

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP INC
 Form 424B5
 October 17, 2012
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Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
 Registration No. 333-172235

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting any offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated October 17, 2012

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated February 14, 2011

\$

\$	% Notes due	, 20
\$	% Notes due	, 20
\$	% Notes due	, 20
\$	% Notes due	, 20

We are offering \$ principal amount of % notes due , 20 , \$ principal amount of % notes due , 20 , \$ principal amount of % notes due , 20 and \$ principal amount of % notes due , 20 . We refer to the 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes and any other series of notes that may be offered in this offering collectively as the notes.

Interest on the notes will be payable semi-annually on and , beginning on , 2013, at the applicable rates set forth above. At our option, we may redeem the 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes and the 20 notes, in whole or in part, before their maturity date on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days notice by mail on the terms described under the caption Description of the Notes Optional Redemption. If a change of control triggering event as described herein occurs, unless we have exercised our option to redeem the notes, we will be required to offer to repurchase the notes at the price described in this prospectus supplement. We must redeem all of the notes under the circumstances and at the redemption price described under the caption Description of the Notes Special Mandatory Redemption.

The notes will be our senior, unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding. We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange or for inclusion of the notes in any automated dealer quotation system.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

		Public offering		Underwriting discount		Proceeds to us (before expenses)	
		price(1)					
		Per note	Total	Per note	Total	Per note	Total
20	Notes	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
20	Notes	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
20	Notes	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
20	Notes	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Combined Total			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest from October , 2012 if settlement occurs after that date.
The underwriters expect to deliver the notes to investors on or about October , 2012 only in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company and its participants, including Euroclear and Clearstream Luxembourg.

Joint Book-Running Managers

J.P. Morgan

BofA Merrill Lynch

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Morgan Stanley

UBS Investment Bank

Wells Fargo Securities

Prospectus Supplement dated October , 2012

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We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to give any information or to represent anything not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. Neither we nor the underwriters take responsibility for, or provide assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may provide. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is an offer to sell only the notes offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current only as of the date of the document containing such information. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since the date of any such document.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement relates to a prospectus which is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell the securities described in the accompanying prospectus in one or more offerings. The accompanying prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. This prospectus supplement contains specific information about the terms of this offering. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained in the accompanying prospectus. Please carefully read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in addition to the information described below under **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference** and in the section of the accompanying prospectus called **Where You Can Find More Information**.

As you read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, there may be inconsistencies in information from one document to another. If this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus, the statements in this prospectus supplement will control. In the event of any other inconsistencies, you should rely on the statements made in the most recent document, including any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement after the date hereof. All information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is qualified in its entirety by the information and financial statements, including the notes thereto, contained in the documents that we have incorporated by reference.

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise specified, the terms **UnitedHealth Group**, **the Company**, **we**, **us** or **our** mean **UnitedHealth Group Incorporated** and its consolidated subsidiaries. Unless otherwise stated, currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are stated in **United States dollars**, or **\$**.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to **incorporate by reference** the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. We are incorporating by reference certain information filed previously with the SEC into this prospectus supplement. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update this prospectus supplement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below, and any filings we hereafter make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act (excluding any documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules), until such time that we sell all the securities offered by this prospectus supplement:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 8, 2012, March 27, 2012, June 8, 2012 and October 9, 2012 (excluding information furnished under Items 2.02 and 7.01 thereof and the exhibit furnished under Item 9.01 thereof).

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

UnitedHealth Group Incorporated

UnitedHealth Group Center

9900 Bren Road East

Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343

Attn: Legal Department

(952) 936-1300

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The statements, estimates, projections, guidance or outlook contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, or PSLRA. These statements are intended to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the PSLRA. Generally the words believe, expect, intend, estimate, anticipate, plan, project, should and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements, which generally are not his in nature. These statements may contain information about financial prospects, economic conditions, trends and uncertainties and involve risks and uncertainties. We caution that actual results could differ materially from those that management expects, depending on the outcome of certain factors.

Some factors that could cause results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements include: our ability to effectively estimate, price for and manage our medical costs, including the impact of any new coverage requirements; the potential impact that new laws or regulations, or changes in existing laws or regulations, or their enforcement or application could have on our results of operations, financial position and cash flows, including as a result of increases in medical, administrative, technology or other costs or decreases in enrollment resulting from U.S., Brazilian and other jurisdictions regulations affecting the health care industry; the impact of any potential assessments for insolvent payers under state guaranty fund laws, including any that could arise out of the potential liquidation of Penn Treaty Network America Insurance Company; the ultimate impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which could materially and adversely affect our results of operations, financial position and cash flows through reduced revenues, increased costs, new taxes and expanded liability, or require changes to the ways in which we conduct business or put us at risk for loss of business; potential reductions in revenue received from Medicare and Medicaid programs; uncertainties regarding changes in Medicare, including potential changes in risk adjustment data validation audit and payment adjustment methodology; failure to comply with patient privacy and data security regulations; regulatory and other risks and uncertainties associated with the pharmacy benefits management industry and our ability to successfully repatriate our pharmacy benefits management business; competitive pressures, which could affect our ability to maintain or increase our market share; the impact of challenges to our public sector contract awards; our ability to execute contracts on competitive terms with physicians, hospitals and other service professionals; our ability to attract, retain and provide support to a network of independent producers (i.e., brokers and agents) and consultants; events that may adversely affect our relationship with AARP; increases in costs and other liabilities associated with increased litigation, government investigations, audits or reviews; the potential impact of adverse economic conditions on our revenues (including decreases in enrollment resulting from increases in the unemployment rate and commercial attrition) and results of operations; the performance of our investment portfolio; possible impairment of the value of our goodwill and intangible assets in connection with dispositions or if estimated future results do not adequately support goodwill and intangible assets recorded for our existing businesses or the businesses that we acquire; increases in health care costs resulting from large-scale medical emergencies; failure to maintain effective and efficient information systems or if our technology products otherwise do not operate as intended; misappropriation of our proprietary technology; our ability to obtain sufficient funds from our regulated subsidiaries or the debt or capital markets to fund our obligations, to maintain our debt to total capital ratio at targeted levels, to maintain our quarterly dividend payment cycle or to continue repurchasing shares of our common stock; failure to complete or receive anticipated benefits of acquisitions and other strategic transactions, including the Amil Acquisition described under UnitedHealth Group Recent Developments Amil Acquisition ; the impact of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates on our reported shareholders equity and results of operations; potential downgrades in our credit ratings; and failure to achieve targeted operating cost productivity improvements, including savings resulting from technology enhancement and administrative modernization.

