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined below or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus are defined in the Senior Indenture dated as of March 2, 2001 between Aetna Inc. and U.S. Bank National Association, successor-in-interest to the Trustee Company, as Trustee (the “Base Indenture”), as supplemented by the Supplemental Indenture to be dated as of November 7, 2012 between the Company and the Trustee (the “Supplemental Indenture”). Any reference to the “Indenture” contained in this prospectus supplement refers to the Base Indenture as supplemented by the Supplemental Indenture (the “Indenture”) unless the context indicates otherwise. Any reference to the “Notes” contained in this prospectus supplement collectively refers to the 2017 Notes (the “2017 Notes”), the 2.75% Senior Notes due November 15, 2022 (the “2022 Notes”) and the 4.125% Senior Notes due November 15, 2042 (the “2042 Notes”) unless the context indicates otherwise.

The Indenture, as applicable to each series of Notes, does not restrict our ability to incur additional indebtedness. In addition, under the Indenture, the holders of the Notes will not have the benefit of the covenant in the Base Indenture described under “Description of Debt Securities—Limitation on the Use of Proceeds” or the cross-acceleration event of default in the Base Indenture described in the fourth bullet under “Description of Debt Securities—Events of Default and Remedies,” each as described in the accompanying prospectus.

The Indenture contains a limitation on our ability to consolidate or merge with another person or sell our assets; however, this limitation is subject to certain exceptions. See “Description of Debt Securities—Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets” in the accompanying prospectus.

### General

The 2017 Notes initially will be limited to \$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount. The 2022 Notes initially will be limited to \$1,000,000,000 aggregate principal amount. The 2042 Notes initially will be limited to \$500,000,000 aggregate principal amount. The offering and sale of each series of Notes is subject to the terms of the other series of Notes. In the future, we may, without the consent of the holders of the Notes of a series, increase the aggregate principal amount of the Notes of a series (except that the public offering price, the issue date and the first interest payment date may vary). The Notes will be our senior unsecured debt and will rank equally with all of our other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

Principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on the Notes will be payable, and transfers of the Notes will be registrable, at our office in New York City, New York, Manhattan, The City of New York. Transfers of the Notes will also be registrable at any of the other offices or agencies that we may maintain. Payment of interest may be made, at our option, by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as shown on the security register. The Notes will be in denominations of \$2,000 and multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of the Notes, or any governmental charge that may be imposed in connection therewith.

### Interest; Maturity; No Sinking Fund

Each Note of each series will bear interest from November 7, 2012, payable semi-annually on May 15 and November 15 of each year thereafter, to the person in whose name the Note of such series is registered, subject to certain exceptions as provided in the Indenture, at the close of business on the day immediately preceding such May 15 or November 15. The 2017 Notes will bear



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interest at a rate of 1.50% per year and will mature on November 15, 2017. The 2022 Notes will bear interest at a rate of 2.75% per year and will mature on November 15, 2022. The 2042 Notes will bear interest at a rate of 4.125% per year and will mature on November 15, 2042. The Notes are not subject to any sinking fund payments. Interest on the Notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months. In any case where any interest payment date is not a Business Day (as defined in the Indenture), then payment of interest may be made on the next succeeding Business Day without any additional amount being payable in respect of such interest.

### **Optional Redemption**

#### *2017 Notes*

At any time prior to October 15, 2017 (one month prior to the maturity date of the 2017 Notes), the 2017 Notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at the option of the issuer, at a price equal to the greater of:

- 100% of the principal amount of the 2017 Notes being redeemed, or
- the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the 2017 Notes being redeemed, as of the maturity date discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, as defined below) plus 12.5 basis points,

plus, in each case, any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.

At any time on or after October 15, 2017 (one month prior to the maturity date of the 2017 Notes), the 2017 Notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at the option of the issuer, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2017 Notes being redeemed plus any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.

#### *2022 Notes*

At any time prior to August 15, 2022 (three months prior to the maturity date of the 2022 Notes), the 2022 Notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at the option of the issuer, at a price equal to the greater of:

- 100% of the principal amount of the 2022 Notes being redeemed, or
- the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the 2022 Notes being redeemed, as of the maturity date discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, as defined below) plus 20 basis points,

plus, in each case, any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.

At any time on or after August 15, 2022 (three months prior to the maturity date of the 2022 Notes), the 2022 Notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at the option of the issuer, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2022 Notes being redeemed plus any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.

#### *2042 Notes*

At any time prior to May 15, 2042 (six months prior to the maturity date of the 2042 Notes), the 2042 Notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at the option of the issuer, at a price equal to the greater of:

- 100% of the principal amount of the 2042 Notes being redeemed, or

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- the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the 2042 Notes being redeemed at maturity date discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day periods defined below) plus 20 basis points,

plus, in each case, any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.

At any time on or after May 15, 2042 (six months prior to the maturity date of the 2042 Notes), the 2042 Notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2042 Notes being redeemed plus any interest accrued but not paid to the date of redemption.

***Certain Definitions***

The “Treasury Rate” means, with respect to any redemption date for any portion of the Notes of a series,

- the yield, under the heading which represents the average for the immediately preceding week, appearing in the most recently published “H.15(519)” or any successor publication which is published weekly by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for actively traded United States Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity under the caption “Treasury Constant Maturities,” or the Comparable Treasury Issue (if no maturity is within three months before or after the maturity date for the Notes of such series, the maturity most closely corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue will be determined and the Treasury Rate shall be interpolated on a straight line basis, rounding to the nearest month), or
- if the release referred to in the previous bullet (or any successor release) is not published during the week preceding the calculation of the yields referred to above, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for that Comparable Treasury Issue.

The Treasury Rate will be calculated on the third Business Day preceding the redemption date.

“Comparable Treasury Issue” means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity term of the Notes of the series to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, for the issuance of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the Notes of such series to be redeemed.

“Comparable Treasury Price” means, with respect to any redemption date for any Notes of a series, the average of all Reference Treasury Dealer quotations (as defined below) obtained.

“Independent Investment Banker” means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by the Trustee after consultation with us.

“Reference Treasury Dealer” means each of Goldman, Sachs & Co. and UBS Securities LLC. If any Reference Treasury Dealer ceases to be a securities dealer in the United States (a “Primary Treasury Dealer”), we will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer for that dealer.

“Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations” means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m. on the third Business Day preceding the redemption date.

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### ***Notice; Interest***

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but no more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of Notes.

Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, interest will cease to accrue on the Notes of the series or the portions of the Notes on and after the redemption date.

### **Special Mandatory Redemption**

If the merger has not been completed by November 19, 2013 (or such later date to which the End Date (as defined in the merger agreement between Aetna and Coventry, as described below) or if, prior to such date, the merger agreement is terminated, then we must redeem all of the Notes on the redemption date at a redemption price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest from the recent date to which interest has been paid or provided for, whichever is later, to, but excluding, the special mandatory redemption date. The special mandatory redemption date means the 30th day (or if such day is not a business day, the first business day thereafter) following the transmission of a notice of special mandatory redemption. The merger agreement provides that if the closing of the merger shall not have occurred on or before November 19, 2013, Aetna or Coventry, as applicable, shall consider in good faith agreeing (but shall not be obligated to agree) to a further extension of the End Date.

We will cause notice of a special mandatory redemption to be transmitted to each holder of Notes at its registered address, with a copy of the notice, after the occurrence of the event triggering redemption. If funds sufficient to pay the special mandatory redemption price of the Notes on the special mandatory redemption date (plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the special mandatory redemption date) are deposited with the Trustee on or before such special mandatory redemption date, interest will cease to bear interest on and after the special mandatory redemption date.

### **Repurchase Upon a Change of Control**

If a Change of Control Triggering Event occurs with respect to the Notes of a series, unless we have exercised our right to redeem the Notes as described under "Optional Redemption" above, we will make an offer to each holder of Notes of such series (the "Change of Control Offer") to repurchase up to \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 of such holder's Notes of such series at a repurchase price in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the series to be repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, thereon, to the date of repurchase (the "Change of Control Payment"). Within 30 days of a Change of Control Triggering Event with respect to the Notes of a series, we will be required to mail a notice to holders of Notes of such series describing the event that constitutes the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase the Notes of such series on the date specified in the notice (the "Change of Control Notice"), which date will be no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed, pursuant to the procedures required by the Trust Agreement in such notice. We must comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act, and any other securities laws and regulations that apply. If the securities laws or regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the Notes of a series as a result of a Change of Control Triggering Event. To the extent that the securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control repurchase provisions of the Notes of a series, we will be required to comply with the securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control repurchase provisions of the Notes by failing to do so.

We will not be required to offer to repurchase the Notes of a series upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Triggering Event with respect to the Notes if a third party makes such an offer in the

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manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us and the third party repurchases on the applicable date, if the Offer is properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer; *provided* that for all purposes of the Notes of such series and the Indenture, a failure by us to comply with the requirements of such offer and to complete such offer shall be treated as a failure by us to comply with our obligations to offer to purchase the Notes of such series and we shall promptly make an offer to repurchase the Notes of such series at 101% of the outstanding principal amount thereof plus accrued and unpaid interest on such repurchase, which shall be no later than 30 days after the third party's scheduled Change of Control Payment Date.

On the Change of Control Payment Date for Notes of a series to be repurchased, we will be required, to the extent lawful, to:

- accept or cause a third party to accept for payment all Notes of such series or portions of Notes of such series properly tendered under the Offer;
- deposit or cause a third party to deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of the Notes of such series properly tendered; and
- deliver or cause to be delivered to the Trustee the Notes of such series properly accepted, together with an officer's certificate of the Notes of such series or portions of Notes of such series being purchased.

The definition of Change of Control includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of the properties or assets of Aetna Inc. and its subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase, there is no precise, established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the applicability of the requirement that we offer to repurchase the Notes of such series in the event of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of the assets of Aetna Inc. and its subsidiaries taken as a whole to another person or group may be uncertain.

For purposes of the foregoing discussion of the applicable Change of Control provisions, the following definitions are applicable:

"Below Investment Grade Rating Event" means the Notes of a series are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the Rating Agencies on the earlier of (1) the occurrence of a Change of Control and (2) public notice of our intention to effect a Change of Control, in each case within the 60-day period following the earlier of (1) the occurrence of a Change of Control and (2) public notice of our intention to effect a Change of Control; provided that if, during such 60-day period one or more Rating Agencies has publicly announced that it is considering the possible downgrade of the Notes of such series and each of the Rating Agencies that has made such an announcement would result in a Below Investment Grade Rating Event, then such 60-day period shall end at such time as the rating of the Notes of such series by any such Rating Agency remains under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade below an Investment Grade Rating and a downgrade by such Rating Agency to a rating below an Investment Grade Rating could cause a Below Investment Grade Rating Event. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a rating event otherwise arising by virtue of a particular reduction in rating will not be deemed to have caused a Change of Control (and thus will not be deemed a Below Investment Grade Rating Event for purposes of the definition of Change of Control) if the Rating Agencies making the reduction in rating to which this definition would otherwise apply do not announce or publicly confirm or inform the Trustee of the reduction in rating and the Trustee's request that the reduction was the result, in whole or in part, of any event or circumstance comprised of or arising as a result of a Change of Control (whether or not the applicable Change of Control has occurred at the time of the rating event).

