CENTENE CORP
Form 10-Q
October 25, 2011

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

[X] QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2011

OR

[ ] TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission file number: 001-31826

CENTENE CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	42-1406317
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
7700 Forsyth Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri	63105
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(314) 725-4477

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days: T Yes £ No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). T Yes £ No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer”, “accelerated filer” and “small reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. Large accelerated filer T Accelerated filer £ Non-accelerated filer £ (do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company £

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes £ No T

As of October 14, 2011, the registrant had 50,378,693 shares of common stock outstanding.

CENTENE CORPORATION

QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

All statements, other than statements of current or historical fact, contained in this filing are forward-looking statements. We have attempted to identify these statements by terminology including "believe," "anticipate," "plan," "expect," "estimate," "intend," "seek," "target," "goal," "may," "will," "should," "can," "continue" and other similar words or expressions in connection with, among other things, any discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these statements include statements about our market opportunity, our growth strategy, competition, expected activities and future acquisitions, investments and the adequacy of our available cash resources. These statements may be found in the various sections of this filing, including those entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and Part II, Item 1A. "Risk Factors." Readers are cautioned that matters subject to forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, including economic, regulatory, competitive and other factors that may cause our or our industry's actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

All forward-looking statements included in this filing are based on information available to us on the date of this filing and we undertake no obligation to update or revise the forward-looking statements included in this filing, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, after the date of this filing. Actual results may differ from projections or estimates due to a variety of important factors, including:

- our ability to accurately predict and effectively manage health benefits and other operating expenses;
- competition;
- membership and revenue projections;
- timing of regulatory contract approval;
- changes in healthcare practices;
- changes in federal or state laws or regulations, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act and any regulations enacted thereunder;
- inflation;
- provider contract changes;
- new technologies;
- reduction in provider payments by governmental payors;
- major epidemics;
- disasters and numerous other factors affecting the delivery and cost of healthcare;
- the expiration, cancellation or suspension of our Medicaid managed care contracts by state governments;
- availability of debt and equity financing, on terms that are favorable to us; and
- general economic and market conditions.

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PART I

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. Financial Statements.

CENTENE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except share data)
(Unaudited)

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents of continuing operations	$451,657	$433,914
Cash and cash equivalents of discontinued operations	—	252
Total cash and cash equivalents	451,657	434,166
Premium and related receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of $592 and $17, respectively	139,467	136,243
Short-term investments, at fair value (amortized cost $104,914 and $21,141, respectively)	106,344	21,346
Other current assets	68,908	64,154
Current assets of discontinued operations other than cash	—	912
Total current assets	766,376	656,821
Long-term investments, at fair value (amortized cost $521,229 and $585,862, respectively)	530,452	595,879
Restricted deposits, at fair value (amortized cost $26,697 and $22,755, respectively)	26,768	22,758
Property, software and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of $166,442 and $138,629, respectively	345,600	326,341
Goodwill	281,981	278,051
Intangible assets, net	28,795	29,109
Other long-term assets	57,526	30,057
Long-term assets of discontinued operations	—	4,866
Total assets	$2,037,498	$1,943,882
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Medical claims liability	$498,705	$456,765
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	173,708	185,218
Unearned revenue	54,764	117,344
Current portion of long-term debt	3,203	2,817
Current liabilities of discontinued operations	—	3,102
Total current liabilities	730,380	765,246
Long-term debt	348,093	327,824
Other long-term liabilities	54,926	53,378
Long-term liabilities of discontinued operations	—	379

Total liabilities	1,133,399	1,146,827
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, $.001 par value; authorized 100,000,000 shares; 52,921,255 issued and 50,377,774 outstanding at September 30, 2011, and 52,172,037 issued and 49,616,824 outstanding at December 31, 2010	53	52
Additional paid-in capital	411,924	384,206
Accumulated other comprehensive income:		
Unrealized gain on investments, net of tax	6,478	6,424
Retained earnings	534,849	453,743
Treasury stock, at cost (2,543,481 and 2,555,213 shares, respectively)	(50,594)	(50,486)
Total Centene stockholders' equity	902,710	793,939
Noncontrolling interest	1,389	3,116
Total stockholders' equity	904,099	797,055
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	$2,037,498	$1,943,882

The accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

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CENTENE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(In thousands, except share data)
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Revenues:				
Premium	$ 1,239,464	$ 1,060,559	$ 3,640,829	$ 3,085,802
Service	25,817	20,954	81,629	68,543
Premium and service revenues	1,265,281	1,081,513	3,722,458	3,154,345
Premium tax	36,754	40,348	110,948	113,009
Total revenues	1,302,035	1,121,861	3,833,406	3,267,354
Expenses:				
Medical costs	1,028,586	893,281	3,021,400	2,592,324
Cost of services	20,229	14,646	60,717	47,505
General and administrative expenses	167,668	132,095	496,674	401,072
Premium tax	37,005	41,591	111,668	114,885
Total operating expenses	1,253,488	1,081,613	3,690,459	3,155,786
Earnings from operations	48,547	40,248	142,947	111,568
Other income (expense):				
Investment and other income	2,697	713	9,379	11,912
Debt extinguishment costs	—	—	(8,488)	—
Interest expense	(4,572)	(4,858)	(15,523)	(12,540)
Earnings from continuing operations, before income tax expense	46,672	36,103	128,315	110,940
Income tax expense	18,459	13,163	49,216	42,942
Earnings from continuing operations, net of income tax expense	28,213	22,940	79,099	67,998
Discontinued operations, net of income tax expense of $0, $26, $0 and $4,376, respectively	—	260	—	3,954
Net earnings	28,213	23,200	79,099	71,952
Noncontrolling interest (loss)	(774)	538	(2,007)	2,515
Net earnings attributable to Centene Corporation	$ 28,987	$ 22,662	$ 81,106	$ 69,437
Amounts attributable to Centene Corporation common stockholders:				
Earnings from continuing operations, net of income tax expense	$ 28,987	$ 22,402	$ 81,106	$ 65,483
Discontinued operations, net of income tax expense	—	260	—	3,954
Net earnings	$ 28,987	$ 22,662	$ 81,106	$ 69,437
Net earnings per common share attributable to Centene Corporation:				
Basic:				
Continuing operations	$ 0.58	$ 0.46	$ 1.62	$ 1.35
Discontinued operations	—	—	—	0.08

Earnings per common share	$ 0.58	$ 0.46	$ 1.62	$ 1.43
Diluted:				
Continuing operations	$ 0.55	$ 0.44	$ 1.55	$ 1.30
Discontinued operations	—	—	—	0.08
Earnings per common share	$ 0.55	$ 0.44	$ 1.55	$ 1.38
Weighted average number of shares outstanding:				
Basic	50,345,512	49,238,406	50,089,845	48,552,135
Diluted	52,620,350	50,938,357	52,320,906	50,192,190

The accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

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CENTENE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
(In thousands, except share data)
(Unaudited)
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011

	Centene Stockholders' Equity								
	Common Stock				Treasury Stock				
	$.001 Par Value Shares	Amt	Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Retained Earnings	$.001 Par Value Shares	Amt	Non controlling Interest	Total
Balance, December 31, 2010	52,172,037	$ 52	$ 384,206	$ 6,424	$ 453,743	2,555,213	$ (50,486)	$ 3,116	$ 797,055
Comprehensive Earnings:									
Net earnings	—	—	—	—	81,106	—	—	(2,007)	79,099
Change in unrealized investment gain, net of $50 tax	—	—	—	54	—	—	—	—	54
Total comprehensive earnings									79,153
Common stock issued for employee benefit plans	749,218	1	13,005	—	—	—	—	—	13,006
Issuance of stock warrants	—	—	—	—	—	(50,000)	1,172	—	1,172
Common stock repurchases	—	—	—	—	—	38,268	(1,280)	—	(1,280)
Stock compensation expense	—	—	13,263	—	—	—	—	—	13,263
Excess tax benefits from stock compensation	—	—	1,450	—	—	—	—	—	1,450
Contribution from Noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	569	569
Deconsolidation of Noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(289)	(289)
	52,921,255	$ 53	$ 411,924	$ 6,478	$ 534,849	2,543,481	$ (50,594)	$ 1,389	$ 904,099

Balance, September 30, 2011	

The accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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CENTENE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(In thousands)
(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net earnings	$79,099	$71,952
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	43,055	38,620
Stock compensation expense	13,263	10,224
Gain on sale of investments, net	(213)	(6,331)
Debt extinguishment costs	8,488	—
Gain on sale of UHP	—	(8,201)
Impairment of investment	—	5,531
Deferred income taxes	(223)	7,012
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Premium and related receivables	(13,306)	(68,125)
Other current assets	(6,667)	(2,932)
Other assets	(1,230)	(990)
Medical claims liabilities	40,476	(29,304)
Unearned revenue	(65,183)	(38,708)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(11,414)	(3,174)
Other operating activities	3,528	(1,267)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	89,673	(25,693)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures	(52,931)	(50,353)
Capital expenditures of Centene Center LLC	(4,007)	(41,607)
Purchases of investments	(201,145)	(382,730)
Proceeds from asset sales	—	13,420
Sales and maturities of investments	180,124	452,128
Investments in acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(3,192)	(26,847)
Net cash used in investing activities	(81,151)	(35,989)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	13,582	2,394
Proceeds from borrowings	419,183	53,812
Proceeds from stock offering	—	104,534
Payment of long-term debt	(415,475)	(97,467)
Contributions from (distributions to) noncontrolling interest	569	(7,387)
Excess tax benefits from stock compensation	1,632	424
Common stock repurchases	(1,280)	(714)
Debt issue costs	(9,242)	—
Net cash provided by financing activities	8,969	55,596
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	17,491	(6,086)

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	434,166	403,752
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	$451,657	$397,666
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:		
Interest paid	$16,097	$9,501
Income taxes paid	$49,996	$44,407
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Contribution from noncontrolling interest	$—	$306
Capital expenditures	$(4,833)	$15,291

The accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

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CENTENE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Dollars in thousands, except share data)
(Unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying interim financial statements have been prepared under the presumption that users of the interim financial information have either read or have access to the audited financial statements included in the Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010. The unaudited interim financial statements herein have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Accordingly, footnote disclosures, which would substantially duplicate the disclosures contained in the December 31, 2010 audited financial statements, have been omitted from these interim financial statements where appropriate. In the opinion of management, these financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, which are necessary for a fair presentation of the results of the interim periods presented.

Certain 2010 amounts in the consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the 2011 presentation. These reclassifications have no effect on net earnings or stockholders' equity as previously reported.

2. Acquisitions

— Casenet, LLC. In December 2010, the Company acquired an additional ownership interest in Casenet, LLC for total consideration of $6,619, bringing its ownership interest to 68%. The Company finalized the allocation of the fair value which resulted in goodwill of $8,975, other identifiable intangible assets of $3,561 and unearned revenue of $7,247. All of the goodwill is deductible for income tax purposes. During the third quarter of 2011, the Company increased its ownership interest in Casenet to 77% through additional investments.

— Citrus Health Care, Inc. In December 2010, the Company acquired certain assets in non-reform counties of Citrus Health Care, Inc., a Florida Medicaid and long term care health plan for $28,689. The Company finalized the allocation of the fair value which resulted in goodwill of $19,069 and other identifiable intangible assets of $9,620. All of the goodwill is deductible for income tax purposes.

