

**Exhibit 5-A Item 1 of Aetna's 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K.**

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
**FORM 10-K**

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

or

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 1-16095

**Aetna Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class  
Common Shares, \$.01 par value

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

23-2229683  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

06156  
(Zip Code)

(860) 273-0123

Name of each exchange on which registered  
New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act:

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act)

Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the outstanding common equity of the registrant held by non-affiliates as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter (June 30, 2014) was \$27.9 billion.

There were 348.7 million shares of the registrant's voting common stock with a par value of \$.01 per share outstanding at January 31, 2015.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

The 2014 Annual Report, Financial Report to Shareholders (the "Annual Report") is incorporated by reference in Parts I, II and IV to the extent described therein. The definitive proxy statement related to Aetna Inc.'s 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, to be filed on or about April 3, 2015 (the "Proxy Statement"), is incorporated by reference in Parts III and IV to the extent described therein.

## Part I

### Item 1. Business

We are one of the nation's leading diversified health care benefits companies, serving an estimated 46 million people with information and resources to help them in consultation with their health care professionals make better informed decisions about their health care. We offer a broad range of traditional, voluntary and consumer-directed health insurance products and related services, including medical, pharmacy, dental, behavioral health, group life and disability plans, medical management capabilities, Medicaid health care management services, Medicare Advantage and Medicare supplement plans, workers' compensation administrative services and health information technology products and services, such as Accountable Care Solutions ("ACS"). On May 7, 2013 (the "Acquisition Date"), we acquired Coventry Health Care, Inc. ("Coventry"). Our customers include employer groups, individuals, college students, part-time and hourly workers, health plans, health care providers ("providers"), governmental units, government-sponsored plans, labor groups and expatriates.

We are working to build healthier communities, a healthier nation and a healthier world. Our operational, financial and strategically important accomplishments during 2014 included:

- Increasing both operating revenue and operating earnings for full-year 2014 when compared with the corresponding period in 2013 despite the challenges facing our company and industry during 2014. In addition, during 2014 we had continued success in accelerating Coventry-related synergies.
- Strong performance in our Government businesses despite the significant challenges we faced in 2014, including meaningful rate pressures in the Medicare Advantage business. In addition, we expanded our presence in Government programs through growth in Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement, Medicaid as well as through programs for members who are dually-eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid ("Duals").
- Effectively pricing or solving for nearly \$1 billion in fees, taxes and assessments imposed by Health Care Reform in 2014. We paid both our approximately \$605 million portion of the ACA's non tax-deductible health insurer fee and an approximately \$298 million portion of our estimated 2014 ACA reinsurance contribution in 2014.
- Making progress in growing our next generation network strategy, including our ACS products, patient centered medical homes and other value-based network arrangements. We continue to execute on our strategy of transforming the provider network model and in turn making quality health care more accessible and affordable, which is important in an environment where consumers are focused on receiving quality care at a low cost. Using our combination of population health management technologies and medical management capabilities, our goal is to continue to be a leader in enabling health care providers to change their business models from episodic acute care to patient population management, which allows them to convert from volume-based reimbursement to value-based reimbursement and lowers medical costs for us and our customers, making our products more affordable. In 2014, we signed 24 new accountable care organization ("ACO") collaborative agreements, and we served 900 thousand ACO members at December 31, 2014.
- Participating on public health insurance exchanges ("Public Exchanges") in 17 states during 2014. For 2015, we intend to take a similar approach as we did in 2014, and continue to focus on geographies where we believe we can drive highly competitive cost structures and provide the best value to our customers. In addition, we also participated in a number of private health insurance exchanges ("Private Exchanges") in 2014 and intend to continue to do so in 2015. We continue to believe that Private Exchanges are an efficient way for plan sponsors to shift towards a defined contribution model for employee health benefits.
- Making progress in developing a portfolio of products and tools that will transform the health benefits industry to a retail model that is consumer-centric, affordable and convenient. In support of this transformation, in November 2014 we acquired bSwift LLC ("bSwift"), a company that provides a technology platform that offers a retail shopping experience for health insurance exchanges and employees nationwide as well as benefit administration technology and services to employers.
- Effectively deploying excess capital to deliver value for shareholders, as we repurchased approximately 16 million shares and raised our quarterly shareholder dividend by approximately 11 percent to \$.25 per common share.