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“Change of Control” means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of Aetna Inc. and its subsidiaries; (2) the consolidation (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any “person” (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) other than to Aetna Inc. or one of its subsidiaries; (3) the first day on which a majority of the members of Aetna Inc.’s Board of Directors are not Continuing Directors; *provided*, however, that a transaction shall not be deemed to involve a Change of Control if (A) we become a wholly owned subsidiary of a holding company and (B)(x) the holders of the voting stock of such holding company immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of Aetna Inc.’s voting stock immediately prior to that transaction and (y) immediately following that transaction no “person” (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) is the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the voting stock of such holding company. For purposes of this definition, “voting stock” means capital stock of any class, whether or not, in the absence of contingencies, entitled to vote for the election of directors (or persons performing similar functions) of Aetna Inc. or one of its subsidiaries, which has not been suspended by the happening of such a contingency.

“Change of Control Triggering Event” means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating.

“Continuing Directors” means, as of any date of determination, any member of the Board of Directors of Aetna Inc. who (1) was a member of the Board of Directors of Aetna Inc. on the date of the issuance of the Notes; or (2) was nominated for election or elected to the Board of Directors of Aetna Inc. after the date of the issuance of the Notes and was one of the Continuing Directors who were members of such Board of Directors of Aetna Inc. at the time of such nomination or election (either as a director or as a nominee for election as a director, as set forth in Aetna Inc.’s proxy statement in which such member was named as a nominee for election as a director).

“Fitch” means Fitch Ratings Inc.

“Investment Grade Rating” means a rating by Moody’s equal to or higher than Baa3 (or the equivalent under any successor rating category of Moody’s), a rating by S&P equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent under any successor rating category of S&P), a rating by Fitch equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent under any successor rating category of Fitch), and the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any replacement rating agency or rating agency, in each case as set forth in the Notes, in circumstances permitting us to select a replacement agency and in the manner for selecting a replacement agency, in each case as set forth in the Notes and the Rating Agencies.”

“Moody’s” means Moody’s Investors Service, Inc.

“Rating Agencies” means (1) Moody’s, S&P and Fitch; and (2) if any or all of Moody’s, S&P or Fitch ceases to rate the Notes, any other nationally recognized statistical rating organization” (as defined in Rule 15c2-12(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act, that we select (pursuant to a resolution of the Aetna Inc. Board of Directors) as a replacement agency or all of them, as the case may be, with respect to such series of Notes.

“S&P” means Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

## **Book-Entry Delivery and Settlement**

The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”), New York, New York, will act as securities depository for the Notes. The Notes will be issued in book-entry form and registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC’s partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of

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more fully registered certificates will be issued for each series of the Notes, in the aggregate principal amount of such series, and will be deposited with DTC. Global notes will be issued only in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

DTC has advised us and the underwriters as follows:

- DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the United States Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a “clearing agency” registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended;
- DTC holds and provides asset servicing for U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments. Direct participants (“direct participants”) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among direct participants of transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between direct participants, and provides the need for physical movement of securities certificates;
- Direct participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and other entities, including Euroclear and Clearstream;
- DTC is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (“DTCC”), and DTCC is the holding company for The Depository Trust Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies; DTCC is owned by its subsidiaries;
- Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and other corporations, including Euroclear and Clearstream, that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant;
- The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

We have provided the following descriptions of the operations and procedures of DTC solely as a matter of convenience. These operations and procedures are within the control of DTC and are subject to change by DTC from time to time.

We expect that under the procedures established by DTC:

- upon deposit of the global notes with DTC or its custodian, DTC will credit on its internal system the accounts of direct participants with portions of the principal amounts of the global notes; and
- ownership of the Notes will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership of the Notes will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC with respect to interests of direct participants, and the records of direct and indirect participants, with respect to interests of persons other than direct participants.

The foregoing information concerning DTC and DTC’s book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable. We, the Trustee, or the Trustee does not take any responsibility for the accuracy of the foregoing information, and you are urged to contact DTC or its participants directly for more information.

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Euroclear and Clearstream will hold interests in the Notes on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in their respective depositaries, which are Euroclear Bank, S.A./N.V., as operator of Euroclear, and Citibank, N.A., as operator of Clearstream.

The laws of some jurisdictions require that purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. Access to the Notes represented by a global note to those persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants who hold interests through participants, the ability of a person having an interest in Notes represented by a global note to pledge or transfer that interest, to do not participate in DTC's system, or otherwise to take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive form.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of a global note, DTC or that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the global note for all purposes under the Indenture and under the Notes. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global note represented by that global note registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated notes and holders thereof under the Indenture or under the Notes for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval. Each holder owning a beneficial interest in a global note must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that holder is not a direct or indirect participant through which that holder owns its interest in the Notes, to exercise any rights of a holder of Notes under the Indenture or the global note.

Neither we nor the Trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of, or maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of DTC relating to the Notes.

Payments on the Notes represented by the global notes will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment on the Notes represented by a global note, will credit participants' accounts with payments in amount of their beneficial interests in the global note as shown in the records of DTC or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of a global note held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practice as is now the case with securities held in the names of nominees for such customers. The participants will be responsible for those payments.

Payments on the Notes represented by the global notes will be made in immediately available funds. Transfers between participants in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between participants in DTC, on the one hand, and Euroclear or Clearstream participants, on the other hand, will be made in accordance with DTC's rules on behalf of Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, by their depositaries. Cross-market transactions will be made on behalf of Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, by the counterparty in that system in accordance with the rules and procedures and within the limits of that system. Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to the counterparty to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving interests in the relevant global note through DTC, and making or receiving payments in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Euroclear and Clearstream participants may not deliver instructions to DTC or Clearstream.

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Because of time zone differences, the securities account of a Euroclear or Clearstream participant purchasing an interest in a global note will be credited and reported to the relevant Euroclear or Clearstream participant, during the securities settlement processing day (which must be a business day for Euroclear or Clearstream) immediately following the settlement date of DTC. DTC has advised us that cash received in Euroclear or Clearstream as a result of the settlement by or through a Euroclear or Clearstream participant to a participant in DTC will be received with value on the settlement date of DTC but will be credited to the Euroclear or Clearstream cash account only as of the business day for Euroclear or Clearstream following DTC's settlement date.

### **Certificated Notes**

We will issue certificated notes to each person that DTC identifies as the beneficial owner of the Notes represented by the global notes if:

- DTC notifies us that it is no longer willing or able to act as a depository for the global notes, and we have not appointed a successor depository; that notice;
- an event of default has occurred and is continuing, and DTC requests the issuance of certificated notes; or
- we, subject to applicable DTC procedures, determine not to have the Notes represented by a global note.

Neither we, the underwriters nor the Trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC, its nominee or any direct or indirect participant in connection with the related Notes. We, the underwriters and the Trustee may conclusively rely on, and will be protected in relying on, instructions from DTC or its nominee with respect to the registration and delivery, and the respective principal amounts, of the Notes to be issued.

Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for Notes in definitive form, a global note may not be transferred except as a whole global note, by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository or by the depository, or any nominee to a successor depository.

### **Same-Day Settlement and Payment**

Settlement for the Notes will be made by the underwriters in immediately available funds. So long as the depository continues to make payments, all payments of principal and interest on the Notes will be made by us in immediately available funds.

Secondary trading in long-term notes and debentures of corporate issuers is generally settled in clearinghouse or next-day funds. In connection with the same day settlement for trading in the Notes until maturity, and secondary market trading activity in the Notes will therefore be required by the underwriters in immediately available funds. No assurance can be given as to the effect, if any, of settlement in immediately available funds on trading activity in the Notes.



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Goldman, Sachs & Co., UBS Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and RBS Securities Inc. are acting as underwriters of the offering. Goldman, Sachs & Co. and UBS Securities LLC are acting as representatives of the underwriters named below.

Subject to the terms and conditions stated or incorporated by reference in the pricing agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the principal amount of Notes set forth opposite the underwriter's name in the table below.

<u>Underwriters</u>	<u>Principal Amount of 2017 Notes</u>	<u>\$</u>
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	\$ 100,000,000	\$
UBS Securities LLC	100,000,000	
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	40,000,000	
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	40,000,000	
RBS Securities Inc.	40,000,000	
Barclays Capital Inc.	20,000,000	
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	20,000,000	
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	20,000,000	
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	20,000,000	
Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc.	20,000,000	
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.	20,000,000	
U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.	20,000,000	
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	20,000,000	
BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC	5,000,000	
Fifth Third Securities, Inc.	5,000,000	
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	5,000,000	
PNC Capital Markets LLC	5,000,000	
Total	<u>\$ 500,000,000</u>	<u>\$</u>

The pricing agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the Notes included in this offering are subject to the terms and conditions of the pricing agreement, including the terms and conditions covering the validity of the Notes and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the Notes of a series if they purchase any of the Notes of that series.

The underwriters propose to offer the Notes directly to the public at the applicable offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. The underwriters may offer the Notes to dealers at the applicable offering price less a concession not to exceed the percentage of the principal amount of the Notes specified in the table below. The underwriters may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession on sales to other dealers in an amount not to exceed the amount specified in the table below. The underwriters' obligation to purchase the Notes is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

	<u>Per 2017 Note</u>
Concession	0.350%
Reallowance	0.250%

After the initial offering of the Notes to the public, the representatives may change the applicable offering price and concessions.

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The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions payable to the underwriters in connection with this offering.

Per 2017 Note  
Per 2022 Note  
Per 2042 Note

In connection with the offering, one or more of the underwriters may purchase and sell Notes in the open market. These transactions may include covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Over-allotment involves syndicate sales of Notes in excess of the principal amount of Notes in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the Notes in the open market and are completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of Notes made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Notes while the offering is in progress.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member responsible for stabilizing activities on behalf of the syndicate, in covering syndicate short positions or making stabilizing purchases, repurchasing Notes from a syndicate member.

Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Notes. They may also cause the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in addition to or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

We estimate that our total expenses for this offering will be approximately \$2.5 million.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a “Relevant Member State”), the Issuer has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the “Implementation Date”) it has not made and will not make an offer of Notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus in that Relevant Member State, other than:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
  - (b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior approval of a dealer or dealers nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or
  - (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,
- provided* that no such offer of Notes shall require the Issuer or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an “offer of Notes to the public” in relation to any Notes in any Relevant Member State means the offering of Notes in that Member State in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the same may be varied in that Member State by any measures implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression “Prospectus Directive” means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and the expression “2010 PD Amending Directive” means Directive 2010/73/EU.

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This prospectus supplement has been prepared on the basis that any offer of the Notes in any Relevant Member State will be made pursuant to the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of the Notes. Accordingly, any person making or intending to make an offer of the Notes in any Relevant Member State of the Notes which are the subject of the transactions contemplated by this prospectus supplement, may only do so in circumstances in which the Issuer or any of the underwriters to produce a prospectus for such offer pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer has authorized, or hereby authorize, the making of any offer of the Notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the Issuer or any of the underwriters to publish a prospectus for such offer.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- it has only communicated and caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act of 2000 (the “FSMA”)) received or sale of any Notes included in this offering in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us; and
- it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the offering of the Notes involving the United Kingdom.