3. Investments and Restricted Deposits

Short-term and long-term investments and restricted deposits by investment type consist of the following:

	September 30, 2011				December 31, 2010			
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies	$ 29,045	$ 691	$ (2)	$ 29,734	$ 28,665	$ 510	$ (140)	$ 29,035
Corporate securities	189,380	3,825	(757)	192,448	197,577	3,124	(586)	200,115

Restricted certificates of deposit	5,890	—	—	5,890	6,814	—	—	6,814
Restricted cash equivalents	13,488	—	—	13,488	8,814	—	—	8,814
Municipal securities:								
General obligation	117,544	3,167	(57)	120,654	109,866	3,601	(6)	113,461
Pre-refunded	32,682	613	—	33,295	32,442	756	—	33,198
Revenue	114,675	2,768	(16)	117,427	100,198	2,781	(15)	102,964
Variable rate demand notes	108,723	—	—	108,723	106,540	—	—	106,540
Asset backed securities	18,714	492	—	19,206	17,391	243	(43)	17,591
Cost method investments and equity method securities	8,076	—	—	8,076	7,060	—	—	7,060
Life insurance contracts	14,623	—	—	14,623	14,391	—	—	14,391
Total	$ 652,840	$ 11,556	$ (832)	$ 663,564	$ 629,758	$ 11,015	$ (790)	$ 639,983

The Company's investments are classified as available-for-sale with the exception of life insurance contracts and certain cost method and equity method investments. The Company's investment policies are designed to provide liquidity, preserve capital and maximize total return on invested assets with the focus on high credit quality securities. The Company limits the size of investment in any single issuer other than U.S. treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies. As of September 30, 2011, 36% of the Company's investments in securities recorded at fair value that carry a rating by Moody's or S&P were rated AAA, 77% were rated AA- or higher, and 99% were rated A- or higher. At September 30, 2011, the Company held certificates of deposit, life insurance contracts and cost and equity method invesments which did not carry a credit rating.

The fair value of available-for-sale investments with gross unrealized losses by investment type and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position were as follows:

	September 30, 2011				December 31, 2010			
	Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or More		Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or More	
	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies	$ (2)	$ 2,117	$ —	$ —	$ (140)	$ 9,246	$ —	$ —
Corporate securities	(757)	29,224	—	—	(586)	40,341	—	—
Municipal securities:								
General obligation	(57)	7,676	—	—	(6)	1,131	—	—
Revenue	(16)	7,039	—	—	(15)	2,419	—	—
Asset backed securities	—	—	—	—	(43)	5,276	—	—
Total	$ (832)	$ 46,056	$ —	$ —	$ (790)	$ 58,413	$ —	$ —

As of September 30, 2011, the gross unrealized losses were generated from 25 positions out of a total of 410 positions. The decline in fair value of fixed income securities is a result of movement in interest rates subsequent to the purchase of the security.

For each security in an unrealized loss position, the Company assesses whether it intends to sell the security or if it is more likely than not the Company will be required to sell the security before recovery of the amortized cost basis for reasons such as liquidity, contractual or regulatory purposes. If the security meets this criterion, the decline in fair value is other-than-temporary and is recorded in earnings. The Company does not intend to sell these securities prior to maturity and it is not likely that the Company will be required to sell these securities prior to maturity; therefore, there is no indication of other than temporary impairment for these securities.

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The contractual maturities of short-term and long-term investments and restricted deposits are as follows:

	September 30, 2011				December 31, 2010			
	Investments		Restricted Deposits		Investments		Restricted Deposits	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
One year or less	$ 104,914	$ 106,344	$ 19,605	$ 19,606	$ 21,141	$ 21,346	$ 17,387	$ 17,392
One year through five years	391,281	400,055	7,092	7,162	464,270	474,255	5,368	5,366
Five years through ten years	35,748	35,748	—	—	39,732	39,731	—	—
Greater than ten years	94,200	94,649	—	—	81,860	81,893	—	—
Total	$ 626,143	$ 636,796	$ 26,697	$ 26,768	$ 607,003	$ 617,225	$ 22,755	$ 22,758

Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities due to call or prepayment options. Asset backed securities are included in the one year through five years category, while equity securities and life insurance contracts are included in the five years through ten years category. The Company has an option to redeem at amortized cost substantially all of the securities included in the greater than ten years category listed above.

Realized gains and losses are determined on the basis of specific identification or a first-in, first-out methodology, if specific identification is not practicable. The Company's gross recorded realized gains and losses on investments were as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Gains	$ 107	$ 2,310	$ 240	$ 6,027
Losses	(1)	(23)	(27)	(268)
Impairment of investment	—	(5,531)	—	(5,531)
Net realized (losses) gains	$ 106	$ (3,244)	$ 213	$ 228

Realized gains in the nine months ended September 30, 2010 included a net realized gain of $2,472 related to sales of fixed income investments and also included realized gains of $3,287 representing a distribution from the Reserve Primary fund in excess of our adjusted basis.

The Company continuously monitors investments for other-than-temporary impairment. Certain investments have experienced a decline in fair value due to changes in credit quality, market interest rates and/or general economic conditions. The Company recognizes an impairment loss for cost and equity method investments when evidence demonstrates that it is other-than-temporarily impaired. Evidence of a loss in value that is other than temporary may include the absence of an ability to recover the carrying amount of the investment or the inability of the investee to sustain a level of earnings that would justify the carrying amount of the investment.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2010, the Company determined it had an other-than-temporary impairment of a cost method investment in a start-up company that provides software to automate the clinical, administrative, and

technical components of care management programs. As a result, the Company recorded an impairment charge of $5,531, including $3,531 of convertible promissory notes. The impairment charge is included in investment and other income for the quarter.

Investment amortization of $7,545 and $8,380 was recorded in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

4. Fair Value Measurements

Assets and liabilities recorded at fair value in the consolidated balance sheets are categorized based upon the extent to which the fair value estimates are based upon observable or unobservable inputs. Level inputs are as follows:

Level Input:	Input Definition:
Level I	Inputs are unadjusted, quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets at the measurement date.
Level II	Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level I that are observable for the asset or liability through corroboration with market data at the measurement date.
Level III	Unobservable inputs that reflect management's best estimate of what market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date.

The following table summarizes fair value measurements by level at September 30, 2011, for assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	$451,657	$	$	$451,657
Investments available for sale:				
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies	$17,019	$5,325	$	$22,344
Corporate securities		192,448		192,448
Municipal securities:				
General obligation		120,654		120,654
Pre-refunded		33,295		33,295
Revenue		117,427		117,427
Variable rate demand notes		108,723		108,723
Asset backed securities		19,206		19,206
Total investments	$17,019	$597,078	$	$614,097
Restricted deposits available for sale:				
Cash and cash equivalents	$13,488	$	$	$13,488
Certificates of deposit	5,890			5,890
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies	7,390			7,390
Total restricted deposits	$26,768	$	$	$26,768
Interest rate swap contract	$	$10,489	$	$10,489
Total assets at fair value	$495,444	$607,567	$	$1,103,011

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The following table summarizes fair value measurements by level at December 31, 2010, for assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

	Level I	Level II	Level III	Total
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	$433,914	$	$	$433,914
Investments available for sale:				
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies	$14,809	$7,096	$	$21,905
Corporate securities		200,115		200,115
Municipal securities:				
General obligation		113,461		113,461
Pre-refunded		33,198		33,198
Revenue		102,964		102,964
Variable rate demand notes		106,540		106,540
Asset backed securities		17,591		17,591
Total investments	$14,809	$580,965	$	$595,774
Restricted deposits available for sale:				
Cash and cash equivalents	$8,814	$	$	$8,814
Certificates of deposit	6,814			6,814
U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies	7,130			7,130
Total restricted deposits	$22,758	$	$	$22,758
Total assets at fair value	$471,481	$580,965	$	$1,052,446

The Company periodically transfers U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies between Level I and Level II fair value measurements dependent upon the level of trading activity for the specific securities at the measurement date. The Company utilizes matrix pricing services to estimate fair value for securities which are not actively traded on the measurement date. The Company designates these securities as Level II fair value measurements. The aggregate carrying amount of the Company's life insurance contracts and cost-method investments, which approximates fair value, was $22,699 and $21,451 as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively.

5. Debt

Debt consists of the following:

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
Senior notes, at par	$ 250,000	$ 175,000
Unamortized discount on Senior notes	(2,944)	
Interest rate swap fair	10,489	

value		
Senior notes, net	257,545	175,000
Revolving credit agreement		60,000
Mortgage notes payable	87,645	89,500
Capital leases and other	6,106	6,141
Total debt	351,296	330,641
Less current portion	(3,203)	(2,817)
Long-term debt	$ 348,093	$ 327,824

Senior Notes

In May 2011, the Company exercised its option to redeem its $175,000 7.25% Senior Notes due April 1, 2014 ($175,000 Notes). The Company redeemed the $175,000 Notes at 103.625% and wrote off unamortized debt issuance costs, resulting in a pre-tax expense of $8,488.

In May 2011, pursuant to a shelf registration statement, the Company issued non-callable $250,000 5.75% Senior Notes due June 1, 2017 ($250,000 Notes) at a discount to yield 6%. At September 30, 2011, the unamortized debt discount was $2,944. The indenture governing the $250,000 Notes contains non-financial and financial covenants. Interest is paid semi-annually in June and December. In connection with the issuance, the Company entered into an interest rate swap as discussed below. Gains and losses due to changes in the fair value of the interest rate swap completely offset changes in the fair value of the hedged portion of the underlying debt and are recorded as an adjustment to the $250,000 Notes. At September 30, 2011, the fair value of the interest rate swap increased the principal amount of the notes by $10,489.

Revolving Credit Agreement

In January 2011, the Company replaced its $300,000 revolving credit agreement with a new $350,000 revolving credit facility, or the revolver. The revolver is unsecured and has a five-year maturity with non-financial and financial covenants, including requirements of minimum fixed charge coverage ratios, maximum debt to EBITDA ratios and minimum net worth. Borrowings under the revolver bear interest based upon LIBOR rates, the Federal funds rate, or the prime rate. There is a commitment fee on the unused portion of the agreement that ranges from 0.25% to 0.50% depending on the total debt to EBITDA ratio, as defined. As of September 30, 2011, the Company had no borrowings outstanding under the agreement, leaving availability of $350,000.

The Company has outstanding letters of credit of $36,708 as of September 30, 2011, which are not part of the revolver. The letters of credit bore interest at an average of 1.66% on September 30, 2011.

6. Interest Rate Swap

In May 2011, the Company entered into $250,000 notional amount of interest rate swap agreements (Swap Agreements) that are scheduled to expire June 1, 2017. Under the Swap Agreements, the Company receives a fixed rate of 5.75% and pays a variable rate of LIBOR plus 3.5% adjusted quarterly, which allows the Company to adjust the $250,000 Notes to a floating rate. The Company does not hold or issue any derivative instrument for trading or speculative purposes.

The interest rate swaps are formally designated and qualify as fair value hedges. The interest rate swaps are recorded at fair value in the Consolidated Balance Sheet in other assets or other liabilities. Gains and losses due to changes in fair value of the interest rate swaps completely offset changes in the fair value of the hedged portion of the underlying debt. Therefore, no gain or loss has been recognized due to hedge ineffectiveness. Offsetting changes in fair value of both the interest rate swaps and the hedged portion of the underlying debt both were recognized in interest expense in the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

The fair value of the Swap Agreements as of September 30, 2011 was an asset of approximately $10,489, and is included in Other long-term assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The fair value of the swap agreements excludes accrued interest and takes into consideration current interest rates and current likelihood of the swap counterparties' compliance with its contractual obligations.

7. Contingencies

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) performed an examination of the Company's 2006 and 2007 tax returns and initially denied a $34,856 tax benefit related to the abandonment of the FirstGuard stock in 2007. In October 2011, the Company agreed to a settlement for the open tax years of 2006 and 2007. The settlement did not have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

The Company is routinely subjected to legal proceedings in the normal course of business. While the ultimate resolution of such matters is uncertain, the Company does not expect the results of any of these matters individually, or in the aggregate, to have a material effect on its financial position or results of operations.