We believe that these accomplishments strategically position us for future success with the goal of participating in the shaping of more effective health care systems.

**The health care industry continues to experience significant change.** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (collectively, "Health Care Reform") has changed and will continue to make broad-based changes to the U.S. health care system which could significantly affect the U.S. economy and we expect will continue to significantly impact our business operations and financial results, including our pricing, our medical benefit ratios and the geographies in which our products are available. Health Care Reform presents us with new business opportunities, but also with new financial and regulatory challenges. Although key aspects of the legislation were implemented in 2014, including Public Exchanges, certain components of the legislation will continue to be phased in through 2018. It is reasonably possible that Health Care Reform, in the aggregate, could have a material adverse effect on our business operations and financial results. For additional information on federal and state health care reform, refer to "Overview" and "Regulatory Environment" and for a discussion of certain factors that may cause our actual results to differ from currently anticipated results in connection with health care reform, see "Forward-Looking Information/Risk Factors," each sections of the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (the "MD&A"), beginning on pages 2, 26 and 42 of the Annual Report, respectively, which are incorporated herein by reference.

In addition, employers, consumers and the federal and state governments continue to increase their focus on health care costs, and federal and state governments continue to increase their focus on providing health insurance to the uninsured; and they continue to drive changes in the structure of health insurance and related benefits products and services. Product features continue to evolve that are directed at containing rising health care costs, addressing affordability problems, enhancing access to quality health care services and giving members greater control and responsibility in directing their benefit dollars. For employer-based health coverage, employers are continuing to require covered employee members to assume a greater portion of the cost of their health care and/or coverage. These economic and political factors and greater consumer awareness are leading to increased popularity of products that offer flexibility in design features such as deductibles and co-payments, health savings accounts, consumer access to a broader network of health care providers, quality-based physician networks and high value network solutions. The industry is also subject to other forces including adverse and uncertain economic conditions in the U.S. and abroad, federal and state legislative and regulatory reforms, the shift towards a consumer-focused retail marketplace, advances in pharmaceutical and medical technology and industry consolidation. All of these factors can affect the competitiveness of product and service offerings, the range of industry competitors and the bases of competition. We believe that these factors will exist for some time and will drive a continuing evolution in the health care and related benefits industry.

**We continue to invest in our company through the development of new products, strategic acquisitions and new business alliances.** We place significant emphasis on developing and maintaining our product and service offerings to serve existing and new customer markets and have done so through organic growth and acquisitions, as well as new business alliances, such as our ACO arrangements.

Over the last five years, this focus has led to the introduction of new products and tools, such as our Healthagen® portfolio of products, including our ACS, ActiveHealth and Medicity Inc. ("Medicity") health information technology ("HIT") solutions, which further enhance our strategy of transforming the provider network model and in turn making health care more accessible and affordable; our consumer products and tools such as bSwift and iTriage, which provide consumers with important tools which help to make healthcare more convenient, help them make informed benefit plan choices, connect them to providers, and help them navigate the evolving health care system; and Aetna Vision Preferred<sup>SM</sup>, which provides members with access to one of the largest vision networks in the U.S. We also continue to develop and enhance our existing products and are continuing to expand our initiative to improve the transparency of our products and pricing.

## **Acquisitions**

In April 2014, we acquired the InterGlobal Group ("InterGlobal"), a company that specializes in international private medical insurance for groups and individuals in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe. The purchase price was not material.

In November 2014, we acquired bSwift for approximately \$400 million. bSwift provides a technology platform that offers a retail shopping experience for health insurance exchanges and employees nationwide and provides benefit administration technology and services to employers.

**Our operations are conducted in three business segments: Health Care, Group Insurance and Large Case Pensions.** We derive our revenues primarily from insurance premiums, administrative service fees, net investment income and other revenue. Refer to the MD&A and Note 19 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on pages 2 and 132, respectively, of the Annual Report, which are incorporated herein by reference, regarding revenue, profit and total asset information for each of our business segments and revenue and asset information about geographic areas. Coventry's business and related financial results are recorded within our Health Care segment on and after the Acquisition Date for the year ended December 31, 2013 and for the entire year ended December 31, 2014. The following is a description of each of our business segments.