This list of important factors is not intended to be exhaustive. We discuss certain of these matters more fully, as well as certain risk factors that may affect our business operations, financial condition and results of operations, in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and in our other periodic and current filings with the SEC. Any or all forward-looking statements we make may turn out

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to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions we might make or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. By their nature, forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance or results and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict or quantify. Actual future results may vary materially from expectations expressed, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any of our prior communications. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. We do not undertake to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

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UNITEDHEALTH GROUP

UnitedHealth Group is a diversified health and well-being company whose mission is to help people live healthier lives and help make health care work better. Our business model has evolved and is informed by over three decades of serving the needs of the markets, and people, of health care.

Today, we are helping individuals access quality care at an affordable cost; simplifying health care administration and delivery; strengthening the physician/patient relationship; promoting evidence-based care; and empowering physicians, health care professionals, consumers, employers and other participants in the health system with actionable data to make better, more informed decisions.

Through our diversified family of businesses, we leverage core competencies in advanced, enabling technology; health care data, information and intelligence; and care management and coordination to help meet the demands of the health system. These core competencies are deployed within our two distinct, but strategically aligned, business platforms: health benefits operating under UnitedHealthcare and health services operating under Optum.

UnitedHealthcare serves the health benefits needs of individuals across life's stages through three businesses. UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual serves individual consumers and employers. The unique health needs of seniors are served by UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement. UnitedHealthcare Community & State serves the public health marketplace, offering states innovative Medicaid solutions.

Optum serves health system participants, including consumers, physicians, hospitals, governments, insurers, distributors and pharmaceutical companies, through its OptumHealth, OptumInsight and OptumRx businesses. These businesses have dedicated units that drive improved access, affordability, quality and simplicity across eight markets: integrated care delivery, care management, consumer engagement and support, distribution of benefits and services, health financial services, operational services and support, health care information technology and pharmacy.

Through UnitedHealthcare and Optum, in 2011, we managed approximately \$135 billion in aggregate health care spending on behalf of the constituents and consumers we served. Our revenues are derived from premiums on risk-based products; fees from management, administrative, technology and consulting services; sales of a wide variety of products and services related to the broad health and well-being industry; and investment and other income.

Recent Developments

Third Quarter Results

On October 16, 2012, we reported that our consolidated third quarter 2012 revenues were \$27.3 billion, which represented an increase of \$2.0 billion or an 8% increase year-over-year. Our third quarter 2012 medical ratio of 79.0 percent decreased 170 basis points year-over-year. We also reported that our third quarter 2012 earnings from operations were \$2.6 billion compared to third quarter 2011 earnings from operations of \$2.1 billion and that our third quarter 2012 net earnings were \$1.6 billion or \$1.50 per share compared to third quarter 2011 net earnings of \$1.3 billion or \$1.17 per share.

Amil Acquisition

On October 5, 2012, we agreed to acquire up to 90% of the 359 million outstanding common shares of Amil Participações S.A., or Amil, for approximately \$4.9 billion in cash, or R\$30.75 per Amil share, in a two-step transaction (the Amil Acquisition). Upon Brazilian regulatory approval, which we expect to receive in the fourth quarter of 2012, we will purchase approximately 60% of the outstanding Amil shares from controlling shareholders and management of Amil for approximately \$3.2 billion in cash (the First Step Amil Acquisition).

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In the first half of 2013, we intend to commence a tender offer to purchase approximately 30% of the outstanding Amil shares from public shareholders for R\$30.75 per Amil share, subject to a statutory inflation adjustment. The completion of the two-step transaction is subject to Brazilian regulatory approval and certain other customary conditions.

Founded in 1978, Amil is the largest managed care company in Brazil in terms of membership and provider network. Amil's founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Edson Bueno, and his partner, Dr. Dulce Pugliese, will retain a 10% equity interest in Amil for at least five years, subject to certain conditions and acquisition rights and obligations by us.

Corporate Information

UnitedHealth Group Incorporated was incorporated in January 1977 in Minnesota, and our executive offices are located at UnitedHealth Group Center, 9900 Bren Road East, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343. Our telephone number is (952) 936-1300, and our website is located at www.unitedhealthgroup.com. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in the notes involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks described herein and those described under "Risk Factors" in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, which risk factors are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making a decision to invest in our notes. See "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference" in this prospectus supplement.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$_____ after deducting the underwriting discount and other expenses of the offering payable by us. We intend to use up to the entire amount of the net proceeds from this offering to pay a portion of the acquisition price for the First Step Amil Acquisition (which is described under "UnitedHealth Group Recent Developments Amil Acquisition") and related fees and expenses and, at our discretion, to refinance Amil's indebtedness. The balance of the acquisition price for the First Step Amil Acquisition will be funded from our available cash on hand or financing sources. We will use any remaining net proceeds from this offering not applied to the foregoing uses for general corporate purposes, including redeeming or repurchasing outstanding securities, refinancing debt or financing other acquisitions.

If we do not use the net proceeds immediately, we will temporarily invest them in short-term, interest-bearing obligations.

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The ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is set forth below. The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing total earnings available for fixed charges by the fixed charges. For purposes of computing this ratio, total earnings available for fixed charges consists of earnings before income taxes plus fixed charges and fixed charges consist of interest expense plus the interest factor in rental expense.

	Six months ended	Year ended December 31,				
	June 30, 2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	13.2x	14.4x	14.0x	10.0x	7.4x	12.6x

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

In this section the terms we, our, us, and UnitedHealth Group refer solely to UnitedHealth Group Incorporated and not its subsidiaries.

The notes will be senior debt securities as described in the section captioned Description of Senior Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus. The following information concerning the notes supplements the information set forth in that section of the accompanying prospectus. It should be read together with the description of senior debt securities in the accompanying prospectus and the terms of the notes in the senior indenture, dated as of February 4, 2008, between us and U.S. Bank National Association, as senior trustee. The senior indenture is incorporated by reference in the registration statement which includes the accompanying prospectus. We will offer the 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes and any other series of notes that may be offered in this offering as separate series under such senior indenture. Each series of notes also will be issued under and be subject to the terms of individual officers certificates and company orders pursuant to the senior indenture, which are incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus.

If any of the information set forth below is inconsistent with information in the accompanying prospectus, the information set forth below replaces the information in the accompanying prospectus.

The notes will be unsecured and will rank equally with our other unsecured, unsubordinated indebtedness. Our assets consist primarily of equity in our subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to make payments on the notes depends on our receipt of dividends, loan payments and other funds from our subsidiaries. In addition, if any of our subsidiaries becomes insolvent, the direct creditors of that subsidiary will have a prior claim on its assets. Our rights and the rights of our creditors, including your rights as an owner of the notes, will be subject to that prior claim, unless we are also a direct creditor of that subsidiary. This subordination of creditors of a parent company to prior claims of creditors of its subsidiaries is commonly referred to as structural subordination.