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8. Earnings Per Share

The following table sets forth the calculation of basic and diluted net earnings per common share:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Net earnings attributable to Centene Corporation common stockholders:				
Earnings from continuing operations, net of tax	$ 28,987	$ 22,402	$ 81,106	$ 65,483
Discontinued operations, net of tax		260		3,954
Net earnings	$ 28,987	$ 22,662	$ 81,106	$ 69,437
Shares used in computing per share amounts:				
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding	50,345,512	49,238,406	50,089,845	48,552,135
Common stock equivalents (as determined by applying the treasury stock method)	2,274,838	1,699,951	2,231,061	1,640,055
Weighted average number of common shares and potential dilutive common shares outstanding	52,620,350	50,938,357	52,320,906	50,192,190
Net earnings per share attributable to Centene Corporation common stockholders:				
Basic:				
Continuing operations	$ 0.58	$ 0.46	$ 1.62	$ 1.35
Discontinued operations				0.08
Earnings per common share	$ 0.58	$ 0.46	$ 1.62	$ 1.43
Diluted:				
Continuing operations	$ 0.55	$ 0.44	$ 1.55	$ 1.30
Discontinued operations				0.08
Earnings per common share	$ 0.55	$ 0.44	$ 1.55	$ 1.38

The calculation of diluted earnings per common share for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 excludes the impact of 69,359 and 97,004 shares, respectively, related to anti-dilutive stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock units. The calculation of diluted earnings per common share for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 excludes the impact of 1,931,808 and 1,975,387 shares, respectively, related to anti-dilutive stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock units.

9. Segment Information

Centene operates in two segments: Medicaid Managed Care and Specialty Services. The Medicaid Managed Care segment consists of Centene's health plans including all of the functions needed to operate them. The Specialty Services segment consists of Centene's specialty companies offering products for behavioral health, care management software, health insurance exchanges, individual health insurance, life and health management, long-term care programs, managed vision, telehealth services, and pharmacy benefits management. The health plans in Arizona, operated by our long-term care company, and Massachusetts, operated by our individual health insurance provider, are included in the Specialty Services segment.

Segment information for the three months ended September 30, 2011 follows:

	Medicaid Managed Care	Specialty Services	Eliminations	Consolidated Total
Premium and service revenues from external customers	$ 1,080,038	$185,243	$ —	$ 1,265,281
Premium and service revenues from internal customers	16,976	171,358	(188,334)	—
Total premium and service revenues	$ 1,097,014	$356,601	$ (188,334)	$ 1,265,281
Earnings from operations	$ 38,387	$10,160	$ —	$ 48,547

Segment information for the three months ended September 30, 2010 follows:

	Medicaid Managed Care	Specialty Services	Eliminations	Consolidated Total
Premium and service revenues from external customers	$ 934,664	$146,849	$ —	$ 1,081,513
Premium and service revenues from internal customers	15,512	124,732	(140,244)	—
Total premium and service revenues	$ 950,176	$271,581	$ (140,244)	$ 1,081,513
Earnings from operations	$ 35,702	$4,546	$ —	$ 40,248

Segment information for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 follows:

	Medicaid Managed Care	Specialty Services	Eliminations	Consolidated Total
Premium and service revenues from external customers	$ 3,179,601	$542,857	$ —	$ 3,722,458
Premium and service revenues from internal customers	50,020	495,829	(545,849)	—
Total premium and service revenues	$ 3,229,621	$1,038,686	$ (545,849)	$ 3,722,458
Earnings from operations	$ 109,004	$33,943	$ —	$ 142,947

Segment information for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 follows:

	Medicaid Managed Care	Specialty Services	Eliminations	Consolidated Total
Premium and service revenues from external customers	$ 2,715,106	$439,239	$ —	$ 3,154,345
Premium and service revenues from internal customers	45,739	372,681	(418,420)	—
Total premium and service revenues	$ 2,760,845	$811,920	$ (418,420)	$ 3,154,345
Earnings from operations	$ 82,445	$29,123	$ —	$ 111,568

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10. Comprehensive Earnings

Differences between net earnings and total comprehensive earnings resulted from changes in unrealized gains on investments available for sale, as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Net earnings	$ 28,213	$ 23,200	$ 79,099	$ 71,952
Reclassification adjustment, net of tax	195	1,516	415	1,552
Change in unrealized gains on investments, net of tax	(900)	(1,255)	(361)	761
Total change	(705)	261	54	2,313
Comprehensive earnings	27,508	23,461	79,153	74,265
Comprehensive (losses) earnings attributable to the noncontrolling interests	(774)	538	(2,007)	2,515
Comprehensive earnings attributable to Centene Corporation	$ 28,282	$ 22,923	$ 81,160	$ 71,750

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ITEM 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes included elsewhere in this filing. The discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve both known and unknown risks and uncertainties, including those set forth under Part II, Item 1A. "Risk Factors" of this Form 10-Q.

OVERVIEW

Our financial performance for the third quarter of 2011 is summarized as follows:

- Quarter-end at-risk managed care membership of 1,615,700, an increase of 141,900 members year over year.
- Premium and service revenues from continuing operations of $1.3 billion, representing 17.0% growth year over year.
- Health Benefits Ratio from continuing operations of 83.0%, compared to 84.2% in 2010.
- General and Administrative expense ratio from continuing operations of 13.3%, compared to 12.2% in 2010.
- Diluted net earnings per share from continuing operations of $0.55, compared to $0.44 in the prior year.
- Total operating cash flows of $36.5 million.

The following items contributed to our revenue and membership growth over the last year:

- Arizona. In December 2010, Cenpatico Behavioral Health of Arizona began operating under an expanded contract to manage behavioral healthcare services for an additional four counties.

- Celtic Insurance Company, Inc. In July 2010, we completed the acquisition of NovaSys Health, LLC, a third party administrator in Arkansas that complements our existing Celtic business. In November 2010, Celtic began operating under a new contract with the Texas Department of Insurance to provide affordable health insurance plans for small businesses under the new Healthy Texas initiative.

- Florida. In December 2010, we completed the conversion of members from Access Health Solutions LLC, to our subsidiary, Sunshine State Health Plan, on an at-risk basis. Additionally, in December 2010, we completed the acquisition of Citrus Health Care, Inc., a Medicaid and long-term care health plan.

- Illinois. In May 2011, our new subsidiary, IlliniCare Health Plan, began providing managed care services for older adults and adults with disabilities under the Integrated Care Program in six counties.

- Massachusetts. In April 2010, we began offering an individual insurance product, under the names of Commonwealth Choice and CeltiCare Direct, for residents who do not qualify for other state funded insurance programs.

- Mississippi. In January 2011, we began operating through the Mississippi Coordinated Access Network (MississippiCan) program.

- South Carolina. In June 2010, we completed the acquisition of Carolina Crescent Health Plan.

- Texas. In February 2011, we began operating under an additional STAR+PLUS ABD contract in the Dallas service area.

We expect the following items to contribute to our future growth potential:

— In May 2011, Bridgeway Health Solutions, LLC announced it was awarded a contract to deliver Long-term Care services in three geographic service areas of Arizona, effective October 1, 2011.

— In July 2011, our subsidiary, Kentucky Spirit Health Plan, announced it was awarded a three-year contract with the Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet to serve Medicaid beneficiaries. Operations are expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2011.

— In July 2011, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, our joint venture subsidiary, was selected to contract with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to provide healthcare services to Medicaid enrollees participating in the Medicaid Coordinated Care Network project in all three of the state's geographical services areas. Services for these members are expected to begin in the first quarter of 2012, with a three-phase membership roll-out ending in the second quarter of 2012.

— In August 2011, Superior HealthPlan, Inc. announced it was awarded renewed and expanded contracts by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. The contracts expand Superior's STAR, STAR+PLUS and CHIP product offerings to include the new 10 county Hidalgo Service Area (STAR and STAR+PLUS), Medicaid RSA West Texas, Medicaid RSA Central Texas, Medicaid RSA North-East Texas and Lubbock (STAR+PLUS). All of the service areas and products will now include the management of the pharmacy benefit for Superior's members. In addition, the state has added inpatient facility services to the managed care structure for the STAR+PLUS program. Operations in the expanded areas are expected to commence late in the first quarter of 2012.

— In October 2011, Buckeye Community Health Plan began operating under an amended contract with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The amended contract includes the management of the pharmacy benefit for Buckeye's members.

In 2010, we filed a legal challenge to the State of Wisconsin's decision on the southeast region reprocurement. In September 2011, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals denied our appeal.

MEMBERSHIP

From September 30, 2010 to September 30, 2011, we increased our at-risk managed care membership by 141,900, or 9.6%. The following table sets forth our membership by state for our managed care organizations:

	September 30,		December 31,
	2011	2010	2010
Arizona	22,800	22,300	22,400
Florida	188,600	116,300	194,900
Georgia	298,000	300,900	305,800
Illinois	13,600		
Indiana	205,300	213,300	215,800
Massachusetts	34,700	34,400	36,200
Mississippi	30,600		
Ohio	162,200	161,800	160,100
South Carolina	86,500	90,600	90,300
Texas	494,500	428,100	433,100
Wisconsin	78,900	106,100	74,900
Total at-risk membership	1,615,700	1,473,800	1,533,500

Non-risk membership	10,600	35,900	4,200
Total	1,626,300	1,509,700	1,537,700

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The following table sets forth our membership by line of business:

	September 30,		December 31,
	2011	2010	2010
Medicaid	1,189,900	1,122,800	1,177,100
CHIP & Foster Care	210,600	219,100	210,500
ABD & Medicare	171,700	94,500	104,600
Hybrid Programs	38,400	34,400	36,200
Long-term Care	5,100	3,000	5,100
Total at-risk membership	1,615,700	1,473,800	1,533,500
Non-risk membership	10,600	35,900	4,200
Total	1,626,300	1,509,700	1,537,700

The following table provides supplemental information of other membership categories:

	September 30,		December 31,
	2011	2010	2010
Cenpatico Behavioral Health:			
Arizona	175,500	121,300	174,600
Kansas	45,600	39,800	39,200

RESULTS OF CONTINUING OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis is based on our consolidated statements of operations, which reflect our results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

Summarized comparative financial data for the three and nine months ended September 30 is as follows ($ in millions):

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine months Ended September 30,		
	2011	2010	% Change 2010-2011	2011	2010	% Change 2010-2011
Premium	$ 1,239.5	$ 1,060.6	16.9 %	$ 3,640.8	$ 3,085.8	18.0 %
Service	25.8	21.0	23.2 %	81.6	68.5	19.1 %
	1,265.3	1,081.6	17.0 %	3,722.4	3,154.3	18.0 %

Total premium and service revenues						
Premium tax	36.8	40.3	(8.9)%	111.0	113.0	(1.8)%
Total revenues	1,302.1	1,121.9	16.1 %	3,833.4	3,267.3	17.3 %
Medical costs	1,028.6	893.3	15.1 %	3,021.4	2,592.3	16.6 %
Cost of services	20.2	14.6	38.1 %	60.7	47.5	27.8 %
General and administrative expenses	167.7	132.1	26.9 %	496.7	401.1	23.8 %
Premium tax expense	37.0	41.6	(11.0)%	111.7	114.9	(2.8)%
Earnings from operations	48.6	40.3	20.6 %	142.9	111.5	28.1 %
Investment and other income, net	(2.0)	(4.2)	(54.8)%	(14.6)	(0.6)	%
Earnings from continuing operations, before income tax expense	46.6	36.1	29.3 %	128.3	110.9	15.7 %
Income tax expense	18.4	13.2	40.2 %	49.2	42.9	14.6 %
Earnings from continuing operations, net of income tax expense	28.2	22.9	23.0 %	79.1	68.0	16.3 %
Discontinued operations, net of income tax expense of $0, $0, $0 and $4.4 respectively		0.3	(100.0)%		3.9	(100.0)%
Net earnings	28.2	23.2	21.6 %	79.1	71.9	9.9 %
Noncontrolling interest	(0.8)	0.5	(243.9)%	(2.0)	2.5	(179.8)%
Net earnings attributable to Centene Corporation	$ 29.0	$ 22.7	27.9 %	$ 81.1	$ 69.4	16.8 %
Amounts attributable to Centene Corporation common stockholders:						
Earnings from continuing operations, net of income tax expense	$ 29.0	$ 22.4	29.4 %	$ 81.1	$ 65.5	23.9 %
Discontinued operations, net of income tax expense		0.3	(100.0)%		3.9	(100.0)%
Net earnings	$ 29.0	$ 22.7	27.9 %	$ 81.1	$ 69.4	16.8 %
Diluted earnings per common share attributable to Centene Corporation:						
Continuing operations	$ 0.55	$ 0.44	25.0 %	$ 1.55	$ 1.30	19.2 %
Discontinued operations			%		0.08	(100.0)%
Total diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.55	$ 0.44	25.0 %	$ 1.55	$ 1.38	12.3 %

Three Months Ended September 30, 2011 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2010

Revenues and Revenue Recognition

Revenues are recorded based on membership and eligibility data provided by the states, which is adjusted on a monthly basis by the states for retroactive additions or deletions to membership data. These eligibility adjustments are not significant in relation to total revenue recorded and are reflected in the period known. We continuously review and update those estimates as new information becomes available. It is possible that new information could require us to make additional adjustments, which could be significant, to these estimates.