## **Health Care**

### **Products and Services**

Health Care products consist of medical, pharmacy benefit management services, dental, behavioral health and vision plans offered on both an insured basis and an employer-funded, or administrative, basis and emerging businesses products and services, such as ACS, that complement and enhance our medical products. Medical products include point-of-service ("POS"), preferred provider organization ("PPO"), health maintenance organization ("HMO") and indemnity benefit ("Indemnity") plans. Medical products also include health savings accounts ("HSAs") and Aetna HealthFund<sup>®</sup>, consumer-directed health plans that combine traditional POS or PPO and/or dental coverage, subject to a deductible, with an accumulating benefit account (which may be funded by the plan sponsor and/or the member in the case of HSAs). We also offer Medicare and Medicaid products and services and other medical products, such as medical management and data analytics services, medical stop loss insurance, workers' compensation administrative services and products that provide access to our provider networks in select geographies. We refer to insurance products (where we assume all or a majority of the risk for medical and dental care costs) as "Insured" and administrative services contract products (where the plan sponsor assumes all or a majority of the risk for medical and dental care costs) as "ASC."

Our principal products and services are targeted specifically to large multi-site national, mid-sized and small employers. We also serve individual insureds, expatriates and, in certain markets, Medicare, Medicaid and Duals beneficiaries and providers. Medicare, Medicaid and Duals products and services (collectively referred to as "Government") are categorized separately from the Health Care products and services we sell to employers, other groups, individuals and providers, which we refer to as Commercial.

Our primary Commercial health care products are POS, PPO, HMO, HSA and Indemnity plans.

In addition to these primary Commercial health care products, in select geographies we also offer Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Supplement plans and prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries and participate in Medicaid and subsidized Children's Health Insurance Programs ("CHIP"). CHIP are state-subsidized insurance programs that provide benefits for families with uninsured children. We also participate in Duals demonstration projects in certain states which began operating in 2014. We are seeking to substantially grow our Medicare, Medicaid and Duals businesses over the next several years. Our Government products include:

#### Medicare

Through annual contracts with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ("CMS"), we offer HMO and PPO products for eligible individuals in certain geographic areas through the Medicare Advantage program. Members typically receive enhanced benefits over standard Medicare fee-for-service coverage, including reduced cost-sharing for preventive care, vision and other services. We offered network-based HMO and/or PPO plans in 929 counties in 40 states and Washington, D.C. in 2014. In addition, we are expanding to 999 counties in 41 states and Washington, D.C. in 2015.

We are a national provider of the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program ("PDP") in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. to both individuals and employer groups. All Medicare eligible individuals are eligible to participate in this voluntary prescription drug plan. Members typically receive coverage for certain prescription drugs, usually subject to a deductible, co-insurance and/or co-payment.

For certain qualifying employer groups, we offer our Medicare PPO products nationally. When combined with our PDP product, these national PPO plans form an integrated national fully-insured Medicare product for employers that provides medical and pharmacy benefits.

#### Medicare Supplement

For certain Medicare eligible members, we offer supplemental coverage for certain health care costs not covered by Medicare. The products included in our Medicare Supplement portfolio help to cover some of the gaps in Medicare, and include coverage for Medicare deductibles and coinsurance amounts. We offered a wide selection of Medicare Supplement products in 48 states and Washington, D.C. in 2014

#### Medicaid and CHIP

We offer health care management services to individuals eligible for Medicaid and CHIP under multi-year contracts which are subject to annual appropriations. We offered these services on an Insured or ASC basis in 15 states in 2014. During 2014, we were selected to offer these services in Louisiana, beginning in February 2015.

#### Duals

We provide health coverage to beneficiaries who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid coverage. These members must meet certain income and resource requirements in order to qualify for this coverage. We coordinate 100% of the care for these members and may provide them with additional services in order to manage their health care costs. During 2014, we offered services on an Insured basis to members who were dually eligible in two states under demonstration projects. During 2015, we expect to offer these services in two additional states under demonstration projects, bringing the total to four states.