Title, Principal Amount, Maturity and Interest

The 20 notes are designated as our % notes due , 20 , the 20 notes are designated as our % notes due , 20 , the 20 notes are designated as our % notes due , 20 and the 20 notes are designated as our % notes due , 20 . The notes are initially limited in aggregate principal amount to \$ for the 20 notes, \$ for the 20 notes, \$ for the 20 notes and \$ for the 20 notes. We may at any time and from time to time, without the consent of the existing holders of the applicable series of notes, issue additional notes having the same ranking, interest rate, maturity date, redemption terms and other terms as any series of notes being offered under this prospectus supplement. Any such additional notes, together with the notes having the same terms offered by this prospectus supplement, will constitute a single series of securities under the senior indenture. No additional notes may be issued if an event of default under the senior indenture has occurred with respect to the applicable series of notes. There is no limitation on the amount of other senior debt securities that we may issue under the senior indenture.

The 20 notes will mature and become due and payable, together with any accrued and unpaid interest, on , 20 . The 20 notes will mature and become due and payable, together with any accrued and unpaid interest, on , 20 . The 20 notes will mature and become due and payable, together with any accrued and unpaid interest, on , 20 . The 20 notes will mature and become due and payable, together with any accrued and unpaid interest, on , 20 . We may redeem the 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes or the 20 notes at our option, either in whole or in part, before they mature. See Optional Redemption below. If a change of control triggering event as described herein occurs, unless we have exercised our option to redeem the notes, we will be required to offer to repurchase the notes at the price described in this prospectus supplement. See Change of Control Offer below. We will be required to redeem all of the notes under the circumstances and at the redemption price described under Special Mandatory Redemption below.

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The interest payable by us on a note on any interest payment date, subject to certain exceptions, will be paid to the person in whose name the note is registered at the close of business on the applicable record date, whether or not a business day, immediately preceding the interest payment date.

The 20 notes will bear interest at a rate of % per year from , 2012 or from the most recent interest payment date on which we paid or provided for interest on the notes until their principal is paid. We will pay interest on the 20 notes semi-annually in arrears on each and . The first interest payment date will be , 2013. The regular record dates for payments of interest are the and immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date. Each payment of interest will include interest accrued to, but not including, the interest payment date. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

The 20 notes will bear interest at a rate of % per year from , 2012 or from the most recent interest payment date on which we paid or provided for interest on the notes until their principal is paid. We will pay interest on the 20 notes semi-annually in arrears on each and . The first interest payment date will be , 2013. The regular record dates for payments of interest are the and immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date. Each payment of interest will include interest accrued to, but not including, the interest payment date. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

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The 20 notes will bear interest at a rate of % per year from , 2012 or from the most recent interest payment date on which we paid or provided for interest on the notes until their principal is paid. We will pay interest on the 20 notes semi-annually in arrears on each and . The first interest payment date will be , 2013. The regular record dates for payments of interest are the and immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date. Each payment of interest will include interest accrued to, but not including, the interest payment date. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

In the event that a payment of principal or interest is due on a date that is not a business day, we will make the payment on the next business day, but we will consider that payment as being made on the date that the payment was due to you, without any interest or other payment with respect to the delay. When we use the term business day we mean any day except a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in New York, New York or Minneapolis, Minnesota or at the place of payment are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to remain closed.

Form and Denominations

Notes will be issued in registered form only, without coupons, in denominations of \$2,000 and whole multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

Book-Entry Issuance

The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, will act as securities depository for the notes. The 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes and the 20 notes will each be initially represented by one or more global notes registered in the name of DTC or its nominee. For additional information concerning DTC and its procedures, see the section called Book-Entry Issuance in the accompanying prospectus.

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Same-Day Settlement

Settlement for the notes will be made by the underwriters in immediately available funds. The notes will trade in DTC's system until maturity. As a result, DTC will require secondary trading activity in the notes to be settled in immediately available funds.

Optional Redemption

Prior to _____, 20____ (their maturity date), in the case of the 20____ notes, prior to _____, 20____ (their maturity date), in the case of the 20____ notes, prior to _____, 20____ (____ months prior to their maturity date), in the case of the 20____ notes, and prior to _____, 20____ (____ months prior to their maturity date), in the case of the 20____ notes, the 20____ notes, the 20____ notes, the 20____ notes and the 20____ notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time, at our option, on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice by mail, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed and (2) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the notes to be redeemed (excluding the portion of any such interest accrued to the redemption date) discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Yield (as defined below), plus _____ basis points for the 20____ notes, plus _____ basis points for the 20____ notes, plus _____ basis points for the 20____ notes and plus _____ basis points for the 20____ notes, plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date.

At any time on or after _____, 20____ (____ months prior to their maturity date), the 20____ notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part at any time and from time to time, at our option, on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice by mail, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 20____ notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but not including, the date of redemption. At any time on or after _____, 20____ (____ months prior to their maturity date), the 20____ notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part at any time and from time to time, at our option, on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice by mail, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 20____ notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but not including, the date of redemption.

For this purpose, the following terms have the following meanings:

Treasury Yield means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per year equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity or interpolated (on a day-count basis) yield to maturity of the applicable Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for such Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the applicable Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker appointed by the senior trustee under the senior indenture after consultation with us as having an actual or interpolated maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes being redeemed, or such other maturity that would be utilized at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the notes being redeemed.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (1) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, or (2) if the senior trustee under the senior indenture obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations.

Independent Investment Banker means any of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC or their respective successors or, if such firms are unwilling or unable to select the Comparable Treasury Issue, one of the remaining Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by the senior trustee under the senior indenture after consultation with us.

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Reference Treasury Dealer means (1) any of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC or their affiliates and any other primary U.S. Government securities dealer in the United States (a Primary Treasury Dealer) designated by, and not affiliated with, any of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC; provided, however, that if J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC or any of their respective affiliates shall cease to be a Primary Treasury Dealer, we will appoint another Primary Treasury Dealer as a substitute for such entity and (2) any other Primary Treasury Dealer selected by the senior trustee under the senior indenture.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the senior trustee under the senior indenture, of the bid and asked prices for the applicable Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed, in each case, as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the senior trustee under the senior indenture by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m. on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

A notice of redemption may provide that it is subject to certain conditions that will be specified in the notice. If those conditions are not met, the redemption notice will be of no effect and we will not be obligated to redeem the notes.