Premium and service revenues increased 17.0% in the three months ended September 30, 2011 over the corresponding period in 2010 as a result of the addition of our Mississippi and Illinois contracts, Texas expansion and membership growth.

During the second quarter of 2011, one of our states performed a special review and identified additional membership deletions for previous periods. The amount of any reduction to revenue related to this review is subject to consideration of rate adequacy calculations, as part of actuarially sound standards, for the appropriate periods. We continue to work with the state to finalize the reconciliation adjustments and have accrued the estimated revenue impact related to retroactive eligibility reductions due to the state in our consolidated financial statements. There can be no assurance that future adjustment of amounts related to membership reconciliations will not have a material adverse effect on the Company.

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Operating Expenses

Medical Costs

Results of operations depend on our ability to manage expenses associated with health benefits and to accurately predict costs incurred. The Health Benefits Ratio, or HBR, represents medical costs as a percentage of premium revenues (excluding premium taxes) and reflects the direct relationship between the premium received and the medical services provided. The table below depicts the HBR for our membership by member category for the three months ended September 30:

	2011	2010
Medicaid and CHIP	80.0%	83.2%
ABD and Medicare	89.1	85.9
Specialty Services	84.9	87.9
Total	83.0	84.2

The consolidated HBR for the three months ended September 30, 2011 of 83.0% was a decrease of 1.2% over the comparable period in 2010 primarily as a result of lower levels of utilization and contract enhancements.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses, or G&A, increased by $35.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 compared to the corresponding period in 2010. This was primarily due to expenses for additional staff and facilities to support our membership growth.

The consolidated G&A expense ratio for the three months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 was 13.3%, and 12.2%, respectively. The year over year increase in the G&A expense ratio was primarily driven by increased business expansion costs.

Other Income (Expense)

The following table summarizes the components of other income (expense) for the three months ended September 30, ($ in millions):

	2011	2010
Investment income	$ 2.6	$ 3.9
Net gain on sale of investments	0.1	2.0
Impairment of investment		(5.5)
Gain on Reserve Primary		0.3

Fund distributions		
Interest expense	(4.6)	(4.9)
Other income (expense), net	$ (1.9)	$ (4.2)

The decrease in investment income in 2011 reflects the continued low market interest rates, offset by an increase in investment balances.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2010, we determined we had an other-than-temporary impairment of a cost method investment and recorded an impairment charge of $5.5 million, including $3.5 million of convertible promissory notes. We realized net gains from the sale of securities of $2.0 million and a gain on an additional distribution from the Reserve Primary fund of $0.3 million. The net effect of the impairment and realized security gains recognized during the third quarter of 2010 was $3.2 million, or $0.04 per share after tax.

Interest expense decreased during the quarter by $0.3 million primarily reflecting the refinancing our Senior Notes and execution of the associated interest rate swap agreement in 2011.

Income Tax Expense

Excluding the effects of noncontrolling interests, our effective tax rate for the three months ended September 30, 2011 was 38.9% compared to 37.0% in the corresponding period in 2010. The increase in the effective tax rate was primarily related to an increase in taxable income in states with higher income tax rates.

Segment Results

The following table summarizes our operating results by segment for the three months ended September 30, (in millions):

	2011	2010
Premium and Service Revenues		
Medicaid Managed Care	$ 1,097.0	$ 950.1
Specialty Services	356.6	271.6
Eliminations	(188.3)	(140.2)
Consolidated Total	$ 1,265.3	$ 1,081.5
Earnings from Operations		
Medicaid Managed Care	$ 38.4	$ 35.7

Specialty Services	10.1	4.5
Consolidated Total	$ 48.5	$ 40.2

Medicaid Managed Care

Premium and service revenues increased 15.5% in the three months ended September 30, 2011 over the three months ended September 30, 2010 due to the addition of the Mississippi and Illinois contracts, the Texas market expansion, and overall membership growth. Earnings from operations increased 7.5% in the three months ended September 30, 2011 reflecting overall growth in our membership and reduced HBR, partially offset by business expansion costs.

Specialty Services

Premium and service revenues increased 31.3% in the three months ended September 30, 2011 primarily due to growth in our Medicaid segment and the associated specialty services provided to this increased membership. Earnings from operations increased $5.6 million in the three months ended September 30, 2011 reflecting a lower HBR in 2011, offset by a loss from our care management software business.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010

Premium and Service Revenues

Premium and service revenues increased 18.0% in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 over the corresponding period in 2010 as a result of the addition of our Mississippi and Illinois contracts, Texas expansion and membership growth.

The premium rates specified in our state contracts are generally updated on an annual basis through contract amendments. At the end of the third quarter in 2011 and 2010, rate increases in two of our states which had effective dates during the third quarter remained subject to CMS approval. The 2010 rate increases were approved and recorded in the fourth quarter of 2010. The 2011 rate increases are expected to be approved in the fourth quarter of 2011, but no assurance can be given that these approvals will be received by December 31, 2011.

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Operating Expenses

Medical Costs

Results of operations depend on our ability to manage expenses associated with health benefits and to accurately predict costs incurred. The Health Benefits Ratio, or HBR, represents medical costs as a percentage of premium revenues (excluding premium taxes) and reflects the direct relationship between the premium received and the medical services provided. The table below depicts the HBR for our membership by member category for the nine months ended September 30:

	2011	2010
Medicaid and CHIP	80.8%	84.0%
ABD and Medicare	87.6	84.3
Specialty Services	84.5	83.4
Total	83.0	84.0

The consolidated HBR for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 of 83.0% was a decrease of 1.0% over the comparable period in 2010 primarily as a result of lower levels of utilization and contract enhancements.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses, or G&A, increased by $95.6 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 compared to the corresponding period in 2010. This was primarily due to expenses for additional staff and facilities to support our membership growth.

The consolidated G&A expense ratio for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010 was 13.3%, and 12.7%, respectively. The increase in the G&A expense ratio is a result of increased business expansion costs.

Other Income (Expense)

The following table summarizes the components of other income (expense) for the nine months ended September 30, ($ in millions):

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010
Investment income	$ 9.2	$ 11.6
Net gain on sale of investment	0.2	2.5
Impairment of investment		(5.5)
Gain on Reserve Primary Fund distributions		3.3

Debt extinguishment costs	(8.5)	
Interest expense	(15.5)	(12.5)
Other income (expense), net	$ (14.6)	$ (0.6)

The decrease in investment income in 2011 reflects the continued low market interest rates, offset by an increase in investment balances.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, we determined we had an other-than-temporary impairment of a cost method investment and recorded an impairment charge of $5.5 million, including $3.5 million of convertible promissory notes. We realized net gains from the sale of securities of $2.5 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Additionally, in January 2010, we received distributions from the Reserve Primary Fund of $5.4 million resulting in a gain of $3.0 million being recorded for the distributions received in excess of our adjusted basis. In July 2010, the Company received additional distributions from the Reserve Primary Fund of $0.3 million resulting in a gain of $0.3 million.

In May 2011, the Company redeemed its $175.0 million 7.25% Senior Notes due April 1, 2014 at 103.625% and wrote off unamortized debt issuance costs. Debt extinguishment costs totaled $8.5 million, or $0.10 per diluted share.

Interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 increased by $3.0 million from the comparable period in 2010 primarily due to borrowings on the mortgage loan associated with the real estate development including our corporate headquarters. The real estate development was placed in service in the third quarter of 2010 and, accordingly, we ceased capitalizing interest on the project.

Income Tax Expense

Excluding the effects of noncontrolling interests, our effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was 37.8% compared to 39.6% in the corresponding period in 2010. The decrease in the effective tax rate was driven by a higher rate in 2010 resulting from the write off of a deferred tax asset of $1.7 million during the second quarter of 2010 as a result of certain enacted legislation.

Segment Results

The following table summarizes our operating results by segment for the nine months ended September 30, (in millions):

	2011	2010
Premium and Service Revenues		
Medicaid Managed Care	$ 3,229.6	$ 2,760.8
Specialty Services	1,038.7	811.9
Eliminations	(545.8)	(418.4)
Consolidated Total	$ 3,722.5	$ 3,154.3

Earnings from Operations		
Medicaid Managed Care	$ 109.0	$ 82.5
Specialty Services	33.9	29.1
Consolidated Total	$ 142.9	$ 111.6

Medicaid Managed Care

Premium and service revenues increased 17.0% in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 due to the addition of the Mississippi and Illinois contracts, the Texas market expansion, and overall membership growth. Earnings from operations increased 32.2% in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 reflecting overall growth in our membership, reduced HBR and leveraging of our general and administrative expenses.

Specialty Services

Premium and service revenues increased 27.9% in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 primarily due to growth in our Medicaid segment and the associated specialty services provided to this increased membership. Earnings from operations increased 16.6% in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 reflecting growth in our pharmacy business, offset by a loss from our care management software business.

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LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Shown below is a condensed schedule of cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, used in the discussion of liquidity and capital resources ($ in millions).

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	$ 89.7	$ (25.7)
Net cash used in investing activities	(81.2)	(36.0)
Net cash provided by financing activities	9.0	55.6
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	$ 17.5	$ (6.1)

Normal operations are funded primarily through operating cash flows and borrowings under our revolving credit facility. Operating activities provided cash of $89.7 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011, compared to using cash of $25.7 million in the comparable period in 2010. We record prepayments from our states as unearned revenue. As of September 30, 2011, we had unearned revenue of $54.8 million, representing advance payments from one of our state customers. In comparison, at September 30, 2010, we received advance payments from two of our state customers totaling $52.9 million.

The table below details the impact to cash flows from operations from the timing of payments from our states ($ in millions).

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010
Premium and related receivables	$ (13.3)	$ (68.1)
Unearned revenue	(65.2)	(38.7)
Net decrease in operating cash flow	$ (78.5)	$ (106.8)

We typically receive capitation payments monthly, however the states in which we operate may decide to adjust their payment schedules which could positively or negatively impact our reported cash flows from operating activities in any given period.

Investing activities used cash of $81.2 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and $36.0 million in the comparable period in 2010. Cash flows from investing activities in 2011 and 2010 primarily consisted of additions to the investment portfolio of our regulated subsidiaries, including transfers from cash and cash equivalents to long-term investments, and capital expenditures.

Our investment policies are designed to provide liquidity, preserve capital and maximize total return on invested assets within our guidelines. Net cash provided by and used in investing activities will fluctuate from year to year due

to the timing of investment purchases, sales and maturities. As of September 30, 2011, our investment portfolio consisted primarily of fixed-income securities with an average duration of 2.0 years. These securities generally are actively traded in secondary markets and the reported fair market value is determined based on recent trading activity, recent trading activity in similar securities and other observable inputs. Our investment guidelines are compliant with the regulatory restrictions enacted in each state.

The following table summarizes our cash and investment balances ($ in millions):

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	$ 558.0	$ 455.2
Long-term investments	530.4	595.9
Restricted deposits	26.8	22.8
Total cash, investments and restricted deposits	$ 1,115.2	$ 1,073.9
Unregulated cash and investments	$ 35.9	$ 30.9
Regulated cash, investments and restricted deposits	1,079.3	1,043.0
Consolidated Total	$ 1,115.2	$ 1,073.9

We spent $48.3 million and $22.9 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively, on capital expenditures for system enhancements and market expansions. We also spent $4.6 million and $27.5 million in 2011 and 2010, respectively, for costs associated with our headquarters development including land, tenant improvements and furniture. We anticipate spending approximately $11 million additional on capital expenditures in 2011 primarily associated with our new data center, system enhancements and market expansions.