This prospectus supplement is only being distributed to and directed at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom; or (ii) to investors in the United Kingdom who are eligible for investment under Article 19(5) of the U.K. Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (as amended, the “Order”); or (iii) high net worth individuals to whom it may be lawfully be communicated, falling within Articles 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as “eligible investors”). This prospectus supplement and the investment or investment activity to which this prospectus supplement relates is available only to relevant persons and will be engaged in only by relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this prospectus supplement or any of its contents.

The Notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), (ii) to “professional investors” within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a “prospectus” within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the Notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person (whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (whether under the laws of Hong Kong or otherwise) other than with respect to Notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong who are “professional investors” within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

The Notes offered in this prospectus supplement have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act 2001 (the “FIEA”), and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any Notes, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the

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offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the Notes, may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the Notes be offered or sold, or invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the Notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor, or (b) a trust (which is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and other securities of the corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for six months after that corporation or that trust has been formed, except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage services.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates have performed investment banking, commercial banking and advisory services for us and have received customary fees and expenses. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may, from time to time, engage in transactions with us in the ordinary course of their business with us or our affiliates. They have received or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions. Goldman, Sachs & Co. and UBS Securities LLC have each served as our financial advisors in connection with the merger, and each of the joint book-runners has committed to provide bridge financing in connection therewith pursuant to the terms of our \$2,000,000,000 Bridge Credit Agreement dated as of [redacted] (the "Bridge Credit Agreement"). Upon completion of this offering, we expect that each of the joint book-running managers will be relieved of their obligations under the Bridge Credit Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof. In addition, affiliates of certain underwriters participating in this offering are participating in our revolving credit facility, certain of the underwriters are dealers in our commercial paper program and certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have outstanding securities.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments in equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their clients. Such securities and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the Issuer or its affiliates. If any of the underwriters or their affiliates has a position in certain of those securities or instruments, certain of those underwriters or their affiliates may routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management practices. The underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or short positions in our securities, including potentially the Notes offered hereby. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect the value of the Notes offered hereby. The underwriters and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research reports on securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933. The underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

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### VALIDITY OF THE NOTES

The validity of the Notes offered hereby will be passed upon for Aetna by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York and for Cromwell LLP, Washington, D.C. Sullivan & Cromwell LLP from time to time provides legal services to Aetna. Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP rely upon an opinion of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, special Pennsylvania counsel to Aetna, as to certain matters.

### ERISA MATTERS

Aetna and certain of its affiliates, including Aetna Life Insurance Company, may each be considered a “party in interest” within the meaning of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”), or a “disqualified person” within the meaning of the Code, with respect to many employee benefit plans (“Plans”) established or maintained by Aetna or any of its affiliates. Prohibited transactions within the meaning of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or entities deemed to hold the assets of such Plans (each, a “Plan”). Prohibited transactions within the meaning of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code may arise, for example, if debt securities are acquired by a Plan with respect to which Aetna or any of its affiliates is a service provider, unless such acquisition is made pursuant to an exemption for transactions effected on behalf of such Plan by a “qualified professional asset manager” or pursuant to any other individual exemption. In addition, certain governmental, church and non-U.S. plans (“Non-ERISA Arrangements”) are subject to federal, state and local laws substantially similar to Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (“Similar Laws”). Therefore, each purchaser or holder of the debt securities should be deemed to have represented by its purchase or holding thereof that either (i) it is not and is not using the assets of any Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement in holding of the debt securities or any interest therein will not constitute or result in a nonexempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or in a similar violation of Similar Laws.

Any Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement proposing to invest in the debt securities should consult with its legal counsel. The sale of the debt securities by a Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement is in no respect a representation by Aetna or any of its affiliates that such an investment is appropriate for or suitable to the Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement with respect to investments by any such Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement generally or any particular Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement.

### UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAX MATTERS

Please refer to “Certain United States Federal Tax Consequences” in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the material United States federal tax consequences of ownership and disposition of the Notes.

There is a discussion in “Certain United States Federal Tax Consequences—Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders—Contingent Debt Obligations” regarding contingent debt obligations treated under applicable Treasury Regulations as providing for contingent payments (“contingent debt obligations”). We might be required to make such payments that would increase the yield of the Note, as described under “Description of Notes—Special Mandatory Redemption” and “Description of Note Features—Control.” We intend to take the position that the possibility of such payments does not result in the Notes being treated as contingent debt obligations for purposes of the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”). If the IRS takes a position contrary to that described above, you may be required to accrue interest on the “contingent debt yield” (as defined in the Treasury Regulations) determined at the time of issuance of the Notes (which is not expected to differ significantly from the yield with adjustments to such accruals when any contingent payments are made that differ from the payments based on the comparable yield. In addition, with respect to contingent debt obligations any income on the sale, exchange,

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retirement or other taxable disposition of the Notes would be treated as ordinary income rather than as capital gain. You should consult your tax advisor for the tax consequences if the Notes were treated as contingent debt obligations. The discussion in “Certain United States Federal Tax Consequences” (“—Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders—Contingent Debt Obligations”) assumes that the Notes are not treated as contingent debt obligations.

The last paragraph of “Certain United States Federal Tax Consequences” in the accompanying prospectus describes legislation that in certain circumstances may apply to certain foreign entities with respect to debt securities unless various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements are satisfied. The U.S. Treasury Department in February 2012 provide that this legislation does not apply to debt securities issued before January 1, 2013. If this legislation is finalized as proposed, the Notes will not be subject to this legislation.

## **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the toll-free number 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, from which interested persons can electronically access the registration statement containing this prospectus supplement (including the exhibits and schedules thereto).

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information in our documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC in connection with the offering under this prospectus supplement will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”) in connection with the offering under this prospectus supplement:

- (a) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 28, 2012, March 28, 2012, May 4, 2012, May 21, 2012, August 20, 2012, August 27, 2012, October 5, 2012 and October 22, 2012;
- (b) Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012;
- (c) Our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, including our 2011 Annual Report; and
- (d) Our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 9, 2012 (solely to the extent incorporated by reference into Part II of our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K).

You may request a free copy of these filings by writing, telephoning, sending a facsimile to or e-mailing the office of the Corporate Secretary at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, Telephone: (866) 273-0123, Facsimile: (866) 293-1361, E-mail: [shareholderrelations@coventry.com](mailto:shareholderrelations@coventry.com)

We take no responsibility for Coventry’s filings with the SEC, and we are not incorporating by reference any part of such filings into this prospectus supplement.

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COMMON SHARES  
PREFERRED SHARES  
PURCHASE CONTRACTS  
WARRANTS  
UNITS**

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We may offer from time to time debt securities, common shares, preferred shares, purchase contracts, warrants to purchase common shares, warrants to purchase debt securities, or units that may include any of these securities or securities of other entities. This prospectus does not apply to debt securities. The specific terms of any debt securities and the terms of any other securities to be offered will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities, preferred shares, warrants and purchase contracts may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred shares of the Company or debt or equity securities of one or more other entities. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest.

The Company may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers. The applicable prospectus supplement will provide the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents, the specific terms of the plan of distribution and any applicable underwriting discounts and commissions.

Our common shares are listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AET." We have not yet determined whether our common shares may be offered by this prospectus will be listed on any exchange, inter-dealer quotation system or over-the-counter market. If we decide to sell our common shares upon issuance, the prospectus supplement relating to those securities will disclose the exchange, quotation system or market on which the securities will be traded.

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**Investing in these securities involves risks. See "Forward-Looking Information/Risk Factors" beginning on page 35 of our 2010 Annual Report to Shareholders incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, beginning on page 47 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2011, beginning on page 47 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2011 and "Risk Factors" in any prospectus supplement.**

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Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or



Final Prospectus Supplement

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/112>

truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

**The date of this prospectus is December 2, 2011**

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We have not authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance, information that others may give you.

We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus. The terms “Aetna”, the “Company,” “Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. Unless the context otherwise requires, “including” means including without limitation.

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## THE COMPANY

We are one of the nation's leading diversified health care benefits companies, serving approximately 36.3 million people at September 30, 2011. We have the resources to help them make better informed decisions about their health care. At September 30, 2011, we served approximately 18.2 million dental members and 8.8 million pharmacy benefit management services members. We offer a broad range of traditional and consumer-direct related services, including medical, pharmacy, dental, behavioral health, group life and disability plans, medical management capabilities, MCO services and health information exchange technology services. Our customers include employer groups, individuals, college students, part-time employees, governmental units, government-sponsored plans, labor groups and expatriates. Our operations are conducted in three business segments: Health Insurance, Health Care Case Pensions.

Our principal executive offices are located at 151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06156, and our telephone number is (860) 426-1000. For more information about Aetna and its services at <http://www.aetna.com>. This text is not an active link, and our website and the information contained on our website, is not, and shall not be deemed to be, incorporated into this prospectus or the related registration statement.

## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") utilizing a shelf process, we may sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general overview of the offering. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. We may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To the extent that information in any prospectus supplement or the information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information contained in this prospectus, the information in such prospectus supplement or the information in this prospectus supplement shall govern. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information contained in the prospectus supplement under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document filed with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, from which interested persons can electronically access the registration statement containing this prospectus (including the exhibits and schedules thereto).

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a summary of the information in the registration statement and does not contain all the information in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to a contract or other document, the reference is only a summary, and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or other document. You may also obtain a copy of the registration statement at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the SEC's Internet site.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information in documents filed with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC may supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below

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and all documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act") from 2011 and prior to the termination of an offering under this prospectus:

- (a) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K or 8-K/A filed on February 28, 2011, May 20, 2011, May 23, 2011 and August 2, 2011;
- (b) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2011, our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2011 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2011;
- (c) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 (including information specifically incorporated by reference to our proxy statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 11, 2011); and
- (d) Our Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated June 18, 2001.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, upon request, a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You may request a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above by writing, telephoning, sending a facsimile to or e-mailing the office of the Corporate Secretary, Aetna Inc., 151 Farmington Avenue, RW61, Hartford, Connecticut 06183. Telephone: (860) 273-0123, Facsimile: (860) 293-1361, E-mail: [shareholderrelations@aetna.com](mailto:shareholderrelations@aetna.com). The incorporated materials may also be available on a portion of our website at <http://www.aetna.com/investors-aetna>. Our website, and the information contained in it or connected to it, is not, and is not intended to be, incorporated into this prospectus or the related registration statement.

### **SPECIAL NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND RISK FACTORS**

We have made forward-looking statements in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. These statements are based on our management's beliefs and assumptions and on information available to our management at the time the statements are or were made. Forward-looking statements are not limited to the information concerning our possible or assumed future results of operations, business strategies, financing plans, competitive positions, opportunities, potential operating performance improvements, the effects of competition and the effects of future legislation or regulations. Forward-looking statements that are not historical facts and can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as the words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "predict," "project," "potential," "continue," "may," "will," "should," "could," "view," "guidance," "outlook" or the negative of these words.

Forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. The risk factors discussed in "Forward-Looking Information" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, incorporated by reference in, and filed with the SEC as an exhibit to, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2011, and as updated in any future filings with the SEC, could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed in forward-looking statements. There may also be other risks that we have not identified in this forward-looking statement or that we have identified but that we do not expect to be realized. Although we believe the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, there is no assurance that the events, results, level of activity, performance or achievements will be realized. Moreover, neither we nor any other person assumes responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any forward-looking statements. You should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. We do not have any intention or obligation to reflect new information, future events or risks or the eventual outcome of the facts underlying the forward-looking statements. New information may cause us to change the forward-looking events we discuss in this prospectus not to occur or to occur in a manner different from what we expect.

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## USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities will be added to Aetna's general corporate purposes, including the repayment of indebtedness, share repurchases, business acquisitions and/or investments.

## DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description of Aetna's capital stock is a summary of the material terms thereof and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Aetna's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation ("Aetna's Articles") and Aetna's Amended and Restated By-Laws ("Aetna's By-Laws"). Copies of the Aetna's Articles and By-Laws are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and will be sent to holders of shares of Aetna capital stock upon request. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

Aetna's Articles and By-Laws contain certain provisions that could delay or make more difficult the acquisition of Aetna by means of tender offers or otherwise.

### Authorized Capital Stock

Under Aetna's Articles, the total number of shares of all classes of shares that Aetna has authority to issue is 2,996,654,333, having a par value of \$0.01. As of September 30, 2011, Aetna's Articles designated 7,625,000 shares as Class A voting preferred shares (the "Class A voting preferred stock") and 2,883,673,333 shares as Aetna common stock (the "Aetna common stock"). Aetna's Articles provide that the Aetna board of directors has the power to divide the authorized but unissued shares of Aetna common stock into one or more classes and series, and to fix the designations, preferences, limitations and special rights as the board shall then fix and determine. Except as otherwise provided in Aetna's Articles, shares purchased, redeemed by, surrendered to or otherwise acquired by Aetna assume the status of authorized but unissued shares of Aetna common stock and may thereafter be reissued in the same manner as other authorized but unissued shares. As of September 30, 2011, Aetna's authorized capital stock consisted of 7,625,000 shares of Class A voting preferred stock, 2,635,794,759 shares of Aetna common stock and 353,234,574 shares undesignated as to class or series.

### Aetna Common Stock

The holders of Aetna common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters voted on by shareholders, including elections of directors, unless otherwise provided by law, or by the provisions of the Class A voting preferred stock, or provided in any resolution adopted by the Aetna board with respect to the Class A voting preferred stock. For each series of Aetna shares, the holders of the Aetna common stock exclusively possess all voting power. Aetna's Articles preclude cumulative voting. Aetna's Articles provide for a majority vote standard for uncontested elections of directors, and a plurality of votes standard for contested elections. In the event of the liquidation of Aetna, the holders of Aetna common stock (i) are entitled to such dividends as may be declared by the Aetna board from funds available therefor and (ii) upon dissolution are entitled to receive pro rata all assets of Aetna available for distribution to shareholders.

The Aetna common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AET." The transfer agent and registrar for the Aetna common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (the "Transfer Agent and Registrar").

### Additional Aetna Stock, Including Preferred Stock

The Aetna board is authorized to provide for the issuance of Aetna shares in one or more classes and series, including preferred shares, and to fix the designations, powers, preferences and rights of each such class and series and the qualifications, limitations and restrictions of each such class and series. As of September 30, 2011, Aetna's Articles designated 7,625,000 shares as Class A voting preferred stock.

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### **Preemptive Rights**

No holder of any shares of Aetna of any class or series authorized at the date of this prospectus has any preemptive right to subscribe for or class or series.

### **Book-Entry Shareholding**

Certificates representing the Aetna common stock will not be issued unless requested in writing. Holders of record of Aetna common stock will be maintained in an account established for them by, and maintained at, the Transfer Agent and Registrar the number of shares of Aetna common stock owned by them. An Ownership Statement from the Transfer Agent and Registrar promptly following each transfer to or from such account. Shareholders may request a certificate representing the shares of Aetna common stock owned of record by them by writing to the Transfer Agent and Registrar.

### **Certain Anti-Takeover Provisions**

#### *Advance Notice Provisions for Special Meetings*

Under the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law (the "Business Corporation Law"), a company's shareholders are not permitted to call a special meeting of shareholders unless the company's governing documents permit them to do so. Aetna's Articles and By-Laws, taken together, require that a special meeting be called by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes that all voting shareholders, voting as a single class, are entitled to cast at the special meeting may call. A written petition must be delivered to the Corporate Secretary of a written petition signed by each of such shareholders. The written petition must include (i) a brief description of the business to be conducted at the special meeting and the reasons for conducting the business at a special meeting; (ii) the name and address of each shareholder who has signed the petition; (iii) evidence of the class and number of shares of capital stock of Aetna that are beneficially owned by each shareholder who has signed the petition; and (iv) evidence of any shareholder who has signed the petition in the business described in the petition. It shall be the duty of the Corporate Secretary to fix the date, time and place of the special meeting, which shall be held not more than 120 days after the Corporate Secretary's receipt of a petition that complies with the requirements of the By-Laws provide that only such business may be conducted at a special meeting as is specified in the notice of meeting given by Aetna.

#### *Potential Issuances of Aetna Preferred Stock*

At September 30, 2011, Aetna's Articles designated 7,625,000 shares as Class A voting preferred stock. Aetna's Articles also authorize the authorized but unissued shares, one or more classes and series of Aetna shares, including preferred shares, and to determine, with respect to each class or series of shares, the terms and rights of such class or series, including, for example, (i) the designation of the class or series; (ii) the number of shares of the class or series; (iii) whether dividends, if any, will be cumulative or noncumulative and the dividend rate of the class or series; (iv) whether dividends, if any, will be payable; (v) the redemption rights and price or prices, if any, for shares of the class or series; (vi) the terms and amount of the purchase or redemption of shares of the class or series; (vii) the amounts payable on shares of the class or series in the event of any voluntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of Aetna; (viii) whether the shares of the class or series will be convertible into shares of any other class or series of Aetna or any other corporation, and, if so, the specification of such other class or series or such other security, the conversion price or prices thereof, the date or dates as of which such shares shall be convertible and all other terms and conditions upon which such conversion may be effected; and (ix) the voting rights, if any, of the holders of such class or series.

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The authorized shares of Aetna, including shares of preferred stock and common stock, will be available for issuance without further such action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which Aetna's securities may Aetna's shareholders is not so required, the Aetna board does not intend to seek shareholder approval.

Although the Aetna board has no intention at the present time of doing so, it could issue a class or series of Aetna preferred shares that class or series, impede the completion of a merger, tender offer or other takeover attempt that some, or a majority, of Aetna's shareholders may or in which shareholders might receive a premium for their shares over the then-current market price of such shares.

### ***Potential Issuances of Rights to Purchase Securities***

Aetna does not currently have a shareholder rights plan, although the Aetna board retains the right to adopt a new plan at a future date. board exclusive authority to create and issue rights entitling the holders thereof to purchase from Aetna shares of capital stock or other securities, redeem, terminate or amend any such rights. The times at which and terms upon which such rights are to be issued, repurchased, redeemed, to determined exclusively by the Aetna board and set forth in the contracts or instruments that evidence any such rights. The authority of the Aetna includes, but is not limited to, determining (i) the purchase price of the capital stock or other securities or property to be purchased upon exercise relating to the times at which and the circumstances under which such rights may be exercised or sold or otherwise transferred, either together shares or other securities of Aetna; (iii) provisions which adjust the number or exercise price of such rights or the amount or nature of the shares receivable upon exercise of such rights in the event of a combination, split or recapitalization of any shares of Aetna, a change in ownership a reorganization, merger, consolidation, sale of assets or other occurrence relating to Aetna or any shares of Aetna, and provisions restricting such transaction absent an assumption by the other party or parties thereto of the obligations of Aetna under such rights; (iv) provisions which percentage of the outstanding securities of Aetna the right to exercise such rights and/or cause such rights held by such holder to become void, redeem or exchange such rights; and (vi) the appointment of the rights agent with respect to such rights. This provision is intended to confirm to issue, repurchase, redeem, terminate or amend share purchase rights or other rights to purchase shares or securities of Aetna or any other

### ***Advance Notice Provisions for Shareholder Nominations and Shareholder Proposals at Annual Meetings***

Aetna's By-Laws establish an advance notice procedure for shareholders to nominate candidates for election as directors or to bring proposals of shareholders of Aetna (the "Shareholder Notice Procedure").

Nominations for election to the Aetna board may be made at an annual meeting, or at a special meeting at which directors are to be elected in direction or by a shareholder who has complied with the Shareholder Notice Procedure. Aetna's By-Laws require that notice of a shareholder's information with respect to each proposed nominee and the shareholder giving notice.

Aetna's By-Laws provide that at an annual meeting only such business may be conducted as has been brought before the meeting by, or the Aetna board or by a shareholder who has given timely written notice to the Corporate Secretary of Aetna of such shareholder's intention to bring such business to a meeting in compliance with the Shareholder Notice Procedure. Under the Shareholder Notice Procedure, a shareholder's notice relating to the meeting must contain specified information about such business and about the proposing shareholder.

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The Shareholder Notice Procedure requires that notice of nominations or proposals for substantive business must be received by Aetna such meeting is to be held, or if later, by the close of business on the 10th day after public announcement of the date of such meeting is made.

If the Chairman or other officer presiding at a meeting determines that an individual was not nominated, or other business was not brought with the Shareholder Notice Procedure, such individual will not be eligible for election as a director, or such business will not be conducted.

By requiring advance notice of nominations by shareholders, the Shareholder Notice Procedure affords the Aetna board an opportunity to consider proposed nominees and, to the extent deemed necessary or desirable by the Aetna board, to inform shareholders about such qualifications. By requiring notice of proposed business, the Shareholder Notice Procedure provides a more orderly procedure for conducting annual meetings of shareholders and, to the extent desirable by the Aetna board, provides the Aetna board with an opportunity to inform shareholders, prior to such meetings, of any business proposed for such meetings, together with the Aetna board's position regarding action to be taken with respect to such business, so that shareholders can better decide whether to attend a meeting or to grant a proxy regarding the disposition of any such business.

Although Aetna's By-Laws do not give the Aetna board any power to approve or disapprove shareholder nominations for the election of directors, they may have the effect of precluding a contest for the election of directors or the consideration of shareholder proposals if the proper procedure is discouraging or deterring a third party from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect its own slate of directors or to approve its own proposal. The consideration of such nominees or proposals might be harmful or beneficial to Aetna and its shareholders.

### ***No Shareholder Action by Written Consent***

Aetna's Articles provide that shareholder action may only be taken at an annual or special meeting of shareholders and may not be taken by written consent. The inability of the Aetna shareholders to act by written consent prevents the holders of a majority of the voting power of the voting securities from using a written consent procedure to take shareholder action.