If we redeem less than all of any series of the notes at any time, selection of the notes for redemption will be made by the senior trustee under the senior indenture on:

a pro rata basis (and in a manner which complies with applicable legal and stock exchange requirements, if any); or

by any other method as the senior trustee under the senior indenture shall deem fair and appropriate.

Special Mandatory Redemption

In the event that we do not complete the First Step Amil Acquisition on or prior to March 31, 2013 or if, prior to that date, the share purchase agreement with respect to the Amil Acquisition is terminated, we must redeem all of the notes on the special mandatory redemption date (as defined below) at a redemption price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of each series of the notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but not including, the special mandatory redemption date (subject to the right of holders of record as of the close of business on a regular record date to receive interest due on the related interest payment date). The special mandatory redemption date means the 30th day (or if such day is not a business day, the first business day thereafter) following the transmission of a notice of special mandatory redemption.

We will cause the notice of special mandatory redemption to be transmitted to each holder no later than 60 days after the occurrence of the event triggering redemption. On or prior to the special mandatory redemption date, we will deposit with the senior trustee under the senior indenture an amount of money sufficient to pay the special mandatory redemption price, plus accrued and unpaid interest on all of the notes, and from and after that date the notes will cease to bear interest.

Sinking Fund

The notes do not have the benefit of any sinking fund.

Change of Control Offer

If a Change of Control Triggering Event occurs with respect to the 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes or the 20 notes, unless we have exercised our option to redeem all such notes as described above,

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we will be required to make an offer (a Change of Control Offer) to each holder of the series of notes with respect to which such Change of Control Triggering Event has occurred to repurchase all or any part (equal to \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof) of that holder's notes on the terms set forth in such notes. In a Change of Control Offer, we will be required to offer payment in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of notes repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes repurchased to, but not including, the date of repurchase (a Change of Control Payment). Within 30 days following any Change of Control Triggering Event or, at our option, prior to any Change of Control, but after public announcement of the transaction that constitutes or may constitute the Change of Control, a notice will be transmitted to the holders of the 20 notes, the 20 notes, the 20 notes or the 20 notes, as the case may be, describing the transaction that constitutes or may constitute the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase such notes on the date specified in the applicable notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is transmitted (a Change of Control Payment Date). The notice will, if transmitted prior to the date of consummation of the Change of Control, state that the Change of Control Offer is conditioned on the Change of Control Triggering Event occurring on or prior to the applicable Change of Control Payment Date.

On each Change of Control Payment Date, we will, to the extent lawful:

accept for payment all notes or portions of notes properly tendered pursuant to the applicable Change of Control Offer;

deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all notes or portions of notes properly tendered; and

deliver or cause to be delivered to the senior trustee under the senior indenture the notes properly accepted together with an officers certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of notes or portions of notes being repurchased.

We will not be required to make a Change of Control Offer upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Triggering Event if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us and the third party repurchases all notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer. In addition, we will not repurchase any notes if there has occurred and is continuing on the Change of Control Payment Date an event of default under the senior indenture, other than a default in the payment of the Change of Control Payment upon a Change of Control Triggering Event.

We will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act, and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a Change of Control Triggering Event. To the extent that the provisions of any such securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control Offer provisions of the notes, we will comply with those securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control Offer provisions of the notes by virtue of any such conflict.

For purposes of the Change of Control Offer provisions of the notes, the following terms have the following meanings:

Change of Control means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or more series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to any person, other than our company or one of our subsidiaries; (2) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any person becomes the beneficial owner (as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of our outstanding Voting Stock or other Voting Stock into which our Voting Stock is reclassified, consolidated, exchanged or changed, measured by voting power rather than number of shares; (3) we consolidate with, or merge with or into, any person, or any person consolidates with, or merges with or into, us, in any such

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event pursuant to a transaction in which any of our outstanding Voting Stock or the Voting Stock of such other person is converted into or exchanged for cash, securities or other property, other than any such transaction where the shares of our Voting Stock outstanding immediately prior to such transaction constitute, or are converted into or exchanged for, a majority of the Voting Stock of the surviving person or any direct or indirect parent company of the surviving person immediately after giving effect to such transaction; (4) the first day on which a majority of the members of our Board of Directors are not Continuing Directors; or (5) the adoption of a plan relating to our liquidation or dissolution. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed to involve a Change of Control under clause (2) above if (i) we become a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of a holding company and (ii)(A) the direct or indirect holders of the Voting Stock of such holding company immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of our Voting Stock immediately prior to that transaction or (B) immediately following that transaction no person (other than a holding company satisfying the requirements of this sentence) is the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the Voting Stock of such holding company. The term person, as used in this definition, has the meaning given thereto in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act.

Change of Control Triggering Event means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Rating Event.

Continuing Directors means, as of any date of determination, any member of our Board of Directors who (1) was a member of such Board of Directors on the date the notes were issued or (2) was nominated for election, elected or appointed to such Board of Directors with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such Board of Directors at the time of such nomination, election or appointment (either by a specific vote or by approval of our proxy statement in which such member was named as a nominee for election as a director).

Fitch means Fitch, Inc., and its successors.

Investment Grade Rating means a rating equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent) by Fitch, Baa3 (or the equivalent) by Moody's and BBB- (or the equivalent) by S&P, and the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any replacement Rating Agency or Rating Agencies selected by us.

Moody's means Moody's Investors Service, Inc., and its successors.

Rating Agencies means (1) each of Fitch, Moody's and S&P; and (2) if any of Fitch, Moody's or S&P ceases to rate the notes or fails to make a rating of the notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our Board of Directors) as a replacement agency for Fitch, Moody's or S&P, or all of them, as the case may be.

Rating Event means (A) with respect to the 20 notes, the rating on the 20 notes is lowered by each of the three Rating Agencies and the 20 notes are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the three Rating Agencies, (B) with respect to the 20 notes, the rating on the 20 notes is lowered by each of the three Rating Agencies and the 20 notes are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the three Rating Agencies, (C) with respect to the 20 notes, the rating on the 20 notes is lowered by each of the three Rating Agencies and the 20 notes are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the three Rating Agencies, and (D) with respect to the 20 notes, the rating on the 20 notes is lowered by each of the three Rating Agencies and the 20 notes are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the three Rating Agencies, in any case on any day during the period (which period will be extended so long as the rating of the applicable notes is under publicly announced consideration for a possible downgrade by any of the Rating Agencies) commencing on the date of the first public notice of the occurrence of a Change of Control or our intention to effect a Change of Control and ending 60 days following consummation of such Change of Control.

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S&P means Standard & Poor's Rating Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., and its successors.

Voting Stock means, with respect to any specified person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) as of any date, the capital stock of such person that is at the time entitled to vote generally in the election of the board of directors of such person.