During 2009, we began construction of a real estate development that includes the Company’s corporate headquarters. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, Centene Center LLC had capital expenditures of $4.0 million and $41.6 million, respectively, for costs associated with the real estate development. The development was placed into service in the third quarter of 2010. We anticipate spending approximately $2 million additional on capital expenditures in 2011 associated with the real estate development.

Our financing activities provided cash of $9.0 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2011 compared to $55.6 million in the comparable period in 2010. During 2011, our financing activities primarily related to repayments and proceeds of long term debt as discussed below.

In January 2011, we replaced our $300 million revolving credit agreement with a new $350 million revolving credit facility, or the revolver. The revolver is unsecured and has a five-year maturity with non-financial and financial covenants, including requirements of minimum fixed charge coverage ratios, maximum debt to EBITDA ratios and minimum net worth. Borrowings under the revolver will bear interest based upon LIBOR rates, the Federal funds rate, or the prime rate. There is a commitment fee on the unused portion of the agreement that ranges from 0.25% to 0.50% depending on the total debt to EBITDA ratio. As of September 30, 2011, we had no borrowings outstanding under the agreement, leaving availability of $350.0 million. As of September 30, 2011, we were in compliance with all covenants.

In May 2011, we exercised our option to redeem the $175 million 7.25% Senior Notes due April 1, 2014 ($175 million Notes). We redeemed the $175 million Notes at 103.625% and wrote off unamortized debt issuance costs, resulting in a pre-tax expense of $8.5 million.

In May 2011, pursuant to a shelf registration statement, we issued $250 million of non-callable 5.75% Senior Notes due June 1, 2017 ($250 million Notes) at a discount to yield 6%. The indenture governing the $250 million Notes contains non-financial and financial covenants, including requirements of a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio. Interest is paid semi-annually in June and December. We used a portion of the net proceeds from the offering to repay the $175 million Notes and call premium and to repay approximately $50 million outstanding on our revolving credit facility. The additional proceeds were used for general corporate purposes.

At September 30, 2011, our debt to capital ratio, defined as total debt divided by the sum of total debt and total equity, was 28.0%, compared to 29.3% at December 31, 2010. Excluding the $78.4 million non-recourse mortgage note, our debt to capital ratio is 23.2%, compared to 23.9% at December 31, 2010. We utilize the debt to capital ratio as a measure, among others, of our leverage and financial flexibility.

Based on our operating plan, we expect that our available cash, cash equivalents and investments, cash from our operations and cash available under our credit facility will be sufficient to finance our general operations and capital expenditures for at least 12 months from the date of this filing.

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REGULATORY CAPITAL AND DIVIDEND RESTRICTIONS

Our operations are conducted through our subsidiaries. As managed care organizations, these subsidiaries are subject to state regulations that, among other things, require the maintenance of minimum levels of statutory capital, as defined by each state, and restrict the timing, payment and amount of dividends and other distributions that may be paid to us. Generally, the amount of dividend distributions that may be paid by a regulated subsidiary without prior approval by state regulatory authorities is limited based on the entity's level of statutory net income and statutory capital and surplus.

Our subsidiaries are required to maintain minimum capital requirements prescribed by various regulatory authorities in each of the states in which we operate. As of September 30, 2011, our subsidiaries had aggregate statutory capital and surplus of $586.9 million, compared with the required minimum aggregate statutory capital and surplus requirements of $322.4 million and we estimate our Risk Based Capital, or RBC, percentage to be in excess of 350% of the Authorized Control Level.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has adopted rules which set minimum risk-based capital requirements for insurance companies, managed care organizations and other entities bearing risk for healthcare coverage. As of September 30, 2011, each of our health plans was in compliance with the risk-based capital requirements enacted in those states.

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ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

INVESTMENTS AND DEBT

As of September 30, 2011, we had short-term investments of $106.3 million and long-term investments of $557.2 million, including restricted deposits of $26.8 million. The short-term investments generally consist of highly liquid securities with maturities between three and 12 months. The long-term investments consist of municipal, corporate and U.S. Treasury securities, government sponsored obligations, life insurance contracts, asset backed securities and equity securities and have maturities greater than one year. Restricted deposits consist of investments required by various state statutes to be deposited or pledged to state agencies. Due to the nature of the states' requirements, these investments are classified as long-term regardless of the contractual maturity date. Our investments are subject to interest rate risk and will decrease in value if market rates increase. Assuming a hypothetical and immediate 1% increase in market interest rates at September 30, 2011, the fair value of our fixed income investments would decrease by approximately $10.0 million. Declines in interest rates over time will reduce our investment income.

We entered into interest rate swap agreements with creditworthy financial institutions to manage the impact of market interest rates on interest expense. Our swap agreements convert a portion of our interest expense from fixed to variable rates to better match the impact of changes in market rates on our variable rate cash equivalent investments. As a result, the fair value of our $250 million Senior Note debt varies with market interest rates. Assuming a hypothetical and immediate 1% increase in market interest rates at September 30, 2011, the fair value of our debt would decrease by approximately $12.8 million. An increase in interest rates decreases the fair value of the debt and conversely, a decrease in interest rates increases the value.

For a discussion of the interest rate risk that our investments are subject to, see "Risk Factors–Risks Related to Our Business–Our investment portfolio may suffer losses from reductions in market interest rates and changes in market conditions which could materially and adversely affect our results of operations or liquidity."

INFLATION

While the inflation rate in 2010 for medical care costs was slightly less than the inflation rate for all items, historically inflation for medical care costs has generally exceeded the inflation rate for all items. We use various strategies to mitigate the negative effects of healthcare cost inflation. Specifically, our health plans try to control medical and hospital costs through our state savings initiatives and contracts with independent providers of healthcare services. Through these contracted care providers, our health plans emphasize preventive healthcare and appropriate use of specialty and hospital services. Additionally, our contracts with states require actuarially sound premiums that include health care cost trend.

While we currently believe our strategies to mitigate healthcare cost inflation will continue to be successful, competitive pressures, new healthcare and pharmaceutical product introductions, demands from healthcare providers and customers, applicable regulations or other factors may affect our ability to control the impact of healthcare cost increases.

ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures - We maintain disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act) that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms; and (ii) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and

principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

In connection with the filing of this Form 10-Q, management evaluated, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2011. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level as of September 30, 2011.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting - No change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) occurred during the quarter ended September 30, 2011 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II
OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. Legal Proceedings.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) performed an examination of the Company's 2006 and 2007 tax returns and initially denied a $34,856 tax benefit related to the abandonment of the FirstGuard stock in 2007. In October 2011, we agreed to a settlement for the open tax years of 2006 and 2007. The settlement did not have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

ITEM 1A. Risk Factors.

FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT FUTURE RESULTS AND THE
TRADING PRICE OF OUR COMMON STOCK

You should carefully consider the risks described below before making an investment decision. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, in which case you could lose all or part of your investment. You should also refer to the other information in this filing, including our consolidated financial statements and related notes. The risks and uncertainties described below are those that we currently believe may materially affect our Company. Additional risks and uncertainties that we are unaware of or that we currently deem immaterial also may become important factors that affect our Company.

Risks Related to Being a Regulated Entity

Reduction in Medicaid, CHIP and ABD funding could substantially reduce our profitability.

Most of our revenues come from Medicaid, CHIP and ABD premiums. The base premium rate paid by each state differs, depending on a combination of factors such as defined upper payment limits, a member's health status, age, gender, county or region, benefit mix and member eligibility categories. Future levels of Medicaid, CHIP and ABD funding and premium rates may be affected by continuing government efforts to contain healthcare costs and may further be affected by state and federal budgetary constraints. Recent budget proposals for 2012 have suggested federal cuts to Medicaid funding (i.e. through block grants and other means) by as much as $1 trillion over 10 years.

States periodically consider reducing or reallocating the amount of money they spend for Medicaid, CHIP, Foster Care and ABD. The current adverse economic conditions have, and are expected to continue to, put pressures on state budgets as tax and other state revenues decrease while the Medicaid eligible population increases, creating more need for funding. We anticipate this will require government agencies with whom we contract to find funding alternatives, which may result in reductions in funding for current programs and program expansions, contraction of covered benefits, limited or no premium rate increases or premium decreases. In recent years, the majority of states have implemented measures to restrict Medicaid, CHIP, Foster Care and ABD costs and eligibility. If any state in which we operate were to decrease premiums paid to us, or pay us less than the amount necessary to keep pace with our cost trends, it could have a material adverse effect on our revenues and operating results.

In litigation that is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, providers and beneficiaries have sued the state of California over reductions in reimbursement to the California Medicaid program known as Medi-Cal. While we do not operate a health plan in California, we cannot predict how the Supreme Court will rule in this case and the outcome of this litigation could have an impact on the amount of flexibility states have in reducing reimbursement.

In March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the accompanying Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act were enacted. The Acts permit states to expand Medicaid to all individuals under age

65 with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level beginning April 1, 2010 and requires this expansion by January 1, 2014. Additional federal funds will be provided to states in 2014, but the amount of the federal support decreases each year. We cannot predict when the states will make these expansions. Further, because the states have to pay for a portion of the care, states may reduce our rates in order to afford the additional beneficiaries.

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 and subsequent legislation provided additional federal Medicaid funding for states' Medicaid expenditures between October 1, 2008 and June 30, 2011. During this time period, the share of Medicaid costs that were paid for by the federal government went up, and each state's share went down. Now that this additional funding has expired, we cannot predict whether the states will have sufficient funds for their Medicaid programs.

Changes to Medicaid, CHIP, Foster Care and ABD programs could reduce the number of persons enrolled in or eligible for these programs, reduce the amount of reimbursement or payment levels, or increase our administrative or healthcare costs under these programs, all of which could have a negative impact on our business. Recent legislation generally requires that eligibility levels be maintained, but this could cause states to reduce reimbursement or reduce benefits in order to afford to maintain eligibility levels. A number of states have requested waivers to the requirements to maintain eligibility levels and legislation has been introduced that would eliminate the requirement that eligibility levels be maintained. We believe that reductions in Medicaid, CHIP, Foster Care and ABD payments could substantially reduce our profitability. Further, our contracts with the states are subject to cancellation by the state after a short notice period in the event of unavailability of state funds.

If we are unable to participate in CHIP programs, our growth rate may be limited.

CHIP is a federal initiative designed to provide coverage for low-income children not otherwise covered by Medicaid or other insurance programs. The programs vary significantly from state to state. Participation in CHIP programs is an important part of our growth strategy. If states do not allow us to participate or if we fail to win bids to participate, our growth strategy may be materially and adversely affected.

If CHIP is not reauthorized or states face shortfalls, our business could suffer.

Federal support for CHIP has been authorized through 2019, with funding authorized through 2015. We cannot be certain that funding for CHIP will be reauthorized when current funding expires in 2015. Thus, we cannot predict the impact that reauthorization will have on our business.

States receive matching funds from the federal government to pay for their CHIP programs which have a per state annual cap. Because of funding caps, there is a risk that states could experience shortfalls in future years, which could have an impact on our ability to receive amounts owed to us from states in which we have CHIP contracts.

If any of our state contracts are terminated or are not renewed, our business will suffer.

We provide managed care programs and selected services to individuals receiving benefits under federal assistance programs, including Medicaid, CHIP and ABD. We provide those healthcare services under contracts with regulatory entities in the areas in which we operate. Our contracts with various states are generally intended to run for one or two years and may be extended for one or two additional years if the state or its agent elects to do so. Our current contracts are set to expire or renew between December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2016. When our contracts expire, they may be opened for bidding by competing healthcare providers. There is no guarantee that our contracts will be renewed or extended. For example, on April 12, 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services notified us that our Wisconsin subsidiary was not awarded a Southeast Wisconsin BadgerCare Plus Managed Care contract. While we will continue to serve other regions of the state, we transitioned the affected members to other plans by November 1, 2010. Further, our contracts with the states are subject to cancellation by the state after a short notice period in the event of unavailability of state funds. For example, the Indiana contract under which we operate can be terminated by

the State without cause. Our contracts could also be terminated if we fail to perform in accordance with the standards set by state regulatory agencies. If any of our contracts are terminated, not renewed, renewed on less favorable terms, or not renewed on a timely basis, our business will suffer, and our financial position, results of operations or cash flows may be materially affected.