In addition to the products described above, we also offer other products and services, including:

Healthagen®

Healthagen is a portfolio of growing businesses that tackles the fundamental needs of greater value, coordination and transparency in health care. The Healthagen portfolio includes a variety of HIT products and services, including our ACS, ActiveHealth and Medicity HIT solutions. These products and services are marketed under the Healthagen brand name, and complement our Commercial, Medicare and Medicaid products.

Accountable Care Solutions

Our ACS products focus on growing membership in our medical products through provider collaborations that are designed to lower medical costs for us and our customers and make our products more affordable. Our ACS products offer a suite of solutions designed to facilitate delivery system reform and help reduce the cost of care by enabling population health management for providers. Our ACS products facilitate providers changing their business model from episodic acute care to patient population management which allows them to convert from volume-based reimbursement to value-based reimbursement. Our ACS products deploy Aetna's Medicity, Active Health and other capabilities to collaborate with providers in new ways to improve the quality and efficiency of care for all patients, whether they are Aetna members or members of other payors. In 2014, we continued expanding our offering of products and services to employers and individuals in more geographic areas including individuals eligible for Medicare Advantage and Public Exchange programs. Our ACS products create mutually beneficial relationships with providers through a variety of methods, including alignment of financial incentives based on cost and quality, implementation of innovative HIT and deploying leading care management programs. In 2014, we signed 24 new ACO collaborative agreements and had collaborations under contract with Carilion Clinic, Banner Health Network, Inova Health System, Memorial Hermann, among others.

ActiveHealth Management

Through the use of our patented CareEngine® system, our ActiveHealth Management products provide evidence-based medical management and data analytics products and services to a broad range of customers, including health plans, employers and others. ActiveHealth Management also is a key component of our ACS solutions.

Medicity

Medicity is a health information exchange company and a key component of our ACS and provider enablement solutions. Medicity offers a set of convenient, easy-to-access technology solutions for physicians, hospitals and other health care providers. These capabilities allow us to further the adoption of electronic health records and contribute to initiatives that foster administrative simplicity in health care, a key issue for consumers, patients and providers. Medicity provides customers clinical data integration and secure data exchange capabilities.

Consumer

We believe the role of the consumer in health care is changing and that consumers will be the primary decision makers when it comes to choosing their health-related benefits. As a result, we are developing a portfolio of products and tools that are designed for a retail model in the health benefits industry that is consumer-centric, affordable and convenient. Our Consumer business is focusing on developing a simplified, integrated offering to help consumers navigate the health care system and manage their health care costs.

bSwift

In November 2014, we acquired bSwift, a company that provides a technology platform that offers a retail shopping experience for health insurance exchanges and employers nationwide and benefit administration technology and services to employers.

### iTriage

The iTriage application gives smart phone and computer users access to a symptom navigator which assists users in finding nearby health facilities or physicians that could help with their specific health issue. iTriage assists users in finding health care that is right for them.

### Behavioral Health

Our behavioral health and employee assistance products provide members who experience stress, depression and other types of mental health related illness with integrated behavioral health benefit administration, access to a network of providers and innovative wellness programs. We can provide customized behavioral health solutions to members in all 50 states.

### Pharmacy

We offer pharmacy benefit management services and specialty and mail order pharmacy services to our members. Our pharmacy fulfillment services are delivered by Aetna Specialty Pharmacy ("ASP") and Aetna Rx Home Delivery®. ASP dispenses specialty medications and offers certain support services associated with specialty medications. Specialty medications include injectable or infused medications that may not be readily available at local pharmacies. Aetna Rx Home Delivery® provides mail order prescription drug services. CVS Health Corporation performs the administration of selected functions for our retail pharmacy network contracting and claims administration; mail order and specialty pharmacy order fulfillment and inventory purchasing and management; and certain administrative services for us. In addition, as a result of the Coventry acquisition, another supplier also provides certain pharmacy benefit management services to us and our customers.

### Dental

We offer managed dental plans on an Insured and ASC basis. We are one of the nation's largest providers of dental coverage, based on membership at December 31, 2014.