Certain Covenants

Merger, Consolidation, or Sale of Assets

The senior indenture provides that we may not merge with another company or sell or lease all or substantially all of our property to another company unless:

we are the continuing corporation, or the successor corporation is a domestic corporation and expressly assumes the payment of principal and interest on the notes and the performance and observance of all the covenants and conditions of the senior indenture binding on us; and

immediately after such transaction, we are not, or the successor corporation is not, in default in the performance of a covenant or condition in the senior indenture.

Reports

The senior indenture provides that as long as any notes are outstanding, we will file with the senior trustee under the senior indenture, within 15 days after we file the same with the SEC, copies of the annual reports and of the information, documents and other reports which we may be required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. The filing of such reports, information and documents with the SEC will constitute filing of such reports, information and documents with the senior trustee; provided, however, that we will provide a physical or electronic copy thereof to the senior trustee promptly following a request therefor from the senior trustee.

Absence of Certain Covenants

We are not restricted by the senior indenture from, among other things, incurring, assuming or becoming liable for any type of debt or other obligations, from paying dividends or making distributions on our capital stock or purchasing or redeeming our capital stock, or making investments. The senior indenture does not require the maintenance of any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity. In addition, the senior indenture does not contain any covenants or other provisions that would limit our right to enter into any sale-leaseback transaction or grant liens on our assets.

Trustee, Registrar and Paying Agent

U.S. Bank National Association, 60 Livingston Avenue, EP-MN-WS3C, St. Paul, Minnesota 55107-2292, serves as senior trustee under the senior indenture and has been appointed registrar and paying agent for the notes.

Defeasance

The notes are subject to legal defeasance and covenant defeasance as described in the section called Description of Senior Debt Securities Defeasance Provisions in the accompanying prospectus.

Governing Law

The senior indenture and the notes are governed by and will be construed in accordance with New York law.

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MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

For a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax consequences of ownership of the notes, see the section captioned "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences" in the accompanying prospectus, as supplemented by the following discussion.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)

Newly enacted legislation may impose withholding taxes on certain types of payments made to foreign financial institutions and certain other non-financial foreign entities after December 31, 2013. The legislation imposes a 30% withholding tax on interest on, or gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, debt securities paid to a foreign financial institution unless the foreign financial institution enters into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury in which, among other things, it undertakes to identify accounts held by specified U.S. persons or U.S.-owned foreign entities, annually report certain information about such accounts, and withhold 30% on payments to account holders who fail to provide the requested information, thereby preventing the foreign financial institution from satisfying its obligations under the agreement with the U.S. Treasury. In addition, the legislation imposes a 30% withholding tax on certain withholdable payments to a non-financial foreign entity unless the entity certifies that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial U.S. owner. The legislation contains a grandfathering provision that exempts from withholding any payment under, or gross proceeds from a disposition of, certain obligations that are outstanding on March 18, 2012, and proposed Treasury Regulations would extend this grandfathering provision to certain obligations that are outstanding on January 1, 2013. These proposed regulations are not effective until finalized, however, and unless and until they are so finalized, taxpayers are not entitled to rely on them. Prospective investors in the notes should consult their own tax advisors regarding this legislation and whether it may be relevant to their ownership and disposition of the notes.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement, each underwriter named below has severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to each underwriter named below, for whom J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, UBS Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are acting as representatives, the following respective principal amounts of the notes:

Underwriter	Principal amount of 20 notes	Principal amount of 20 notes	Principal amount of 20 notes	Principal amount of 20 notes
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	\$	\$	\$	\$
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated				
Goldman, Sachs & Co.				
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC				
UBS Securities LLC				
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC				
Total	\$	\$	\$	\$

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the notes if any are purchased. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the offering of notes may be terminated.

Notes sold by the underwriters to the public will initially be offered at the public offering prices set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. Any notes sold by the underwriters to securities dealers may be sold at a discount from the public offering price of up to % of the principal amount of each 20 note, up to % of the principal amount of each 20 note, up to % of the principal amount of each 20 note and up to % of the principal amount of each 20 note. Any such securities dealers may resell any notes purchased from the underwriters to certain other brokers or dealers at a discount from the public offering price of up to % of the principal amount of the 20 notes, up to % of the principal amount of the 20 notes, up to % of the principal amount of the 20 notes and up to % of the principal amount of the 20 notes. After the initial offering of the notes, the underwriters may change the offering prices.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriters are offering the notes, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel, including the validity of the notes, and other conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriters of an officers certificate and legal opinions. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated to be approximately \$ and are payable by us.

New Issue of Notes

The notes are new issues of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange or for inclusion of the notes in any automated dealer quotation system. We have been advised by the underwriters that they presently intend to make markets in the notes after

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completion of the offering. However, they are under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without any notice. We cannot assure the liquidity of the trading markets for the notes or that active public markets for the notes will develop. If active public trading markets for the notes do not develop, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected.

Price Stabilization and Short Positions

In connection with this offering, the underwriters are permitted to engage in transactions that stabilize the market prices of the notes. Such transactions consist of bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain the prices of the notes. If an underwriter creates a short position in the notes in connection with this offering, i.e., if it sells more notes than are on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, the underwriter may reduce that short position by purchasing notes in the open market. Purchases of a security to stabilize the price or to reduce a short position could cause the price of the security to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases.

Neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the prices of the notes. In addition, neither we nor the underwriters make any representation that the underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives referred to above have repurchased notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

Other Relationships

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

The underwriters and their affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, financial advisory, commercial and investment banking services, hedging services and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us, including as trustees under our senior indenture, dealers in our commercial paper program, brokers in our share purchase program, lenders under our revolving credit facility and advisors in connection with strategic transactions. They have received and may in the future receive customary fees and commissions for these transactions. Certain of the underwriters or certain of their affiliates also have agreed to provide us with interim financing to fund a portion of the Amil Acquisition in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3.0 billion. The amount of interim financing available will be reduced and any amount drawn is subject to prepayment in certain circumstances, including for each dollar of net proceeds received by us from this offering of notes in excess of (x) \$1.0 billion or (y) in the event that up to \$700 million of net proceeds of this offering are applied to the refinancing of Amil's indebtedness, up to \$1.7 billion.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. If any of the underwriters or their affiliates have a lending relationship with us, certain of those underwriters or their affiliates routinely hedge, and certain other of those underwriters may hedge, their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, these underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the notes offered hereby. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes offered hereby. The

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underwriters and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Offering Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area (each, a *Relevant Member State*), each underwriter has advised us that it has not made and will not make an offer of the notes to the public in that Relevant Member State that would require the publication or approval of a prospectus in relation to the notes in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, another Relevant Member State; subject to such restriction, underwriters may make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

- (1) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive; or
- (2) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representative for any such offer; or

(3) in any other circumstances that do not require the publication by us of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive. For the purposes of this provision, the expression an *offer of notes to the public* in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State. For purposes of this provision, the expression *Prospectus Directive* means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto including that Directive as amended by the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State in question), and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State; and the expression *2010 PD Amending Directive* means Directive 2010/73/EU.