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Changes in government regulations designed to protect the financial interests of providers and members rather than our investors could force us to change how we operate and could harm our business.

Our business is extensively regulated by the states in which we operate and by the federal government. The applicable laws and regulations are subject to frequent change and generally are intended to benefit and protect the financial interests of health plan providers and members rather than investors. The enactment of new laws and rules or changes to existing laws and rules or the interpretation of such laws and rules could, among other things:

• force us to restructure our relationships with providers within our network;
• require us to implement additional or different programs and systems;
• mandate minimum medical expense levels as a percentage of premium revenues;
• restrict revenue and enrollment growth;
• require us to develop plans to guard against the financial insolvency of our providers;
• increase our healthcare and administrative costs;
• impose additional capital and reserve requirements; and
• increase or change our liability to members in the event of malpractice by our providers.

Regulations may decrease the profitability of our health plans.

Certain states have enacted regulations which require us to maintain a minimum health benefits ratio, or establish limits on our profitability. Other states require us to meet certain performance and quality metrics in order to receive our full contractual revenue. In certain circumstances, our plans may be required to pay a rebate to the state in the event profits exceed established levels. These regulatory requirements, changes in these requirements or the adoption of similar requirements by other regulators may limit our ability to increase our overall profits as a percentage of revenues. Most states, including but not limited to Georgia, Indiana, Texas and Wisconsin have implemented prompt-payment laws and many states are enforcing penalty provisions for failure to pay claims in a timely manner. Failure to meet these requirements can result in financial fines and penalties. In addition, states may attempt to reduce their contract premium rates if regulators perceive our health benefits ratio as too low. Any of these regulatory actions could harm our financial position, results of operations or cash flows. Certain states also impose marketing restrictions on us which may constrain our membership growth and our ability to increase our revenues.

We face periodic reviews, audits and investigations under our contracts with state government agencies, and these audits could have adverse findings, which may negatively impact our business.

We contract with various state governmental agencies to provide managed healthcare services. Pursuant to these contracts, we are subject to various reviews, audits and investigations to verify our compliance with the contracts and applicable laws and regulations. Any adverse review, audit or investigation could result in:

• cancellation of our contracts;
• refunding of amounts we have been paid pursuant to our contracts;
• imposition of fines, penalties and other sanctions on us;
• loss of our right to participate in various markets;
• increased difficulty in selling our products and services; and
• loss of one or more of our licenses.

Failure to comply with government regulations could subject us to civil and criminal penalties.

Federal and state governments have enacted fraud and abuse laws and other laws to protect patients' privacy and access to healthcare. In some states, we may be subject to regulation by more than one governmental authority, which may

impose overlapping or inconsistent regulations. Violation of these and other laws or regulations governing our operations or the operations of our providers could result in the imposition of civil or criminal penalties, the cancellation of our contracts to provide services, the suspension or revocation of our licenses or our exclusion from participating in the Medicaid, CHIP, Foster Care and ABD programs. If we were to become subject to these penalties or exclusions as the result of our actions or omissions or our inability to monitor the compliance of our providers, it would negatively affect our ability to operate our business.

HIPAA broadened the scope of fraud and abuse laws applicable to healthcare companies. HIPAA created civil penalties for, among other things, billing for medically unnecessary goods or services. HIPAA established new enforcement mechanisms to combat fraud and abuse, including civil and, in some instances, criminal penalties for failure to comply with specific standards relating to the privacy, security and electronic transmission of most individually identifiable health information. The HITECH Act expanded the scope of these provisions by mandating individual notification in instances of data breach, providing enhanced penalties for HIPAA violations, and granting enforcement authority to states' Attorneys General in addition to the HHS Office of Civil Rights. It is possible that Congress may enact additional legislation in the future to increase penalties and to create a private right of action under HIPAA, which could entitle patients to seek monetary damages for violations of the privacy rules.

We may incur significant costs as a result of compliance with government regulations, and our management will be required to devote time to compliance.

Many aspects of our business are affected by government laws and regulations. The issuance of new regulations, or judicial or regulatory guidance regarding existing regulations, could require changes to many of the procedures we currently use to conduct our business, which may lead to additional costs that we have not yet identified. We do not know whether, or the extent to which, we will be able to recover from the states our costs of complying with these new regulations. The costs of any such future compliance efforts could have a material adverse effect on our business. We have already expended significant time, effort and financial resources to comply with the privacy and security requirements of HIPAA and will have to expend additional time and financial resources to comply with the HIPAA provisions contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act. We cannot predict whether states will enact stricter laws governing the privacy and security of electronic health information. If any new requirements are enacted at the state or federal level, compliance would likely require additional expenditures and management time.

Changes in healthcare law and benefits may reduce our profitability.

Changes in applicable laws and regulations are continually being considered, and interpretations of existing laws and rules may also change from time to time. We are unable to predict what regulatory changes may occur or what effect any particular change may have on our business. For example, these changes could reduce the number of persons enrolled or eligible to enroll in Medicaid, reduce the reimbursement or payment levels for medical services or reduce benefits included in Medicaid coverage. For example, some states, including Indiana and Ohio have removed, and others could consider removing, pharmacy coverage from the services covered by managed care entities. We are also unable to predict whether new laws or proposals will favor or hinder the growth of managed healthcare in general.

The recently enacted health care reform law and the implementation of that law could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, cash flows, or results of operations.

In March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the accompanying Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act were enacted. This legislation provides comprehensive changes to the U.S. health care system, which will be phased in at various stages through 2018. Among other things, by January 1, 2014, states will be required to expand their Medicaid programs to provide eligibility to nearly all people under age 65 with income below 133 percent of the federal poverty line. As a result, millions of low-income adults without children who

currently cannot qualify for coverage, as well as many low-income parents and, in some instances, children now covered through CHIP, will be made eligible for Medicaid. States were permitted to begin such expansions on April 1, 2010.

The legislation also imposes an annual insurance industry assessment of $8 billion starting in 2014, with increasing annual amounts thereafter. Such assessment may not be deductible for income tax purposes. If this federal premium tax is imposed as enacted, and if the cost of the federal premium tax is not included in the calculation of our rates, or if we are unable to otherwise adjust our business model to address this new tax, our results of operations, financial position and liquidity may be materially adversely affected.

There are numerous outstanding steps required to implement the legislation, including the promulgation of a substantial number of new and potentially more onerous federal regulations. Further, various health insurance reform proposals are also emerging at the state level. Federal legislation has been introduced to permit states as early as 2014 (as opposed to 2017 as is in the current health care reform law) to opt out of the health care reform law and provide their own model in certain circumstances. Because of the unsettled nature of these reforms and numerous steps required to implement them, we cannot predict what additional health insurance requirements will be implemented at the federal or state level, or the effect that any future legislation or regulation will have on our business or our growth opportunities.

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In addition, there have been a number of lawsuits filed that challenge all or part of the health care reform law. A number of the lawsuits have been ruled on by federal appeals courts and those rulings were not consistent. Several parties including the current administration have appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. We cannot predict whether the Supreme Court will agree to hear either case and if it does, how it will rule. Various Congressional leaders have indicated a desire to revisit some or all of the health care reform law during 2011. While the U.S House of Representatives voted to repeal the whole health care reform law, the U.S. Senate voted against such a repeal, and there have separately been a number of bills introduced that would repeal, change or defund certain provisions of the law. The 2011 budget eliminates two programs funded under the health care reform law – the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) and the Free Choice Voucher programs). Further, a number of states have passed legislation intended to block various requirements of the health care reform law. Because of these challenges, we cannot predict whether any or all of the legislation will be implemented as enacted, overturned, repealed or modified.

Although we believe the legislation may provide us with significant opportunities to grow our business, the enacted reforms, as well as future regulations and legislative changes, may in fact have a material adverse affect on our results of operations, financial position or liquidity. If we fail to effectively implement our operational and strategic initiatives with respect to the implementation of health care reform, or do not do so as effectively as our competitors, our business may be materially adversely affected.

If a state fails to renew a required federal waiver for mandated Medicaid enrollment into managed care or such application is denied, our membership in that state will likely decrease.

States may administer Medicaid managed care programs pursuant to demonstration programs or required waivers of federal Medicaid standards. Waivers and demonstration programs are generally approved for two year periods and can be renewed on an ongoing basis if the state applies. We have no control over this renewal process. If a state does not renew such a waiver or demonstration program or the Federal government denies a state’s application for renewal, membership in our health plan in the state could decrease and our business could suffer.

Changes in federal funding mechanisms may reduce our profitability.

Changes in funding for Medicaid may affect our business. For example, on May 29, 2007, CMS issued a final rule that would reduce states’ use of intergovernmental transfers for the states’ share of Medicaid program funding. By restricting the use of intergovernmental transfers, this rule may restrict some states’ funding for Medicaid, which could adversely affect our growth, operations and financial performance. On May 23, 2008, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia vacated the final rule as improperly promulgated. On November 30, 2010, CMS issued final regulations that remove these provisions and restore the regulatory language that was in place before the 2007 regulations were issued. While this rule has been removed, we cannot predict whether another similar rule or any other rule that changes funding mechanisms will be promulgated, and if any are, what impact they will have on our business.

Legislative changes in the Medicare program may also affect our business. For example, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 revised cost-sharing requirements for some beneficiaries and required states to reimburse the federal Medicare program for costs of prescription drug coverage provided to beneficiaries who are enrolled simultaneously in both the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

Medicaid spending by the federal government could be decreased as part of the spending cuts associated with the recent increase of the debt ceiling.

In August 2011, the Budget Control Act of 2011 was enacted into law in order to increase the federal debt ceiling. The law included spending cuts of nearly $1 trillion over the next 10 years, but did not include any cuts to

Medicaid. The law further created a Congressional committee that is tasked with recommending a plan that would reduce the federal deficit by another $1.5 trillion over 10 years. Whatever plan is formulated by this committee may include spending cuts and tax increases. The committee must recommend a plan to Congress by the end of November 2011 and Congress must act on the recommendations by the end of December 2011. In the event that the Committee is deadlocked, Congress does not pass the legislation or the President vetoes it, automatic spending cuts will become effective. Changes to Medicaid can be considered by the committee, but Medicaid is not subject to the automatic spending cuts. The committee has full legislative power and thus can recommend both spending changes and structural changes to Medicaid.

We cannot predict whether Medicaid funding will be reduced or if any structural changes to Medicaid will occur as part of this process. Further, we cannot predict how states will react to any changes that occur at the federal level.

If state regulatory agencies require a statutory capital level higher than the state regulations, we may be required to make additional capital contributions.

Our operations are conducted through our wholly owned subsidiaries, which include health maintenance organizations, or HMOs, and managed care organizations, or MCOs. HMOs and MCOs are subject to state regulations that, among other things, require the maintenance of minimum levels of statutory capital, as defined by each state. Additionally, state regulatory agencies may require, at their discretion, individual HMOs to maintain statutory capital levels higher than the state regulations. If this were to occur to one of our subsidiaries, we may be required to make additional capital contributions to the affected subsidiary. Any additional capital contribution made to one of the affected subsidiaries could have a material adverse effect on our liquidity and our ability to grow.

If state regulators do not approve payments of dividends and distributions by our subsidiaries to us, we may not have sufficient funds to implement our business strategy.

We principally operate through our health plan subsidiaries. If funds normally available to us become limited in the future, we may need to rely on dividends and distributions from our subsidiaries to fund our operations. These subsidiaries are subject to regulations that limit the amount of dividends and distributions that can be paid to us without prior approval of, or notification to, state regulators. If these regulators were to deny our subsidiaries' request to pay dividends to us, the funds available to us would be limited, which could harm our ability to implement our business strategy.

Risks Related to Our Business

Ineffectiveness of state-operated systems and subcontractors could adversely affect our business.