### Provider Network Access ("First Health and Cofinity")

Through our First Health and Cofinity products, we provide access to regional health care provider networks to other insurance companies, third-party administrators, health plans and employers. First Health and Cofinity products are marketed nationally.

### Stop Loss

We offer medical stop loss insurance coverage for certain employers who elect to self insure their health benefits. Under this product, we assume the costs associated with large individual claims and/or aggregate loss experience within an employer's plan above a pre-set annual threshold.

### Aetna Vision<sup>SM</sup> Preferred

We offer vision benefits that provide members with access to one of the largest vision networks in the U.S. The Aetna Vision Preferred program can be customized with a wide range of benefit levels and co-payments.

### Workers' Compensation Administrative Services

Our workers' compensation administrative services products and services consist of fee-based, managed care services, such as provider network access, cost containment services, pharmacy benefit management, durable medical equipment and ancillary services, and care management services to underwriters and administrators of workers' compensation insurance.

### Other Commercial Products and Services

We offer a variety of other health care coverage products either as supplements to health products or as stand-alone products, such as indemnity programs, which may be offered on an Insured or an ASC basis. We also offer, directly or in cooperation with third parties, our Aetna Health Connections<sup>SM</sup> disease management program which addresses over 35 chronic conditions, including heart failure, asthma and cancer.

We also offer comprehensive health care benefits and health management solutions worldwide through several different arrangements and offerings that include medical, dental, vision, life, disability and emergency assistance to expatriates, foreign nationals and other constituents. Our health management business collaborates with health care systems, government entities and plan sponsors around the world to design and build health management solutions to improve health, quality and cost outcomes. In addition, in April 2014 we completed the acquisition of Interglobal, which expanded our footprint in certain fast growing geographies, increased our medical membership and enhanced our international penetration with individuals and small and mid-sized business customers.

### Provider Networks

We contract with physicians, hospitals and other providers for services to our customers. The health care providers who participate in our networks are independent contractors and are neither our employees nor our agents, except for providers who work in our mail-order and specialty pharmacy facilities.

We use a variety of techniques designed to help encourage appropriate utilization of medical services ("utilization") and maintain affordability of quality coverage. In addition to contracts with health care providers for negotiated rates of reimbursement, these techniques include creating risk sharing arrangements that align economic incentives with our providers, the development and implementation of guidelines for the appropriate utilization of medical services and the provision of data to providers to enable them to improve health care quality.

At December 31, 2014, Aetna's underlying nationwide provider network had over 1.0 million participating health care providers, including over 583,000 primary care and specialist physicians and approximately 5,550 hospitals. These figures do not reflect providers who participate in Coventry's networks but not Aetna's.

### Accountable Care Solutions

We collaborate with hospitals and other providers through our ACS products. ACS arrangements focus on high value narrow network solutions to provide high-quality, low-cost options in local geographies. We are able to help enhance our relationships with hospitals and other providers through a variety of methods, including a re-alignment of financial incentives for providing high quality care, total cost management initiatives and risk sharing arrangements.

### Primary Care Physicians

We compensate primary care physicians ("PCPs") participating in our networks on both a fee-for-service and capitated basis, with capitation generally limited to HMO products in certain geographic areas and representing approximately five percent of health care costs in each of the last three years. In a fee-for-service arrangement, physicians are paid for health care services provided to the member based upon a set fee for the services provided. Under a capitation arrangement, physicians receive a monthly fixed fee for each member, regardless of the volume of health care services provided to the member. In some cases, PCPs who are paid on a fee-for-service or capitated basis also receive additional incentive fees if certain performance metrics are attained.

### Specialist Physicians

Specialist physicians participating in our networks are generally reimbursed at contracted rates per visit or per procedure.

### Hospitals

We typically enter into contracts with hospitals that provide for per-day and/or per-case rates, often with fixed rates for ambulatory, surgery and emergency room services. We also have hospital contracts that provide for reimbursement based on a percentage of the charges billed by the hospital.

Our medical plans generally require notification of elective hospital admissions, and we monitor the length of hospital stays. Physicians who participate in our networks generally admit their patients in network-based products to participating hospitals using referral procedures that direct the hospital to contact our patient management unit in order to confirm the patient's membership status and facilitate the patient management process. This unit also assists members and providers with related activities, including, if necessary, the subsequent transition to the home environment and home care. Case management assistance for complex cases is provided by a special unit.