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has advised us that:

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

Hong Kong

The notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a *prospectus* within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or

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the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Japan

The notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law) and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any of the notes, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Singapore

This prospectus supplement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the notes will be passed upon by Kuai H. Leong, our Senior Deputy General Counsel and, to the extent that such legal matters are governed by New York law, by Hogan Lovells US LLP. Certain legal matters in connection with the notes will be passed upon for the underwriters by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. Ms. Leong is a full-time employee of ours and owns shares of our common stock and participates in various employee stock-based benefit plans.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, and the related consolidated financial statement schedule, incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and the financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

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PROSPECTUS

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP INCORPORATED

UnitedHealth Group Center

9900 Bren Road East

Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343

(952) 936-1300

UnitedHealth Group Incorporated
Debt Securities

UnitedHealth Group Incorporated from time to time may offer to sell securities. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

We may sell the securities through underwriters or dealers, directly to one or more purchasers, or through agents on a continuous or delayed basis. The prospectus supplement will include the names of underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, retained. The prospectus supplement also will include the purchase price of the securities, our proceeds from the sale, any underwriting discounts or commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation.

You should carefully read and consider the risk factors included in our periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission before you invest in our securities.

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

This prospectus is dated February 14, 2011

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You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

In this prospectus, unless otherwise specified, the terms **UnitedHealth Group**, **the Company**, **we**, **us** or **our** mean UnitedHealth Group Incorporated and its consolidated subsidiaries. Unless otherwise stated, currency amounts in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement are stated in United States dollars, or **\$**.

The registration statement that contains this prospectus (including the exhibits filed with and incorporated by reference to the registration statement) contains additional information about UnitedHealth Group and the securities offered under this prospectus. That registration statement can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC office mentioned under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at (800) SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>, and at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE. For further information on obtaining copies of our public filings at the NYSE, you should call (212) 656-5060.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. We are incorporating by reference certain information filed previously with the SEC into this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below, and any filings we hereafter make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act (excluding any documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules), so long as the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part remains effective:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010; and

Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 24, 2011.

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You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

UnitedHealth Group Incorporated

UnitedHealth Group Center

9900 Bren Road East

Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343

Attn: Legal Department

(952) 936-1300

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The statements, estimates, projections, guidance or outlook contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement include forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, or PSLRA. These statements are intended to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the PSLRA. Generally the words believe, expect, intend, estimate, anticipate, plan, project, should and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements, which generally are not his in nature. These statements may contain information about financial prospects, economic conditions, trends and uncertainties and involve risks and uncertainties. We caution that actual results could differ materially from those that management expects, depending on the outcome of certain factors.

The risk factors included in our periodic reports and other information that we file with the SEC contain certain cautionary statements regarding our business that potential investors and others should consider. These statements discuss matters which may in part be contained elsewhere in, or incorporated by reference in, this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or which may have been contained in other documents prepared by us under federal or state securities laws. Any or all forward-looking statements in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement, and in any other public filings or statements we make may turn out to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions we might make or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. By their nature, forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance or results and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict or quantify. Actual future results may vary materially from expectations expressed, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or any of our prior communications. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. We do not undertake to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

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UNITEDHEALTH GROUP

We are a diversified health and well-being company, whose focus is on improving the overall health and well-being of the people we serve and their communities and enhancing the performance of the health system. We work with health care professionals and other key partners to expand access to high quality health care. We help people get the care they need at an affordable cost; support the physician/patient relationship; and empower people with the information, guidance and tools they need to make personal health choices and decisions.

Through our diversified family of businesses, we leverage core competencies in advanced technology-based transactional capabilities; health care data, knowledge and information; and health care resource organization and care facilitation to help make health care work better. These core competencies are focused in two market areas, health benefits and health services. Health benefits are offered in the individual and employer markets and the public and senior markets through our UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual (formerly UnitedHealthcare), UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement (formerly Ovations) and UnitedHealthcare Community & State (formerly AmeriChoice) businesses. Health services are provided to the participants in the health system itself, ranging from consumers, employers and health plans to physicians and life sciences companies through our OptumHealth, Ingenix and Prescription Solutions businesses. In aggregate, these businesses have more than two dozen distinct business units that address specific end markets. Each of these business units focuses on the key goals in health and well-being: access, affordability, quality and simplicity as they apply to their specific market.

Our revenues are derived from premiums on risk-based products; fees from management, administrative, technology and consulting services; sales of a wide variety of products and services related to the broad health and well-being industry; and investment and other income. We have four reporting segments:

Health Benefits, which includes UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual, UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement and UnitedHealthcare Community & State;

OptumHealth;

Ingenix; and

Prescription Solutions.

UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual offers a comprehensive array of consumer-oriented health benefit plans and services for large national employers, public sector employers, mid-sized employers, small businesses and individuals nationwide. UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement provides health and well-being services for individuals age 50 and older, addressing their unique needs for preventive and acute health care services as well as for services dealing with chronic disease and other specialized issues for older individuals. UnitedHealthcare Community & State provides solutions to states that care for the economically disadvantaged, the medically underserved, and those without benefit of employer-funded health care coverage.

OptumHealth provides a diversified offering of health, financial and ancillary benefit services, and products that assist consumers in navigating the health care system, accessing health services based on their needs, supporting their emotional health and well-being, providing ancillary insurance benefits and helping people finance their health care needs through account-based programs. OptumHealth seeks to simplify the consumer health care experience and facilitate the efficient and effective delivery of care. Its capabilities can be deployed individually or integrated to provide a comprehensive solution oriented around a broad base of consumer needs within the health care system.

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Ingenix offers database and data management services, software products, publications, consulting and actuarial services, business process outsourcing services and pharmaceutical data consulting and research services in conjunction with the development of pharmaceutical products on a nationwide and international basis.

Prescription Solutions provides a comprehensive suite of integrated pharmacy benefit management (PBM) services through its network of retail pharmacies and mail service facilities. Prescription Solutions provides PBM services to customers in our Health Benefits segment, as well as external employer groups, union trusts, managed care organizations, Medicare-contracted plans, Medicaid plans and third-party administrators, including mail service only, rebate services only and pharmacy carve-out accounts.