Our health plans rely on other state-operated systems or sub-contractors to qualify, solicit, educate and assign eligible members into the health plans. The effectiveness of these state operations and sub-contractors can have a material effect on a health plan's enrollment in a particular month or over an extended period. When a state implements new programs to determine eligibility, new processes to assign or enroll eligible members into health plans, or chooses new contractors, there is an increased potential for an unanticipated impact on the overall number of members assigned into the health plans.

Failure to accurately predict our medical expenses could negatively affect our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Our medical expense includes claims reported but not yet paid, or inventory, estimates for claims incurred but not reported, or IBNR, and estimates for the costs necessary to process unpaid claims at the end of each period. Our development of the medical claims liability estimate is a continuous process which we monitor and refine on a monthly basis as claims receipts and payment information becomes available. As more complete information becomes

available, we adjust the amount of the estimate, and include the changes in estimates in medical expense in the period in which the changes are identified.

While we utilize our predictive modeling technology and our executive dashboard, we still cannot be sure that our medical claims liability estimates are adequate or that adjustments to those estimates will not unfavorably impact our results of operations. For example, in the three months ended June 30, 2006 we adjusted IBNR by $9.7 million for adverse medical costs development from the first quarter of 2006.

Additionally, when we commence operations in a new state or region, we have limited information with which to estimate our medical claims liability. For example, we commenced operations in Florida in February 2009, in Massachusetts in July 2009, in Mississippi in January 2011, in Illinois in May 2011 and expect to commence operations in Kentucky in the fourth quarter of 2011 and in Louisiana in the first quarter of 2012. For a period of time after the inception of business in these states, we base our estimates on state-provided historical actuarial data and limited actual incurred and received claims. The addition of new categories of individuals who are eligible for Medicaid under new legislation may pose the same difficulty in estimating our medical claims liability and utilization patterns.

From time to time in the past, our actual results have varied from our estimates, particularly in times of significant changes in the number of our members. The accuracy of our medical claims liability estimate may also affect our ability to take timely corrective actions, further harming our results.

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Receipt of inadequate or significantly delayed premiums would negatively affect our revenues, profitability or cash flows.

Our premium revenues consist of fixed monthly payments per member and supplemental payments for other services such as maternity deliveries. These premiums are fixed by contract, and we are obligated during the contract periods to provide healthcare services as established by the state governments. We use a large portion of our revenues to pay the costs of healthcare services delivered to our members. If premiums do not increase when expenses related to medical services rise, our earnings will be affected negatively. In addition, our actual medical services costs may exceed our estimates, which would cause our health benefits ratio, or our expenses related to medical services as a percentage of premium revenue, to increase and our profits to decline. In addition, it is possible for a state to increase the rates payable to certain providers without granting a corresponding increase in premiums to us. If this were to occur in one or more of the states in which we operate, our profitability would be harmed. In addition, if there is a significant delay in our receipt of premiums to offset previously incurred health benefits costs, our cash flows or earnings could be negatively impacted.

In some instances, our base premiums are subject to an adjustment, or risk score, based on the acuity of our membership. Generally, the risk score is determined by the State analyzing encounter submissions of processed claims data to determine the acuity of our membership relative to the entire state's Medicaid membership. The risk score is dependent on several factors including our providers' completeness and quality of claims submission, our processing of the claim, submission of the processed claims in the form of encounters to the states' encounter systems and the states' acceptance and analysis of the encounter data. If the risk scores assigned to our premiums that are risk adjusted are not adequate or do not appropriately reflect the acuity of our membership, our earnings will be affected negatively.

Failure to effectively manage our medical costs or related administrative costs or uncontrollable epidemic or pandemic costs would reduce our profitability.

Our profitability depends, to a significant degree, on our ability to predict and effectively manage expenses related to health benefits. We have less control over the costs related to medical services than we do over our general and administrative expenses. Because of the narrow margins of our health plan business, relatively small changes in our health benefits ratio can create significant changes in our financial results. Changes in healthcare regulations and practices, the level of use of healthcare services, hospital costs, pharmaceutical costs, major epidemics or pandemics, new medical technologies and other external factors, including general economic conditions such as inflation levels, are beyond our control and could reduce our ability to predict and effectively control the costs of providing health benefits. In 2009, the H1N1 influenza pandemic resulted in heightened costs due to increased physician visits and increased utilization of hospital emergency rooms and pharmaceutical costs. We cannot predict what impact an epidemic or pandemic will have on our costs in the future. Additionally, we may not be able to manage costs effectively in the future. If our costs related to health benefits increase, our profits could be reduced or we may not remain profitable.

Our investment portfolio may suffer losses from changes in market interest rates and changes in market conditions which could materially and adversely affect our results of operations or liquidity.

As of September 30, 2011, we had $558.0 million in cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments and $557.2 million of long-term investments and restricted deposits. We maintain an investment portfolio of cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments in a variety of securities which may include asset backed securities, bank deposits, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, money market funds, municipal bonds, corporate bonds, instruments of the U.S. Treasury and other government corporations and agencies, insurance contracts and equity securities. These investments are subject to general credit, liquidity, market and interest rate risks. Substantially all of these securities are subject to interest rate and credit risk and will decline in value if interest rates increase or one of

the issuers' credit ratings is reduced. As a result, we may experience a reduction in value or loss of liquidity of our investments, which may have a negative adverse effect on our results of operations, liquidity and financial condition. For example, in the third quarter of 2008, we recorded a loss on investments of approximately $4.5 million due to a loss in a money market fund.

Our investments in state, municipal and corporate securities are not guaranteed by the United States government which could materially and adversely affect our results of operation, liquidity or financial condition.

As of September 30, 2011, we had $584.3 million of investments in state, municipal and corporate securities. These securities are not guaranteed by the United States government. State and municipal securities are subject to additional credit risk based upon each local municipality's tax revenues and financial stability. As a result, we may experience a reduction in value or loss of liquidity of our investments, which may have a negative adverse effect on our results of operations, liquidity and financial condition.

Difficulties in executing our acquisition strategy could adversely affect our business.

Historically, the acquisition of Medicaid and specialty services businesses, contract rights and related assets of other health plans both in our existing service areas and in new markets has accounted for a significant amount of our growth. Many of the other potential purchasers have greater financial resources than we have. In addition, many of the sellers are interested either in (a) selling, along with their Medicaid assets, other assets in which we do not have an interest or (b) selling their companies, including their liabilities, as opposed to the assets of their ongoing businesses.

We generally are required to obtain regulatory approval from one or more state agencies when making acquisitions. In the case of an acquisition of a business located in a state in which we do not currently operate, we would be required to obtain the necessary licenses to operate in that state. In addition, even if we already operate in a state in which we acquire a new business, we would be required to obtain additional regulatory approval if the acquisition would result in our operating in an area of the state in which we did not operate previously, and we could be required to renegotiate provider contracts of the acquired business. We cannot provide any assurance that we would be able to comply with these regulatory requirements for an acquisition in a timely manner, or at all. In deciding whether to approve a proposed acquisition, state regulators may consider a number of factors outside our control, including giving preference to competing offers made by locally owned entities or by not-for-profit entities.

We also may be unable to obtain sufficient additional capital resources for future acquisitions. If we are unable to effectively execute our acquisition strategy, our future growth will suffer and our results of operations could be harmed.

Execution of our growth strategy may increase costs or liabilities, or create disruptions in our business.

We pursue acquisitions of other companies or businesses from time to time. Although we review the records of companies or businesses we plan to acquire, even an in-depth review of records may not reveal existing or potential problems or permit us to become familiar enough with a business to assess fully its capabilities and deficiencies. As a result, we may assume unanticipated liabilities or adverse operating conditions, or an acquisition may not perform as well as expected. We face the risk that the returns on acquisitions will not support the expenditures or indebtedness incurred to acquire such businesses, or the capital expenditures needed to develop such businesses. We also face the risk that we will not be able to integrate acquisitions into our existing operations effectively without substantial expense, delay or other operational or financial problems. Integration may be hindered by, among other things, differing procedures, including internal controls, business practices and technology systems. We may need to divert more management resources to integration than we planned, which may adversely affect our ability to pursue other profitable activities.

In addition to the difficulties we may face in identifying and consummating acquisitions, we will also be required to integrate and consolidate any acquired business or assets with our existing operations. This may include the integration of:

- additional personnel who are not familiar with our operations and corporate culture;
- provider networks that may operate on different terms than our existing networks;
- existing members, who may decide to switch to another healthcare plan; and
- disparate administrative, accounting and finance, and information systems.

Additionally, our growth strategy includes start-up operations in new markets or new products in existing markets. We may incur significant expenses prior to commencement of operations and the receipt of revenue. As a result, these start-up operations may decrease our profitability. In the event we pursue any opportunity to diversify our business internationally, we would become subject to additional risks, including, but not limited to, political risk, an unfamiliar regulatory regime, currency exchange risk and exchange controls, cultural and language differences, foreign tax issues, and different labor laws and practices.

Accordingly, we may be unable to identify, consummate and integrate future acquisitions or start-up operations successfully or operate acquired or new businesses profitably.

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Acquisitions of unfamiliar new businesses could negatively impact our business.

We are subject to the expenditures and risks associated with entering into any new line of business. Our failure to properly manage these expenditures and risks could have a negative impact on our overall business. For example, effective July 2008, we completed the previously announced acquisition of Celtic Group, Inc., the parent company of Celtic Insurance Company, or Celtic. Celtic is a national individual health insurance provider that provides health insurance to individual customers and their families. While we believed that the addition of Celtic would be complementary to our business, we had not previously operated in the individual health care industry.

If competing managed care programs are unwilling to purchase specialty services from us, we may not be able to successfully implement our strategy of diversifying our business lines.

We are seeking to diversify our business lines into areas that complement our Medicaid business in order to grow our revenue stream and balance our dependence on Medicaid risk reimbursement. In order to diversify our business, we must succeed in selling the services of our specialty subsidiaries not only to our managed care plans, but to programs operated by third-parties. Some of these third-party programs may compete with us in some markets, and they therefore may be unwilling to purchase specialty services from us. In any event, the offering of these services will require marketing activities that differ significantly from the manner in which we seek to increase revenues from our Medicaid programs. Our inability to market specialty services to other programs may impair our ability to execute our business strategy.

Failure to achieve timely profitability in any business would negatively affect our results of operations.

Business expansion costs associated with a new business can be substantial. For example, in order to obtain a certificate of authority in most jurisdictions, we must first establish a provider network, have systems in place and demonstrate our ability to obtain a state contract and process claims. If we were unsuccessful in obtaining the necessary license, winning the bid to provide service or attracting members in numbers sufficient to cover our costs, any new business of ours would fail. We also could be obligated by the state to continue to provide services for some period of time without sufficient revenue to cover our ongoing costs or recover business expansion costs. The expenses associated with starting up a new business could have a significant impact on our results of operations if we are unable to achieve profitable operations in a timely fashion.

Adverse credit market conditions may have a material adverse affect on our liquidity or our ability to obtain credit on acceptable terms.

The securities and credit markets have been experiencing extreme volatility and disruption over the past several years. The availability of credit, from virtually all types of lenders, has been restricted. Such conditions may persist during 2011 and beyond. In the event we need access to additional capital to pay our operating expenses, make payments on our indebtedness, pay capital expenditures, or fund acquisitions, our ability to obtain such capital may be limited and the cost of any such capital may be significant, particularly if we are unable to access our existing credit facility.

Our access to additional financing will depend on a variety of factors such as prevailing economic and credit market conditions, the general availability of credit, the overall availability of credit to our industry, our credit ratings and credit capacity, and perceptions of our financial prospects. Similarly, our access to funds may be impaired if regulatory authorities or rating agencies take negative actions against us. If a combination of these factors were to occur, our internal sources of liquidity may prove to be insufficient, and in such case, we may not be able to successfully obtain additional financing on favorable terms or at all. We believe that if credit could be obtained, the terms and costs of such credit could be significantly less favorable to us than what was obtained in our most recent financings.