### **Provisions Relating to Shareholder Approval of Business Combination and Other Transactions**

Under the Business Corporation Law, unless a higher vote is required in a corporation's articles of incorporation, a plan of merger or consolidation, or providing for the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of a corporation, a share exchange, division or voluntary dissolution will be adopted at a duly convened meeting the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by all shareholders having a right to vote thereon, and if any class or series of shares is entitled to vote, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast in each class vote. Aetna's Articles require that a plan of merger, consolidation, share exchange, division or sale of all or substantially all of Aetna's assets receive the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes that all voting shares are entitled to cast thereon based on the shares issued and outstanding on the record date for the meeting at which such plan is to be voted upon by the affirmative vote of such number or proportion of shares of any class or series of Aetna's capital stock as shall at the time be required by the articles of incorporation. This higher vote will make it more difficult to obtain shareholder approval of such a business combination or other transaction than would be required.

### **Provisions Relating to Amendments to Aetna's Articles and By-Laws**

Under the Business Corporation Law, shareholders have the right to adopt, amend or repeal the articles of incorporation and bylaws of a corporation. The Business Corporation Law requires that any amendment to Aetna's Articles also be approved by the board of directors. Under the Business Corporation Law,



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higher vote is required in a corporation's articles of incorporation, amendments to the corporation's articles of incorporation will be adopted at a duly convened meeting the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by all shareholders having a right to vote thereon, and if any class or series of shares of any class, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast in each class vote. Aetna's Articles provide that the provisions relating to shareholder proposals and other transactions described immediately above may only be amended by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes that all voting shareholders of any class, are entitled to cast thereon based on the shares issued and outstanding on the record date for the applicable meeting and, in addition, the proportion of shares of any class or series of Aetna's capital stock as shall at the time be required by the express terms of such class or series of shares, that, among others, the provisions relating to director and officer liability and indemnification and voluntary dissolution may only be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes that all voting shareholders, voting as a single class, are entitled to cast thereon based on the shares issued and outstanding on the record date at which an amendment to any such provision is to be voted upon by the shareholders and, in addition, the affirmative vote of such number or series of Aetna's capital stock as shall at the time be required by the express terms of such class or series.

In addition, Aetna's By-Laws may be amended by the board of directors with respect to all matters not exclusively reserved by law to the shareholders. The board may not alter the size of the board beyond a range approved by the shareholders. Certain provisions of Aetna's By-Laws, including provisions relating to the meetings of shareholders, shareholder nominations and shareholder proposals and the size of, and the filling of vacancies on, the board, may be amended by the shareholders only with the approval of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting power of Aetna.

### **Pennsylvania Anti-Takeover Statutes**

Under Section 1715 of the Business Corporation Law, which is applicable to Aetna, directors stand in a fiduciary relation to their corporation and must perform their duties in good faith, in a manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the corporation and with such care, including the exercise of diligence, as a person of ordinary prudence would use under similar circumstances. In discharging their duties, directors may, in considering and deciding upon any action, consider, among other things, to the extent they deem appropriate: (a) the effects of any action upon any or all groups affected by the action, including shareholders, suppliers, customers and creditors of the corporation, and upon communities in which offices or other establishments of the corporation are located; (b) the long-term interests of the corporation; (c) the resources, intent and conduct (past, stated and potential) of any person seeking to acquire control of the corporation; and (d) other pertinent factors. In considering the best interests of the corporation or the effects of any action, directors are not required to regard the interests of any group affected by the action, as dominant or controlling. Absent a breach of fiduciary duty, a lack of good faith or self-dealing, any act of the corporation or an individual director is presumed to be in the best interests of the corporation. The Business Corporation Law expressly provides that the directors are not required to (i) redeem or otherwise render inapplicable outstanding rights issued under any shareholder rights plan; (ii) render inapplicable the provisions, including Subchapter F of Chapter 25 (described below), which is applicable to Aetna; or (iii) take any action solely because of the fact of an acquisition or the consideration to be received by shareholders in such a transaction.

Commentary associated with Section 1715, and accepted by courts applying the provisions of that Section to the facts of specific takeover transactions, the purpose of Section 1715 is to legislatively overrule certain judicial decisions in other jurisdictions named in the commentary which have held that incumbent management in contested takeovers. The provisions of Section 1715, and its construction by the courts, could aid the Aetna board in considering a transaction which it believed not to be in the best interests of any one of the corporate constituencies identified in the statute or otherwise not to be in the best interests of any of the criteria identified in the statute that the board believes are appropriate to consider.

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Aetna is subject to Subchapter F of Chapter 25 of the Business Corporation Law. Subchapter F applies to a transaction between a publicly interested shareholder (defined generally to be any beneficial owner of 20% or more of the corporation's voting stock). Subchapter F of Chapter 25 of the Business Corporation Law prohibits a corporation from engaging in a "business combination" (as defined in the Business Corporation Law) with an interested shareholder unless (i) the board of directors of the corporation gives approval to the proposed transaction or gives approval to the interested shareholder's acquisition of 20% of the shares entitled to vote in an election of directors of the corporation, in either case prior to the date on which the shareholder first becomes an interested shareholder (the "Share Acquisition Date"), (ii) at least 80% of the stock of such corporation entitled to vote in an election of directors and, no earlier than three months after such interested shareholder first becomes an interested shareholder, a majority of the remaining shareholders approve the proposed transaction and shareholders receive a minimum "fair price" for their shares (as defined in the Business Corporation Law) in the transaction and the other conditions of Subchapter F of Chapter 25 of the Business Corporation Law are met, (iii) holders of all shares of the corporation approve the transaction, (iv) no earlier than five years after the Share Acquisition Date, a majority of the remaining shares entitled to vote in an election of directors of the corporation approve the transaction, or (v) no earlier than five years after the Share Acquisition Date, a majority of all the shares of the corporation approve the transaction, all shareholders receive a minimum "fair price" for their shares (as set forth in the Business Corporation Law) and the other conditions of Subchapter F of Chapter 25 of the Business Corporation Law are met.

Under certain circumstances, Subchapter F of the Business Corporation Law makes it more difficult for an interested shareholder to acquire a corporation with a corporation. The provisions of Subchapter F should encourage persons interested in acquiring Aetna to negotiate in advance with the corporation and higher shareholder voting requirements would not apply if such person, prior to acquiring 20% of Aetna's voting shares, obtains the approval of the corporation for the acquisition or for the proposed business combination transaction.

Subchapter F of the Business Corporation Law will not prevent a hostile takeover of Aetna. It may, however, make more difficult or delay the acquisition of control of Aetna by a significant shareholder and thus the removal of incumbent management. Any such effect would be enhanced by a poison pill rights plan, as authorized by Aetna's Articles. Some shareholders may find this disadvantageous in that they may not be afforded the opportunity to sell their shares if not approved as required by Subchapter F of the Business Corporation Law but in which shareholders might receive, for at least some of the time, more than the market price at the time of a tender offer or other acquisition transaction.

Section 2538 of Subchapter D of the Business Corporation Law imposes a higher vote on certain transactions between an "interested shareholder" (as defined in Section 2538(d) of the Business Corporation Law) and a publicly traded corporation unless certain procedural requirements are satisfied. Section 2538(d) of the Business Corporation Law requires a person who acquires 20% or more of the shares of a publicly traded corporation to offer to purchase the shares at "fair value" (determined as provided in Section 2547). Subchapter G of Chapter 25 of the Business Corporation Law also contains certain provisions which, under certain circumstances, permit such a corporation to redeem "control shares" (as defined in the Business Corporation Law) or to acquire control shares. Additionally, Subchapter H of Chapter 25 of the Business Corporation Law requires the disgorgement of profits by a "control shareholder" (as defined in the Business Corporation Law). Aetna's Articles provide that Section 2538 of Subchapter D of the Business Corporation Law, and Subchapters G and H of Chapter 25 of the Business Corporation Law are not applicable to Aetna.

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**[Table of Contents](#)****DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

This prospectus describes certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities. When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms for the debt securities in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the general terms and provisions of this prospectus apply to a particular series of debt securities.

The senior debt securities are to be issued under the senior indenture dated as of March 2, 2001 (the “Senior Indenture”) between Aetna Inc. and U.S. Bank National Association (successor in interest to State Street Bank and Trust Company), as trustee. The subordinated debt securities are to be issued under the “Subordinated Indenture”) also between Aetna and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee. The Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture are referred to individually as an “Indenture” or collectively as the “Indentures.” U.S. Bank National Association, in its capacity as trustee under either Indenture, is referred to as “Trustee” in this prospectus.

We sometimes refer below to specific sections of one or both of the Indentures. When we do so, we indicate where you can find the relevant section by noting the section number in parentheses. When we do refer to specific sections contained in the Indentures or terms defined in the Indentures, we capitalize here, we use them in this prospectus in the same way we use them in the Indentures, and you should refer to the Indentures themselves for their descriptions. In this section, “Description of Debt Securities,” when we refer to “Aetna,” we refer to Aetna Inc., not including its consolidated subsidiaries.

We have summarized some terms of the Indentures. The summary is not complete. The Indentures are filed as exhibits to the registration statement and are a part. You should read the Indentures for a complete statement of the provisions summarized in this prospectus and for provisions that may not be summarized. The Indentures are subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the “Trust Indenture Act”).

**Ranking**

The debt securities will be our direct, unsecured obligations. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other senior debt securities. The subordinated debt securities will have a junior position to all of our senior debt securities.

Since a significant part of our operations are conducted through subsidiaries, a significant portion of our cash flow, and consequently, the debt securities, is dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and the transfer of funds by those subsidiaries to us in the form of dividends or payments with borrowing.

In addition to general state law restrictions on payments of dividends and other distributions to shareholders applicable to all corporations, including some of Aetna’s direct and indirect subsidiaries, are subject to further state regulations that, among other things, may restrict certain levels of equity and restrict the amount of dividends and other distributions that may be paid to Aetna.

Some of our operating subsidiaries may finance their operations by borrowing from external creditors. Lending agreements between our subsidiaries and external creditors may restrict the amount of net assets available for cash dividends and other payments to us.

In addition, holders of the debt securities will have a junior position to claims of creditors against our subsidiaries, including policyholders, secured creditors, taxing authorities, guarantee holders and any preferred stockholders, except to the extent that we are recognized as a creditor. Claims of Aetna as the creditor of any of its subsidiaries would be subordinate to any security interest in the assets of such subsidiary and any claims senior to that held by us.