Corporate Information

UnitedHealth Group Incorporated was incorporated in January 1977 in Minnesota, and our executive offices are located at UnitedHealth Group Center, 9900 Bren Road East, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343. Our telephone number is (952) 936-1300, and our website is located at www.unitedhealthgroup.com. The information on our website is not part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities described in this prospectus will be added to our general funds and may be used:

to meet our working capital requirements;

to redeem or repurchase outstanding securities;

to refinance debt;

to finance acquisitions; or

for other general corporate purposes.

If we do not use the net proceeds immediately, we will temporarily invest them in short-term, interest-bearing obligations.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is set forth below. The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing total earnings available for fixed charges by the fixed charges. For purposes of computing this ratio, total earnings available for fixed charges consists of earnings before income taxes plus fixed charges and fixed charges consist of interest expense plus the interest factor in rental expense.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	14.0x	10.9x	8.3x	13.5x	14.1x

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DESCRIPTION OF SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES

In this section, the terms we, our, us, and UnitedHealth Group refer solely to UnitedHealth Group Incorporated and not its subsidiaries.

General

We will issue the senior debt securities under the senior indenture dated as of February 4, 2008 between us and U.S. Bank National Association, as the senior trustee. The senior indenture has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The senior indenture has been incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement.

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the senior indenture and the senior debt securities that may be offered by this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the series of the senior debt securities offered under that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those senior debt securities. Because this is only a summary, it does not contain all of the details found in the full text of the senior indenture and the senior debt securities. If you would like additional information you should read the senior indenture. The following summary is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the senior indenture.

The senior debt securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. Senior debt securities issued under the senior indenture will be issued as part of a series that we will have established pursuant to the senior indenture. Any series of senior debt securities may have terms that are different from other series. The senior indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of senior debt securities which we may issue under the senior indenture.

We are not obligated to issue all of the senior debt securities of one or more series at the same time and, unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, we may issue additional senior debt securities of a series without the consent of the holders of the senior debt securities of that series. Additional senior debt securities of a particular series will have the same terms and conditions as outstanding senior debt securities of such series, except for the date of original issuance, the offering price, and in some cases, the first interest payment date, and will be consolidated with, and form a single series with, such outstanding senior debt securities.

The senior debt securities will be our senior, unsecured indebtedness and will rank equally with our other unsecured, unsubordinated indebtedness.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement indicates otherwise, the senior debt securities will be issued only in registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 each or multiples of \$1,000.

Senior debt securities may be issued in the form of one or more global securities, as described below under Global Senior Debt Securities.

There will be no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of the senior debt securities, but we may require you to pay any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with a transfer or exchange of the senior debt securities.

Senior debt securities may be issued as original issue discount securities to be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. If a senior debt security is an original issue discount security, that means that an amount less than the principal amount of the senior debt security will be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity of the senior debt security pursuant to the senior indenture.

We will designate a place of payment where you can receive payment of the principal of and any premium and interest on the senior debt securities or transfer the senior debt securities. Unless the applicable prospectus

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supplement states otherwise, we will pay interest on the senior debt securities to the person listed as the owner of the senior debt securities in the security register at the close of business on the regular record date for the applicable interest payment date. Defaulted interest, however, may be paid to holders as of special record dates established in the manner set forth in the senior indenture.

All moneys deposited with the senior trustee or a paying agent, or then held by us, in trust for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any senior debt securities which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after the principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be paid to us on our request, and you may thereafter, as an unsecured general creditor, look only to us for payment thereof.

A prospectus supplement relating to a series of senior debt securities being offered will describe specific terms relating to such series. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title and type of the senior debt securities;

any limit on the total principal amount of the senior debt securities;

the person to whom any interest on the senior debt securities will be payable, if other than the person in whose name they are registered on the regular record date for the interest;

the date or dates on which the principal of and premium, if any, on the senior debt securities will be payable;

the interest rate on the senior debt securities; the date from which interest will accrue; the record and interest payment dates on the senior debt securities; any circumstances under which we may defer interest payments; and the basis for calculating interest if other than a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;

the place or places where the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the senior debt securities will be payable and the senior debt securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange;

any applicable redemption provisions that would permit us to elect redemption of the senior debt securities prior to their final maturity;

whether a sinking fund will be established, which means that monies will be deposited on a regular basis in a separate custodial account that would be used by us to redeem the senior debt securities prior to their final maturity;

whether the senior debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock, and if so, the terms and conditions upon which the senior debt securities will be convertible or exchangeable;

the identity of each security registrar and paying agent, if other than or in addition to the senior trustee;

if the amount of principal of or any premium or interest on the senior debt securities may be determined by reference to an index or pursuant to a formula, the manner in which those amounts shall be determined;

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the denominations in which the senior debt securities will be issued;

any changes to or additional events of default under the senior indenture or covenants, and any change in the right of the senior trustee or the holders to declare the principal of or any premium or interest on the senior debt securities due and payable;

if less than the principal amount, the portion of the principal payable upon acceleration of the senior debt securities following an event of default;

whether the senior debt securities are to be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities;

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whether the provisions described under the heading "Defeasance Provisions" in this prospectus apply to the senior debt securities;

the name and address of the senior trustee with respect to the senior debt securities; and

any other terms of the senior debt securities.

Redemption

The prospectus supplement will describe the provisions, if any, for redemption of the senior debt securities at our option.

Unless otherwise described in the prospectus supplement, we are not required to make mandatory redemption or sinking fund payments. The prospectus supplement will describe the provisions, if any, regarding sinking fund provisions.

The senior indenture provides that we may:

deliver outstanding senior debt securities, with similar terms, of a series (other than any previously called for redemption); and

apply as a credit senior debt securities, with similar terms, of a series which have been redeemed either (i) at our election pursuant to the terms of those senior debt securities, or (ii) through the application of permitted optional sinking fund payments pursuant to the terms of those senior debt securities,

in each case, in satisfaction of all or any part of any required sinking fund payment with respect to the senior debt securities, with similar terms, of the same series.

The senior indenture provides that, if less than all of the senior debt securities with similar terms of any series are to be redeemed at any time, selection of the senior debt securities for redemption will be made by the senior trustee on:

a pro rata basis (and in a manner that complies with applicable legal and stock exchange requirements, if any); or

by any other method as the senior trustee shall deem fair and appropriate.

Portions of the senior debt securities selected for redemption shall be in amounts of \$1,000 or in multiples of \$1,000, except that if all of the senior debt securities of a holder are to be redeemed, the entire outstanding amount shall be redeemed.