We derive a majority of our premium revenues from operations in a small number of states, and our financial position, results of operations or cash flows would be materially affected by a decrease in premium revenues or profitability in any one of those states.

Operations in a few states have accounted for most of our premium revenues to date. If we were unable to continue to operate in any of our current states or if our current operations in any portion of one of those states were significantly curtailed, our revenues could decrease materially. Our Medicaid contract with Kansas, which terminated December 31, 2006, together with our Medicaid contract with Missouri, accounted for $317.0 million in revenue for the year ended December 31, 2006. Our reliance on operations in a limited number of states could cause our revenue and profitability to change suddenly and unexpectedly depending on legislative or other governmental or regulatory actions and decisions, economic conditions and similar factors in those states. For example, states we currently serve may bid out their Medicaid program through a Request for Proposal, or RFP, process. Our inability to continue to operate in any of the states in which we operate would harm our business.

Competition may limit our ability to increase penetration of the markets that we serve.

We compete for members principally on the basis of size and quality of provider network, benefits provided and quality of service. We compete with numerous types of competitors, including other health plans and traditional state Medicaid programs that reimburse providers as care is provided. In addition, the impact of health care reform and potential growth in our segment may attract new competitors. Subject to limited exceptions by federally approved state applications, the federal government requires that there be choices for Medicaid recipients among managed care programs. Voluntary programs, increases in the number of competitors and mandated competition may limit our ability to increase our market share.

Some of the health plans with which we compete have greater financial and other resources and offer a broader scope of products than we do. In addition, significant merger and acquisition activity has occurred in the managed care industry, as well as in industries that act as suppliers to us, such as the hospital, physician, pharmaceutical, medical device and health information systems businesses. To the extent that competition intensifies in any market that we serve, our ability to retain or increase members and providers, or maintain or increase our revenue growth, pricing flexibility and control over medical cost trends may be adversely affected.

In addition, in order to increase our membership in the markets we currently serve, we believe that we must continue to develop and implement community-specific products, alliances with key providers and localized outreach and educational programs. If we are unable to develop and implement these initiatives, or if our competitors are more successful than we are in doing so, we may not be able to further penetrate our existing markets.

If we are unable to maintain relationships with our provider networks, our profitability may be harmed.

Our profitability depends, in large part, upon our ability to contract favorably with hospitals, physicians and other healthcare providers. Our provider arrangements with our primary care physicians, specialists and hospitals generally may be cancelled by either party without cause upon 90 to 120 days prior written notice. We cannot provide any assurance that we will be able to continue to renew our existing contracts or enter into new contracts enabling us to service our members profitably.

From time to time providers assert or threaten to assert claims seeking to terminate non-cancelable agreements due to alleged actions or inactions by us. Even if these allegations represent attempts to avoid or renegotiate contractual terms that have become economically disadvantageous to the providers, it is possible that in the future a provider may pursue such a claim successfully. In addition, we are aware that other managed care organizations have been subject to class action suits by physicians with respect to claim payment procedures, and we may be subject to similar claims. Regardless of whether any claims brought against us are successful or have merit, they will still be time-consuming

and costly and could distract our management's attention. As a result, we may incur significant expenses and may be unable to operate our business effectively.

We will be required to establish acceptable provider networks prior to entering new markets. We may be unable to enter into agreements with providers in new markets on a timely basis or under favorable terms. If we are unable to retain our current provider contracts or enter into new provider contracts timely or on favorable terms, our profitability will be harmed.

We may be unable to attract and retain key personnel.

We are highly dependent on our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel to operate and expand our business. If we lose one or more members of our senior management team, including our chief executive officer, Michael F. Neidorff, who has been instrumental in developing our business strategy and forging our business relationships, our business and financial position, results of operations or cash flows could be harmed. Our ability to replace any departed members of our senior management or other key employees may be difficult and may take an extended period of time because of the limited number of individuals in the Medicaid managed care and specialty services industry with the breadth of skills and experience required to operate and successfully expand a business such as ours. Competition to hire from this limited pool is intense, and we may be unable to hire, train, retain or motivate these personnel.

Negative publicity regarding the managed care industry may harm our business and financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

The managed care industry has received negative publicity. This publicity has led to increased legislation, regulation, review of industry practices and private litigation in the commercial sector. These factors may adversely affect our ability to market our services, require us to change our services, and increase the regulatory burdens under which we operate. Any of these factors may increase the costs of doing business and adversely affect our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

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Claims relating to medical malpractice could cause us to incur significant expenses.

Our providers and employees involved in medical care decisions may be subject to medical malpractice claims. In addition, some states have adopted legislation that permits managed care organizations to be held liable for negligent treatment decisions or benefits coverage determinations. Claims of this nature, if successful, could result in substantial damage awards against us and our providers that could exceed the limits of any applicable insurance coverage. Therefore, successful malpractice or tort claims asserted against us, our providers or our employees could adversely affect our financial condition and profitability. Even if any claims brought against us are unsuccessful or without merit, they would still be time consuming and costly and could distract our management's attention. As a result, we may incur significant expenses and may be unable to operate our business effectively.

Loss of providers due to increased insurance costs could adversely affect our business.

Our providers routinely purchase insurance to help protect themselves against medical malpractice claims. In recent years, the costs of maintaining commercially reasonable levels of such insurance have increased dramatically, and these costs are expected to increase to even greater levels in the future. As a result of the level of these costs, providers may decide to leave the practice of medicine or to limit their practice to certain areas, which may not address the needs of Medicaid participants. We rely on retaining a sufficient number of providers in order to maintain a certain level of service. If a significant number of our providers exit our provider networks or the practice of medicine generally, we may be unable to replace them in a timely manner, if at all, and our business could be adversely affected.

Growth in the number of Medicaid-eligible persons could cause our financial position, results of operations or cash flows to suffer if state and federal budgets decrease or do not increase.

Less favorable economic conditions may cause our membership to increase as more people become eligible to receive Medicaid benefits. During such economic downturns, however, state and federal budgets could decrease, causing states to attempt to cut healthcare programs, benefits and rates. Additionally, the number of individuals eligible for Medicaid managed care will likely increase as a result of the recent health care reform legislation. We cannot predict the impact of changes in the United States economic environment or other economic or political events, including acts of terrorism or related military action, on federal or state funding of healthcare programs or on the size of the population eligible for the programs we operate. If federal or state funding decreases or remains unchanged while our membership increases, our results of operations will suffer.

Growth in the number of Medicaid-eligible persons may be countercyclical, which could cause our financial position, results of operations or cash flows to suffer when general economic conditions are improving.

Historically, the number of persons eligible to receive Medicaid benefits has increased more rapidly during periods of rising unemployment, corresponding to less favorable general economic conditions. Conversely, this number may grow more slowly or even decline if economic conditions improve. Therefore, improvements in general economic conditions may cause our membership levels to decrease, thereby causing our financial position, results of operations or cash flows to suffer, which could lead to decreases in our stock price during periods in which stock prices in general are increasing.

If we are unable to integrate and manage our information systems effectively, our operations could be disrupted.

Our operations depend significantly on effective information systems. The information gathered and processed by our information systems assists us in, among other things, monitoring utilization and other cost factors, processing provider claims, and providing data to our regulators. Our providers also depend upon our information systems for

membership verifications, claims status and other information.

Our information systems and applications require continual maintenance, upgrading and enhancement to meet our operational needs and regulatory requirements. Moreover, our acquisition activity requires frequent transitions to or from, and the integration of, various information systems. We regularly upgrade and expand our information systems' capabilities. If we experience difficulties with the transition to or from information systems or are unable to properly maintain or expand our information systems, we could suffer, among other things, from operational disruptions, loss of existing members and difficulty in attracting new members, regulatory problems and increases in administrative expenses. In addition, our ability to integrate and manage our information systems may be impaired as the result of events outside our control, including acts of nature, such as earthquakes or fires, or acts of terrorists.

We rely on the accuracy of eligibility lists provided by state governments. Inaccuracies in those lists would negatively affect our results of operations.

Premium payments to us are based upon eligibility lists produced by state governments. From time to time, states require us to reimburse them for premiums paid to us based on an eligibility list that a state later discovers contains individuals who are not in fact eligible for a government sponsored program or are eligible for a different premium category or a different program. Alternatively, a state could fail to pay us for members for whom we are entitled to payment. Our results of operations would be adversely affected as a result of such reimbursement to the state if we had made related payments to providers and were unable to recoup such payments from the providers.

We may not be able to obtain or maintain adequate insurance.

We maintain liability insurance, subject to limits and deductibles, for claims that could result from providing or failing to provide managed care and related services. These claims could be substantial. We believe that our present insurance coverage and reserves are adequate to cover currently estimated exposures. We cannot provide any assurance that we will be able to obtain adequate insurance coverage in the future at acceptable costs or that we will not incur significant liabilities in excess of policy limits.

From time to time, we may become involved in costly and time-consuming litigation and other regulatory proceedings, which require significant attention from our management.

We are a defendant from time to time in lawsuits and regulatory actions relating to our business. Due to the inherent uncertainties of litigation and regulatory proceedings, we cannot accurately predict the ultimate outcome of any such proceedings. An unfavorable outcome could have a material adverse impact on our business and financial position, results of operations or cash flows. In addition, regardless of the outcome of any litigation or regulatory proceedings, such proceedings are costly and time consuming and require significant attention from our management. For example, we have in the past, or may be subject to in the future, securities class action lawsuits, IRS examinations or similar regulatory actions. Any such matters could harm our business and financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

An unauthorized disclosure of sensitive or confidential member information could have an adverse effect on our business.

As part of our normal operations, we collect, process and retain confidential member information. We are subject to various federal and state laws and rules regarding the use and disclosure of confidential member information, including HIPAA and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 further expands the coverage of HIPAA by, among other things, extending the privacy and security provisions, requiring new disclosures if a data breach occurs, mandating new regulations around electronic medical records, expanding enforcement mechanisms, allowing the state Attorneys General to bring enforcement actions and increasing penalties for violations. Despite the security measures we have in place to ensure compliance with applicable laws and rules,

our facilities and systems, and those of our third party service providers, may be vulnerable to security breaches, acts of vandalism, computer viruses, misplaced or lost data, programming and/or human errors or other similar events. Any security breach involving the misappropriation, loss or other unauthorized disclosure or use of confidential member information, whether by us or a third party, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, cash flows, or results of operations.

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ITEM 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities
Third Quarter 2011

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased 1	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs2
July 1 – July 31, 2011	4,821	$ 35.92	—	1,667,724
August 1 – August 31, 2011	736	30.21	—	1,667,724
September 1 – September 30, 2011	1,791	30.91	—	1,667,724
Total	7,348	$ 34.12	—	1,667,724

(1) Shares acquired represent shares relinquished to the Company by certain employees for payment of taxes or option cost upon vesting of restricted stock units or option exercise.
(2) Our Board of Directors adopted a stock repurchase program of up to 4,000,000 shares. No duration has been placed on the repurchase program.

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ITEM 6. Exhibits.

Exhibits.

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
10.11	Amendment T (Version 1.19) to Contract between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Superior HealthPlan, Inc.
10.2	Contract between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Superior HealthPlan, Inc.
10.3	Contract between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Bankers Reserve Life Insurance Company of Wisconsin d.b.a. Superior HealthPlan Network.
12.1	Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
31.1	Certification of Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13(a)-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
31.2	Certification of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13(a)-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
32.1	Certification of Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.12	XBRL Taxonomy Instance Document.
101.22	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.32	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.42	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
101.52	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
101.62	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.

1 The Company has requested confidential treatment of the redacted portions of this exhibit pursuant to Rule 24b-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and has separately filed a complete copy of this exhibit with

the Securities and Exchange Commission.

2 XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) information is furnished and not filed or a part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, is deemed not filed for purposes of section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized as of October 25, 2011.

CENTENE CORPORATION

By:	/s/ MICHAEL F. NEIDORFF Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer)
By:	/s/ WILLIAM N. SCHEFFEL Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer)
By:	/s/ JEFFREY A. SCHWANEKE Vice President, Corporate Controller and Chief Accounting Officer (principal accounting officer)