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### **Terms of the Debt Securities to be Described in the Prospectus Supplement**

The Indentures do not limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue under them. We may issue debt securities under the Indentures in any amount as we may authorize from time to time. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any debt securities being offered, including:

- whether the debt securities will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;
- the date or dates on which the principal will be payable;
- the interest rate, if any, and the method for calculating the interest rate;
- whether the debt securities are secured or unsecured obligations;
- the interest payment dates and the record dates for interest payments;
- any mandatory or optional redemption terms or prepayment or sinking fund provisions;
- the place where we will pay principal, interest and any premium;
- the currency or currencies, if other than the currency of the United States, in which principal, interest and any premium will be payable;
- if other than denominations of \$1,000 or multiples of \$1,000, the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued;
- whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of global securities;
- whether the amount of payment of principal (or premium, if any) or interest, if any, will be determined with reference to one or more specified baskets of currencies;
- the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities to be paid upon acceleration of maturity thereof;
- any authenticating or paying agents, registrars or other agents;
- any restriction or condition on transferability of the debt securities; and
- other specific terms, including any additional events of default, covenants or warranties. (Section 301)

In addition, the prospectus supplement may, in respect of a new series of debt securities offered by such prospectus supplement, describe any of the provisions of the applicable Indenture, which will be accomplished by execution of a supplemental indenture to the applicable Indenture. For example, Aetna may, in respect of a new series of debt securities, eliminate an Event of Default (as defined below), establish its right to defer the length of the deferral period, or add additional provisions relating to the discharge of its obligations under such series of debt securities.

### **Events of Default and Notice Thereof**

When we use the term “Event of Default” with respect to debt securities of any series we mean:

- we fail to pay principal (including any sinking fund payment) of, or premium (if any) on, any debt security of that series when due (including any declaration or otherwise);
- we fail to pay interest, if any, on any debt security of that series when due and the failure continues for a period of 30 days;



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The Trustee is responsible for instituting judicial proceedings for the enforcement of the terms of the debt securities, including for collection of premium and any overdue interest. (Section 503) Each of the Indentures contains a provision entitling the Trustee, subject to the duty of the Trustee to exercise the required standard of care under the Trust Indenture Act, to be indemnified by the Holders of debt securities before proceeding to exercise any such right, on the request of such Holders. (Section 603) Holders shall not have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the enforcement of any such right of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under any Indenture, unless: (1) such Holder has previously given written notice to the Trustee with respect to the securities of that series, (2) Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding securities of any series have requested the Trustee to institute a proceeding with respect to such Event of Default, (3) such Holder or Holders have offered an indemnity to the Trustee, and (4) the Trustee, to institute a proceeding, (4) the Trustee shall have failed to institute such proceeding within 60 days of the receipt of notice from the Holders. (Section 507) These limitations do not apply, however, to a suit instituted by a Holder of a debt security for enforcement of payment of the principal or interest, if any, on such debt security on or after the respective due dates expressed in such debt security. (Section 508) Subject to the terms of the Indenture, a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each affected series then Outstanding may also direct the time, method and place of any remedy available to the Trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee. (Section 512)

Under the Trust Indenture Act, the Trustee may withhold notice to the Holders of the debt securities of any default (except in payment of principal or interest, if any) if the Trustee determines in good faith that it is in the interest of the Holders of the debt securities to do so. In the case of any bullet point of this captioned section, no such notice to Holders shall be given until at least 30 days after the occurrence thereof. For the purposes of any series of debt securities, "default" means any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default under the Indenture. (Section 602)

Each of the Indentures contains a covenant under which we are required to furnish to the Trustee an annual statement as to the compliance with the covenants of the Indentures. (Section 1004)

"Original Issue Discount Security" means any security which provides for an amount less than the principal amount thereof to be due at maturity, and acceleration of the maturity thereof pursuant to Section 502 of the applicable Indenture. (Section 101)

"Principal Subsidiary" means a consolidated subsidiary of Aetna that, as of the time of the determination of whether such consolidated subsidiary is a "Principal Subsidiary," accounted for 10% or more of the total assets of Aetna and its consolidated subsidiaries, in each case as set forth in the most recent annual report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. (Section 101)

## **Modification and Waiver**

Each of the Indentures provides that we, together with the Trustee, may enter into supplemental indentures without the consent of the Holders of the debt securities:

- evidence the assumption by another person of our obligations;
- add covenants for the benefit of the Holders of all or any series of debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred on the Trustee;
- add any additional Events of Default;
- add or change an Indenture to permit or facilitate the issuance of debt securities in bearer form;

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- add to, change or eliminate a provision of an Indenture in respect of one or more series of debt securities, if such addition, change or elimination of such provision affects the rights of a Holder of any debt security created prior to the execution of such supplemental indenture or modify the rights of a Holder of any debt security;
- secure any debt security;
- establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series;
- evidence the acceptance of appointment by a successor Trustee;
- cure any ambiguity or correct any inconsistency in an Indenture or make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions not specifically mentioned in the Indenture, *provided* that any such action does not adversely affect the interests of the Holders of debt securities of any affected series in a material way;
- conform an Indenture to any mandatory provision of law. (Section 901)

Other amendments and modifications to add, change or eliminate provisions of an Indenture in respect of any series of outstanding debt securities shall require the consent of the Holders of not less than a majority of the aggregate principal amount of each series of the Outstanding securities affected by such amendments and modifications. However, no modification or amendment may, without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding security affected:

- change the stated maturity of the principal of (or premium, if any) or any installment of principal or interest, if any, on any such debt security;
- reduce the principal amount of (or premium, if any) or the interest rate, if any, on any such debt security (including any change in the interest rate in a manner that would reduce such interest rate), any premium payable upon redemption or the principal amount of any such debt security, or the amount of any Issue Discount Security;
- change the place or currency of payment of principal of (or premium if any) or the interest, if any, on any such debt security;
- impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after the stated maturity (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the stated maturity) of any such debt security;
- reduce the percentage of Holders of debt securities necessary to modify, amend or waive compliance with any provision of, or the consequences in, an Indenture;
- in the case of the Subordinated Indenture, modify the subordination provisions in a manner adverse to the Holders of the subordinated securities;
- modify the foregoing provisions, other than to increase the percentage of Outstanding securities necessary to waive compliance with any provision of, or the consequences in, an Indenture or for waiver of certain defaults. (Section 902)

The Holders of at least a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding securities of any series may, on behalf of all Holders of such securities, waive any non-compliance with certain restrictive provisions of an Indenture and may waive any past default under an Indenture, except a default in the payment of principal or interest or in the performance of any covenant or provision of an Indenture which cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the Holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding securities affected. (Sections 907 and 513)

**Limitations on Liens on Common Stock of Principal Subsidiaries**

Each of the Indentures provides that so long as any of the debt securities issued under that Indenture remains outstanding, we will not, and we will not permit any of our Principal Subsidiaries to, issue, assume, incur or guarantee any indebtedness for borrowed money secured by a mortgage, pledge, lien or other security interest on any of the Common Stock (as defined below) of a Principal Subsidiary owned by us or by any of our Principal Subsidiaries, unless our Board of Directors, if we so elect, any other





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of our indebtedness ranking on a parity with, or prior to, the debt securities, shall be secured equally and ratably with, or prior to, such securities so long as it is outstanding and is so secured. (Section 1005)

“Common Stock” means, with respect to any Principal Subsidiary, stock of any class, however designated, except stock which is non-voting and liquidation preferences and the holders of which have either no voting rights or limited voting rights entitling them, only in the case of a majority of the directors (or persons performing similar functions) of such Principal Subsidiary, and shall include securities of any class, however convertible into such Common Stock. (Section 101)

### **Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets**

We may not consolidate with or merge with or into any other person (other than in a merger or consolidation in which we are the surviving entity) or transfer all or substantially all of our assets as, or substantially as, an entirety to any person unless:

- the person formed by the consolidation or with or into which we are merged or the person that purchases our properties and assets is a corporation, partnership or trust organized and validly existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof, and any such successor or purchaser expressly assumes Aetna’s obligations on the debt securities by supplemental indenture in a form approved by the Trustee;
- immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing; and
- a specified officers’ certificate and opinion of counsel are delivered to the Trustee. (Section 801)

Upon any consolidation or merger or sale of all or substantially all of our property and assets in accordance with the foregoing provisions, the person formed by the consolidation or with or into which we are merged or the person that purchases our properties and assets will succeed to, be substituted for and may exercise every right and power of Aetna under the Indentures with the same effect as if such successor were the original obligor of the debt securities, and thereafter Aetna will be relieved of all obligations and covenants under the Indentures and the debt securities.

### **Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

If we deposit, in trust, with the Trustee (or other qualifying trustee), sufficient cash or specified government obligations to pay the principal and interest and any other sums due on the scheduled due date for the debt securities of a particular series, then at our option and subject to certain conditions, we may be released from our obligations on the debt securities of such series (which we refer to in this prospectus as a “covenant defeasance” or “legal defeasance”):

- we will be discharged from our obligations with respect to the debt securities of such series (which we refer to in this prospectus as a “covenant defeasance” or “legal defeasance”);
- we will no longer be under any obligation to comply with the covenants described above under “Limitations on Liens on Common Stock” and “Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets,” an Event of Default relating to any failure to comply with such covenants or a fourth bullet under “Events of Default and Notice Thereof” (cross-acceleration and cross-payment default) will no longer apply to the debt securities, the subordination provisions will no longer apply to us (which we refer to in this prospectus as a “covenant defeasance” or “legal defeasance”) (Article Twelve)

If we exercise our legal defeasance option, payment of such debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default. If we exercise our covenant defeasance option, payment of such debt securities may not be accelerated by reference to the covenants from which we have been released or pursuant to the terms of the debt securities.

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referred to above which no longer are applicable. If we fail to comply with our remaining obligations with respect to such debt securities under the covenant defeasance option and such debt securities are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any Event of Default, the amount of the obligations on deposit with the Trustee may be insufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of such series at the time of the acceleration of the debt securities. However, we will remain liable for such payments.

Under current United States federal income tax laws, a legal defeasance would be treated as an exchange of the relevant debt securities. If such debt securities might recognize gain or loss. Unless accompanied by other changes in the terms of the debt securities, a covenant defeasance generally would be treated as an exchange. In order to exercise our defeasance options, we must deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the deposit and the payment to the holders of the debt securities to recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes.

**Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities**

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply only to the subordinated debt securities.

The subordinated debt securities will, to the extent set forth in the Subordinated Indenture, be subordinate in right of payment to the principal (as defined below) of Aetna, including the senior debt securities. (Subordinated Indenture Section 1401) Upon any payment or distribution of assets in liquidation, dissolution, winding up, reorganization, assignment for the benefit of creditors, marshaling of assets or any bankruptcy, insolvency or other proceedings in connection with any insolvency or bankruptcy proceeding of Aetna, the holders of Senior Debt of Aetna will first be entitled to receive amounts due or to become due, including principal (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on such Senior Debt of Aetna before the Holders of the subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive or retain any payment in respect of the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities. (Section 1402)

If the maturity of any subordinated debt securities is accelerated, the holders of all Senior Debt of Aetna outstanding at the time of such acceleration will receive payment in full of all amounts due thereon before the Holders of subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive any payment in respect of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities. (Subordinated Indenture Section 1403)

No payments on account of principal (or premium, if any) or interest, if any, in respect of the subordinated debt securities may be made until the following conditions are continuing:

- a default in the payment of principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on Senior Debt of Aetna,
- an event of default with respect to any Senior Debt of Aetna resulting in the acceleration of the maturity thereof, unless and until such event of default is cured or waived, or
- if any judicial proceeding shall be pending with respect to any such default in payment or event of default. (Subordinated Indenture Section 1404)

“Debt” means with respect to any person (without duplication and without regard to any portion of principal amount that has not accrued or become due thereon) (whether accrued or imputed) that is not due and payable), whether recourse is to all or a portion of the assets of such person and whether such debt is:

- every obligation of such person for money borrowed;
- every obligation of such person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments;
- every reimbursement obligation of such person with respect to letters of credit, bankers’ acceptances or similar facilities issued by such person.