Notices of redemption shall be mailed by first class mail at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of senior debt securities to be redeemed at its registered address. If any senior debt security is to be redeemed in part only, the notice of redemption that relates to the senior debt security shall state the portion of the principal amount of the senior debt security to be redeemed. A new senior debt security, with similar terms and of the same series, in principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the original senior debt security, if any, will be issued in the name of the holder of the original senior debt security upon cancellation of the original senior debt security.

On and after the redemption date, interest will no longer accrue on the senior debt securities or any part of the senior debt securities called for redemption unless we default in the payment of the redemption price and accrued interest.

Conversion and Exchange

Unless otherwise described in the prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities are not convertible or exchangeable for common stock of UnitedHealth Group.

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Certain Covenants

Merger, Consolidation, or Sale of Assets. The senior indenture provides that we may not merge with another company or sell or lease all or substantially all of our property to another company unless:

we are the continuing corporation, or the successor corporation is a domestic corporation and expressly assumes the payment of principal and interest on the senior debt securities and the performance and observance of all the covenants and conditions of the senior indenture binding on us; and

immediately after such transaction, we, or the successor corporation, are/is not in default in the performance of a covenant or condition in the senior indenture.

Reports. The senior indenture provides that as long as any senior debt securities are outstanding, we will file with the senior trustee, within 15 days after we file the same with the SEC, copies of the annual reports and of the information, documents, and other reports which we may be required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. The filing of such reports, information and documents with the SEC will constitute filing of such reports, information and documents with the senior trustee; provided, however that we will provide a physical or electronic copy thereof to the senior trustee promptly following a request therefor from the senior trustee.

Absence of Certain Covenants. The prospectus supplement will specify any additional restrictive covenants applicable to the senior debt securities. Except as may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, we are not restricted by the senior indenture from, among other things, incurring, assuming or becoming liable for any type of debt or other obligations, from paying dividends or making distributions on our capital stock or purchasing or redeeming our capital stock or making investments. The senior indenture does not require the maintenance of any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity. In addition, the senior indenture does not contain any covenants or other provisions that would limit our right to incur additional indebtedness, enter into any sale-leaseback transaction or grant liens on our assets. The senior indenture does not contain provisions permitting the holders of senior debt securities to require us to repurchase, redeem, or otherwise modify the terms of any of the senior debt securities in the event of a change of control, takeover, recapitalization or similar restructuring, highly leveraged transaction, or downgrading of our debt ratings.

Events of Default; Remedies

The senior indenture provides that each of the following constitutes an event of default:

failure to pay interest on any senior debt security of that series for 30 days after the payment is due;

failure to pay the principal of or premium, if any, on any senior debt security of that series when due;

failure to deposit any mandatory sinking fund payment when due on senior debt securities of that series;

failure to comply with the provisions described above under the heading **Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation, or Sale of Assets;**

failure by us to comply with any of our other agreements in the senior indenture or the senior debt securities for 60 days after notice from the senior trustee or holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of that series;

certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to UnitedHealth Group; and

any other event of default that may be specified for the senior debt securities of that series when that series is created. If an event of default under the senior indenture occurs on outstanding senior debt securities of a particular series and continues, the senior trustee or holders of at least 25% of that series of senior debt securities may declare the principal amount of all senior debt securities in that series to be due and payable immediately. Under certain circumstances, holders of a majority of the senior debt securities in a series may rescind a declaration.

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Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of an event of default arising from certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to UnitedHealth Group, all principal, premium, if any, and interest on outstanding senior debt securities will become due and payable without further action or notice.

Except in the case of a default in payment, the senior trustee may withhold notice if it determines that withholding notice is in the best interest of the holders of the senior debt securities.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of any series may waive the rights of all holders with respect to circumstances that constitute an event of default or will constitute an event of default with notice and the passage of time. The holders must waive the rights in a written notice to both us and the senior trustee. Holders of a majority of the securities cannot, however, waive the rights of all holders relating to these events if they involve a default in payment obligations or a provision of the senior indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of each holder of securities of such series affected. Any waivers that are given will not apply to any subsequent default and will not impair any future rights if those types of defaults occur.

Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of any series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to, or exercising any trust or power conferred on, the senior trustee with respect to the series. However, the senior trustee may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the senior indenture. The senior trustee may take any other action which it deems proper which is not inconsistent with any direction given.

A holder of any senior debt security of any series will have the right to institute any proceeding with respect to the senior indenture or for any remedy only if:

the holder gives written notice to the senior trustee of a continuing event of default under the senior indenture with respect to that series;

the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of the series make a written request to the senior trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such event of default;

the holder or holders offer and, if requested, provide the senior trustee reasonable indemnity against any costs, expenses, and liabilities;

the senior trustee, for 60 days after its receipt of notice by the holder, has failed to institute any such proceeding; and

the senior trustee has not received directions inconsistent with the request from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of the series during the 60-day period.

The senior indenture also provides that a holder may not use the senior indenture to prejudice the rights of another holder or to obtain a preference or priority over another holder.

We are required to deliver to the senior trustee an annual certificate, signed by an officer, stating that, to such officer's knowledge, we are not in default in the performance or observance of the senior indenture, or, if a default or event of default has occurred, containing a description of any default or event of default.

Certain Provisions Applicable to Senior Trustee

The senior indenture provides that prior to an event of default under the senior indenture, the senior trustee is required to perform only the specific duties stated in the senior indenture. Upon an event of default under the senior indenture, the senior trustee must exercise the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise

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in the conduct of his or her own affairs. The senior trustee may in good faith conclusively rely, as to the truth of the statements and the correctness of the opinions expressed in any certificates or opinions furnished to the senior trustee which conforms to the requirements of the senior indenture, upon the certificates and opinions. However, the senior trustee is required to examine the certificates and opinions to determine whether or not they conform to the requirements of the senior indenture.

The senior indenture provides that the senior trustee may resign at any time or may be removed by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of a series or by us under certain circumstances by notice delivered to the senior trustee and us. The senior indenture also provides that the senior trustee must resign if it ceases to meet certain qualifications set forth in the senior indenture. In the event of a senior trustee's resignation or removal, we or, if we fail to act, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of the applicable series, may appoint a successor senior trustee.

Defeasance Provisions

The senior indenture includes provisions allowing defeasance of the senior debt securities. Defeasance means that we may discharge our entire indebtedness under an agreement, in this case the senior indenture, if specific acts are performed. Specifically, the senior indenture provides that:

We shall be deemed to have paid and discharged the entire indebtedness represented by the outstanding senior debt securities of a series, and to have satisfied all of our other obligations under the senior debt securities of that series and the senior indenture as it relates to that series, also known as legal defeasance; and