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- every obligation of such person issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property or services (but excluding trade arising in the ordinary course of business);
- every capital lease obligation of such person; and
- every obligation of the type referred to in the previous five bullets of another person and all dividends of another person the person has guaranteed or is responsible or liable for, directly or indirectly, as obligor or otherwise. (Subordinated Indenture S

“Senior Debt” means with respect to any person the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any (including interest accruing bankruptcy or for reorganization relating to such person to the extent that such claim for post-petition interest is allowed in such proceeding), incurred on or prior to the date of the Subordinated Indenture or thereafter incurred, unless, in the instrument creating or evidencing the same outstanding, it is provided that such obligations are not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities or to other Debt of such subordinated to, the subordinated debt securities; *provided, however*, that Senior Debt does not include (i) the subordinated debt securities or guarantees in respect thereof issued to any other trusts, partnerships or other entity affiliated with Aetna which is a financing vehicle of Aetna with the issuance of preferred securities of such Financing Entity, including indebtedness of Aetna. (Subordinated Indenture Section 101)

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit or prohibit the incurrence of additional Senior Debt of Aetna, which may include indebtedness of Aetna, but subordinate to other obligations of Aetna. The senior debt securities, when issued, will constitute Senior Debt of Aetna.

At September 30, 2011, Aetna had \$4.0 billion principal amount of Senior Debt outstanding and no subordinated debt securities outstanding.

The prospectus supplement may describe additional provisions, if any, applicable to the subordination of the subordinated debt securities.

**Concerning our Relationship with the Trustee**

The Trustee and/or certain of its affiliates participate in our credit facility, and we maintain ordinary banking relationships with the Trustee.

**Governing Law**

Each of the Indentures is governed by and shall be construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of New York.

**FORM OF DEBT SECURITIES**

Each debt security will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities. Certificated securities in definitive form and global securities will be issued in registered form. Definitive securities will be delivered to the owner of the security, and in order to transfer or exchange these securities or to receive payments other than interest or other interim payments, the owner of the security will deliver the securities to the Trustee. Global securities name a depositary or its nominee as the owner of the debt securities represented by the global securities.

We may issue the debt securities in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depositary named in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depositary or nominee. In those cases, one or more global securities will be issued in aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be

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represented by global securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a global security may be represented by global securities and among the depositary for the global security, the nominees of the depositary or any successors of the depositary or those nominees.

If not described below, any specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a global security are set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depositary. For a global security, the depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal amounts of securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the beneficial interests in a global security which will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some jurisdictions require some purchasers of securities to take physical delivery of these securities in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or otherwise dispose of global securities.

So long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a global security, that depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, will be the owner or holder of the securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the applicable Indenture. Except as described below, owners or holders of securities represented by the global security will not be entitled to have the securities registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities under the applicable Indenture. Accordingly, an owner or holder of an interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for that global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the depositary, which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable Indenture. We understand that under existing industry practice, the depositary or holder of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the Indenture, the depositary for the global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the depositary would authorize the beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Principal (or premium, if any) and interest payments on debt securities represented by a global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global security. Neither Aetna nor the Trustee nor any agent or representative of either shall have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the global security or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary for any of the securities represented by a global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium or interest on the underlying securities or other property to holders of that global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportional to their beneficial interests in that global security as shown on the records of the depositary. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for a participant in street name form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of those participants.

If the depositary for any of the securities represented by a global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and a successor depositary registered as a clearing agency under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is appointed, the depositary will transfer to the successor depositary all records and information relating to the securities.

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appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the global security that had been held by the depositor and in our sole discretion decide not to have any of the securities represented by one or more global securities. If we make that decision, we will issue securities in exchange for all of the global security or securities representing those securities. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a global security will be issued in the name or names that the depository gives to the Trustee or relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depository's instructions will be issued by the depository from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the global security that had been held by the depositor.

**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants to purchase Aetna common stock, our preferred stock or our debt securities. Warrants may be issued independently or with other securities and may be attached to, or separate from, such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement with a warrant agent. The terms of any warrants to be issued and a description of the material provisions of the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the prospectus supplement.

**DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND UNITS**

We may issue purchase contracts or units consisting of one or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock or a combination of such securities or securities of other entities. The terms of any purchase contracts or units to be issued will be set forth in the prospectus supplement.

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**[Table of Contents](#)****CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The following discussion is the opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. It accurately describes the material U.S. federal income and ownership and disposition of the debt securities. This discussion applies only to debt securities held as capital assets. This discussion does not discuss consequences that may be relevant to holders in light of their particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as:

- certain financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- tax-exempt organizations;
- dealers in securities;
- persons holding debt securities as part of a “straddle”, integrated transaction or similar transaction;
- U.S. Holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the United States dollar;
- traders in securities that elect the mark-to-market method of tax accounting for their securities holdings;
- partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes; or
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax.

If an entity that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds debt securities, the U.S. federal income tax treatment will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding debt securities and partners in such partnerships should consult with their tax advisors regarding the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences to them of holding and disposing of the debt securities.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended to the date of the Registration Statement of which this prospectus is a part, and on administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed United States Treasury Regulations, in each case available at the time of the filing of this prospectus. Changes to any of such statutes, decisions and/or interpretations subsequent to the date of this prospectus may affect the tax consequences described herein. Purchasers of debt securities are urged to consult their tax advisors with regard to the application of the United States federal income tax laws and any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction.

**Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders**

As used herein, the term “U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of a debt security that is for United States federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or individual resident of the United States and certain former citizens and residents of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of any political subdivision thereof; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source.

**Payments of Interest**

Interest paid on a debt security will be taxable to a U.S. Holder as ordinary interest income at the time it accrues or is received in accordance with the method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Special rules governing the treatment of interest paid with respect to original issue discount

notes, including certain floating rate debt securities, are described under “Original Issue Discount” below.

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### **Original Issue Discount**

A debt security that is issued for an amount less than its “stated redemption price at maturity” will be considered to have been issued for federal income tax purposes (and will be referred to as an “original issue discount debt security”) unless the debt security satisfies a *de minimis* exception and is a short-term debt security (as defined below). The “issue price” of a debt security will equal the first price to the public (not including brokers or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers) at which a substantial amount of the debt securities are sold. The “stated redemption price at maturity” of a debt security will equal the sum of all payments required under the debt security other than payments of “qualified stated interest” is stated interest unconditionally payable in cash or in property (other than in debt instruments of the issuer) at least annually on the debt security and equal to the outstanding principal balance of the debt security multiplied by a single fixed rate of interest or, subject to certain conditions, a variable rate of interest based on a specified index.

If the difference between a debt security’s stated redemption price at maturity and its issue price is less than a *de minimis* amount, i.e., the stated redemption price at maturity multiplied by the number of complete years to maturity, then the debt security will not be considered to have original issue discount. A debt security with a *de minimis* amount of original issue discount will generally include such original issue discount in income, as capital gain, when payments are made on the debt security.

A U.S. Holder of original issue discount debt securities will be required to include any qualified stated interest payments in income in the year of receipt using the method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. U.S. Holders of original issue discount debt securities that mature more than one year from the date of issuance are required to include original issue discount in income for federal income tax purposes as it accrues, in accordance with a constant yield method, before the receipt of cash payments attributable to such income. Under this method, U.S. Holders of original issue discount debt securities generally will include increasingly greater amounts of original issue discount in successive accrual periods.

A U.S. Holder may make an election to include in gross income all interest that accrues on a debt security (including stated interest, original issue discount, *de minimis* original issue discount, market discount, *de minimis* market discount and unstated interest, as adjusted by any amortizable premium) in accordance with a constant yield method based on the compounding of interest (a “constant yield election”). The election is to be made by the U.S. Holder at the time the U.S. Holder acquires the debt security and may not be revoked without the consent of the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”). U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors about this election.

A debt security that matures one year or less from its date of issuance (a “short-term debt security”) will be treated as being issued at a discount. If the debt security is paid on the debt security will be treated as qualified stated interest. In general, a cash method U.S. Holder of a short-term debt security is not required to include original issue discount in income for federal income tax purposes unless it elects to do so. U.S. Holders who so elect and certain other U.S. Holders, including those who are required to use the accrual method of accounting for federal income tax purposes, are required to include the discount in income as it accrues on a straight-line basis, unless the U.S. Holder elects to include the discount according to a constant yield method based on daily compounding. In the case of a U.S. Holder who is not required to use the accrual method and who does not currently include the discount in income, any gain realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of the short-term debt securities will be ordinary income to the U.S. Holder on a straight-line basis (or, if elected, according to a constant yield method based on daily compounding) through the date of sale, exchange or other taxable disposition. In addition, those U.S. Holders will be required to defer deductions for any interest paid on indebtedness incurred to purchase or carry short-term debt securities until the accrued discount is included in income.



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Under applicable regulations, if we have an unconditional option to redeem a debt security prior to its stated maturity date, this option by utilizing any date on which the debt security may be redeemed as the maturity date and the amount payable on that date in accordance with the stated redemption price at maturity, the yield on the debt security would be lower than its yield to stated maturity. If this option is not in fact exercised, it is treated solely for purposes of calculating original issue discount as if it were redeemed, and a new debt security were issued, on the presumed date of the debt security's adjusted issue price on that date.

### **Contingent Debt Obligations**

Special rules govern the tax treatment of debt obligations that are treated under applicable Treasury Regulations as providing for contingent payments (referred to as "contingent debt obligations"). These rules generally require accrual of interest income on a constant yield method at an assumed yield determined at the time of the debt security's issue. Adjustments will be required to these accruals when any contingent payments are made that differ from the payments calculated based on the constant yield method. The exchange, retirement or other disposition of a contingent debt obligation will be ordinary income.

### **Market Discount**

If a U.S. Holder purchases a debt security (other than a short-term original issue discount debt security or contingent debt obligation) at a price less than the redemption price at maturity (or, in the case of an original issue discount debt security, its "adjusted issue price"), the amount of the difference between the purchase price and the redemption price for federal income tax purposes, unless such difference is less than a specified *de minimis* amount. The "adjusted issue price" of an original issue discount debt security is the sum of the issue price of the debt security and the aggregate amount of previously accrued original issue discount, less any prior payments of interest.

A U.S. Holder will be required to treat any principal payment (or, in the case of an original issue discount debt security, any payment of interest) on, or any gain on the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of, a debt security as ordinary income to the extent of the market discount at the time of the payment or disposition unless this market discount has been previously included in income by the U.S. Holder pursuant to a constant yield election to include market discount in income as it accrues, or pursuant to a constant yield election by the U.S. Holder as described under "Original Issue Discount." If a debt security is disposed of in certain nontaxable transactions, accrued market discount will be includible as ordinary income to the U.S. Holder at the time of the disposition of the debt security at its then fair market value. In addition, the U.S. Holder may be required to defer, until the maturity of the debt security or its earlier disposition in nontaxable transactions, the deduction of all or a portion of the interest expense on any indebtedness incurred or maintained to purchase or carry the debt security.

### **Acquisition Premium and Amortizable Bond Premium**

A U.S. Holder who purchases a debt security (other than a contingent debt obligation) for an amount that is greater than its adjusted issue price (the sum of all amounts payable on the debt security after the purchase date other than payments of qualified stated interest) will be considered to have purchased the debt security with "acquisition premium." Under the acquisition premium rules of the Code, the amount of original issue discount which such U.S. Holder must recognize with respect to such debt securities for any taxable year will be reduced by the portion of such acquisition premium properly allocable to such year.

If a U.S. Holder purchases a debt security (other than a contingent debt obligation) for an amount that is greater than the sum of all amounts payable on the debt security other than qualified stated interest, such U.S. Holder will be considered to have purchased such debt security with "amortizable bond premium." In the case of such debt security, the amount of such premium with respect to any debt security will be equal in amount to the excess of the purchase price over the sum of all amounts payable on the debt security other than interest, and the holder may elect to amortize such premium, using a constant yield method, over the remaining term of the debt security.

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Special rules may apply in the case of debt securities that are subject to optional redemption. A U.S. Holder may generally use the amortizable bond premium accrual period to offset qualified stated interest required to be included in such U.S. Holder's income with respect to the debt security in that year. An election to amortize bond premium must reduce its tax basis in the debt securities by the amount of the premium amortized in any year. An election to amortize bond premium on all taxable debt obligations then owned and thereafter acquired by the taxpayer and may be revoked only with the consent of the IRS.

If a U.S. Holder makes a constant yield election (as described under "Original Issue Discount" above) for a debt security with amortizable bond premium, it will result in a deemed election to amortize bond premium for all of the U.S. Holder's debt instruments with amortizable bond premium and may be revoked only with the permission of the IRS with respect to debt instruments acquired after revocation.

### **Sale, Exchange or Retirement of the Debt Securities**

Upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of a debt security, a U.S. Holder will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition and the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the debt security. For these purposes, the amount realized is the amount realized attributable to accrued interest. Amounts attributable to accrued interest are treated as interest as described under "Payments of Interest" above.

Gain or loss realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of a debt security will generally be capital gain or loss and will be taxable at the time of sale, exchange or other taxable disposition if the debt security has been held for more than one year. Exceptions to this rule apply if the debt security is an original issue discount or, in the case of a short-term debt security, any accrued discount not previously included in the U.S. Holder's taxable income. See "Original Issue Discount and Premium" above. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

### **Debt Securities With Special Features**

Special rules governing the federal income tax treatment of debt securities with special features, including debt securities denominated in a currency other than the United States dollar ("foreign currency debt securities") or currency-indexed debt securities, will be provided by Aetna in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

Information returns will be filed with the IRS in connection with payments on the debt securities and the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of the debt securities. U.S. Holder will be subject to United States backup withholding, currently at a rate of 28 percent, on these payments if the U.S. Holder fails to furnish a taxpayer identification number to the paying agent and comply with certain certification procedures or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. Holder's United States federal income tax. U.S. Holder may entitle the U.S. Holder to a refund, *provided* that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

### **Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders**

As used herein, the term "Non-U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a debt security that is, for United States federal income tax purposes,

- an individual who is classified as a nonresident for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- a foreign corporation; or
- a foreign estate or trust.

"Non-U.S. Holder" does not include a holder who is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year or who is otherwise a resident of the United States for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Such a holder is urged to consult his or her own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the sale, exchange or other disposition of a debt security.



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Subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding:

- payments of principal, interest (including original issue discount, if any) and premium on the debt securities by us or any paying agent will not be subject to United States federal withholding tax, *provided* that, in the case of interest, (i) such Non-U.S. Holder does not own 10 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of Aetna entitled to vote, is not a controlled foreign corporation, or, indirectly, to Aetna through stock ownership and is not a bank whose receipt of interest is described in Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code and the requirement described below has been fulfilled with respect to the beneficial owner, as described below;
- a Non-U.S. Holder of a debt security will not be subject to United States federal income tax on gain realized on the sale, exchange, or redemption of the debt security, unless the gain is effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business in the United States or the tax treaty providing otherwise.

### **Certification Requirement**

Interest and original issue discount will not be exempt from withholding tax unless the beneficial owner of that debt security certifies under penalties of perjury, that it is not a United States person. The exemption will not apply to contingent interest if the amount of such interest is determined by reference to the financial performance of Aetna or a related person or with reference to changes in the value of Aetna's or a related person's assets. Unless otherwise stated in this prospectus supplement, we do not expect to pay this type of interest.

If a Non-U.S. Holder of a debt security is engaged in a trade or business in the United States, and if interest (including original issue discount) is effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business, the Non-U.S. Holder, although exempt from the withholding tax discussed in this prospectus supplement, will generally be taxed in the same manner as a U.S. Holder (see "Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders" above), subject to an applicable income tax rate. That the Non-U.S. Holder will be required to provide to Aetna a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI in order to claim an exemption from withholding tax. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to other U.S. tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of debt securities, including the potential for U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30 percent (or a lower treaty rate).

### **Federal Estate Tax**

Individual Non-U.S. Holders and entities the property of which is potentially includible in such an individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes (for example, a trust funded by such an individual and with respect to which the individual has retained certain interests or powers), should note that, if the beneficial owner of a debt security will be treated as U.S. situs property subject to U.S. federal estate tax if payments on the debt security, if received by the beneficial owner, would have been:

- subject to United States federal withholding tax (even if the W-8BEN certification requirement described above were satisfied);
- effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business in the United States.

### **Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

Information returns will be filed with the IRS in connection with payments on the debt securities. Unless the Non-U.S. Holder complies with the certification requirements and establishes that it is not a United States person, information returns may be filed with the IRS in connection with the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of the debt securities. The Non-U.S. Holder may be subject to United States backup withholding, currently at a rate of 28 percent, on payments on the debt securities or on the proceeds from the sale or other disposition of the debt securities. Compliance with the certification procedures required to claim the exemption from withholding tax on interest

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and original issue discount described above will satisfy the certification requirements necessary to avoid backup withholding as well. Backup withholding. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a Non-U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the Non-U.S. Holder's United States tax liability and may entitle the Non-U.S. Holder to a refund, *provided* that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Recent legislation generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on payments to certain foreign entities with respect to debt securities in various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements that are different from, and in addition to, the certification requirements described above. If such requirements have not been satisfied. Pursuant to published guidance from the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department, this legislation applies to payments of interest and principal on debt securities and payments of gross proceeds made after December 31, 2014. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in the debt securities.

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[Table of Contents](#)**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the securities in one or more of the following ways (or in any combination of the following ways) from time to time:

- through underwriters or dealers;
- directly to a limited number of purchasers or to a single purchaser; or
- through agents.

The applicable prospectus supplement will state the terms of the offering of the securities, which may include:

- the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;
- the purchase price of such securities and the proceeds we will receive, if any;
- any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;
- any public offering price;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers;
- any over-allotment option granted to the underwriters;
- offering expenses payable by us;
- any securities exchange or exchanges on which the securities may be listed; and
- any relationships or conflicts of interest with the underwriters that we may be required to disclose.

Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. The securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, in

- negotiated transactions;
- at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to prevailing market prices; or
- at negotiated prices.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities if any are purchased.

We may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts. Delayed delivery contracts provide for payment and delivery on a specified date. Such contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth any conditions.

these contracts.

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Our agreements with underwriters and agents may entitle such underwriters and agents to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933 (the “1933 Act”), or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters or agents may be required to make to our customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Each series of securities other than Aetna common stock, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, will be a new issue of securities in the trading market. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters may and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. The securities, other than Aetna common stock, may or may not be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

**VALIDITY OF SECURITIES**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts and other securities issued upon for Aetna by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York, and the validity of the shares of common stock and preferred stock of Aetna by Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, special Pennsylvania counsel to Aetna. Counsel for any agents or underwriters is set forth in the prospectus supplement. Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP and counsel for the agents or underwriters may rely upon an opinion of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP governed by Pennsylvania law.

**INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The consolidated financial statements and schedule of Aetna Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and for each of the quarters ended December 31, 2010 and management’s assessment of effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 are included herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing. With respect to the unaudited interim financial information for the periods ended March 31, 2011 and 2010 and September 30, 2011 and 2010, incorporated by reference herein, the independent registered public accounting firm has reviewed such information in accordance with professional standards for a review of such information. However, their separate reports included in the Consolidated Financial Statements for the quarters ended March 31, 2011, June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2011, and incorporated by reference herein, state that they did not audit such information on that interim financial information. Accordingly, the degree of reliance on their reports on such information should be restricted in light of the limited procedures applied. The accountants are not subject to the liability provisions of Section 11 of the 1933 Act for their reports on the unaudited interim financial information; those reports are not a “report” or a “part” of the registration statement prepared or certified by the accountants within the meaning of Section 11 of the 1933 Act.

**ERISA MATTERS**

Aetna and certain of its affiliates, including Aetna Life Insurance Company, may each be considered a “party in interest” within the meaning of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”), or a “disqualified person” within the meaning of the Code, with respect to any employee benefit plan subject to ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or entities deemed to hold the assets of such plans (each, a “Plan”). Prohibited transactions within the meaning of ERISA may arise, for example, if debt securities are acquired by a Plan with respect to which Aetna or any of its affiliates is a service provider, unless such acquisition is pursuant to an exemption for transactions effected on behalf of such Plan by a “qualified professional asset manager” or pursuant to any other individual exemption. In addition, certain governmental, church and non-U.S. plans (“Non-ERISA Arrangements”) are subject to federal, state or local laws substantially similar to Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (“Similar Laws”).



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Therefore, each purchaser or holder of the debt securities or any interest therein will be deemed to have represented by its purchase of the debt securities that it is not using the assets of any Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement or (ii) its purchase and holding of the debt securities or any interest therein is not a nonexempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or in a similar violation of Similar Laws. Any Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement proposing to invest in the debt securities should consult with its legal counsel.

The sale of the debt securities that we may offer from time to time hereunder and pursuant to a prospectus supplement to any Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement respects a representation by Aetna or any of its affiliates that such an investment is appropriate for or meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to any Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement generally or any particular Plan or Non-ERISA Arrangement.

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**\$2,000,000,000**

**\$500,000,000 1.50% Senior Notes Due 2017**

**\$1,000,000,000 2.75% Senior Notes Due 2022**

**\$500,000,000 4.125% Senior Notes Due 2042**



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**PROSPECTUS  
SUPPLEMENT**

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*Joint Book-Running Managers*

**Goldman, Sachs & Co.**

**J.P. Morgan**

**Barclays**

**Morgan Stanley**

*Senior Co-Managers*

**BofA Merrill Lynch**

**Credit Suisse**  
**US Bancorp**

**Mitsubishi UFJ Securities**  
**Wells Fargo Securities**  
*Co-Managers*

**BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC**  
**HSBC**

November 2, 2012

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