### Other Providers

Laboratory, imaging, urgent care and other freestanding health facility providers are generally paid under fee-for-service arrangements, except for certain laboratory services.

### Quality Assessment

CMS uses a 5-star rating system to monitor plans and ensure that they meet CMS's quality standards. CMS uses this rating system to provide Medicare beneficiaries with a tool that they can use to compare the overall quality of care and level of customer service of companies that provide Medicare health care and drug plans. The rating system considers a variety of measures adopted by CMS, including quality of preventative services, chronic illness management and overall customer satisfaction.

We seek Health Plan accreditation for our Aetna HMO plans from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (the "NCQA"), a national organization established to review the quality and medical management systems of health care plans. Health care plans seeking accreditation must pass a rigorous, comprehensive review and must annually report on their performance.

Aetna Life Insurance Company ("ALIC"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aetna, has received nationwide NCQA PPO Health Plan accreditation, through January 24, 2017. At December 31, 2014, all of our Aetna Commercial HMO and PPO members who were eligible, participated in HMOs or PPOs that are accredited by the NCQA.

NCQA and URAC (formally known as American Accreditation HealthCare Commission, Inc.), are national organizations founded to establish standards for the health care industry. Purchasers and consumers look to URAC's and NCQA's accreditation and certification as an indication that a health care organization has the necessary structures and processes to promote high-quality care and preserve patient rights. In addition, regulators in over 80% of the states recognize NCQA's accreditation and certification standards.

Our provider selection and credentialing/recredentialing policies and procedures are consistent with NCQA and URAC, as well as state and federal, requirements. In addition, we are certified under the NCQA Credentials Verification Organization ("CVO") certification program for all certification options through January 13, 2017. Our URAC CVO accreditation is valid through October 1, 2015.

Our quality assessment programs for contracted providers who participate in our networks begin with the initial review of health care practitioners. Practitioners' licenses and education are verified, and their work history is collected by us or in some cases by the practitioner's affiliated group or organization. We generally require participating hospitals to be certified by CMS or accredited by the Joint Commission, the American Osteopathic Association, or Det Norske Veritas Healthcare.

We also offer quality and outcome measurement programs, quality improvement programs, and health care data analysis systems to providers and purchasers of health care services.

### Principal Markets and Sales

Our medical membership is dispersed throughout the U.S., and we serve a limited but growing number of members in certain countries outside the U.S. Refer to Note 19 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, beginning on page 132 of the Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference, for additional information on our foreign customers. We offer a broad range of traditional, voluntary and consumer-directed health insurance products and related services, many of which are available nationwide. Depending on the product, we market to a range of customers including employer groups, individuals, college students, part-time and hourly workers, health plans, providers, governmental units, government-sponsored plans, labor groups and expatriates.

The following table presents total medical membership by U.S. and other geographic region and funding arrangement at December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012:

(Thousands)	2014			2013			2012		
	Insured	ASC	Total	Insured	ASC	Total	Insured	ASC	Total
Northeast	2,314	2,820	5,134	2,267	2,814	5,081	1,787	2,662	4,449
Southeast	2,150	3,051	5,201	1,906	3,013	4,919	1,150	2,803	3,953
Mid-America	2,372	2,758	5,130	2,071	2,795	4,866	873	2,251	3,124
West	1,999	4,720	6,719	2,010	4,088	6,098	1,633	3,986	5,619
Other	451	913	1,364	361	865	1,226	315	782	1,097
Total medical membership	9,286	14,262	23,548	8,615	13,575	22,190	5,758	12,484	18,242

Additional information on Health Care's membership is included in the "Membership" section of the MD&A, on page 10 of the Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

We market both Insured and ASC products and services primarily to employers that sponsor our products (also called "plan sponsors") for the benefit of their employees and their employees' dependents. Frequently, larger employers offer employees a choice among coverage options, from which the employee makes his or her selection during a designated annual open enrollment period. Typically, employers pay all of the monthly premiums to us and, through payroll deductions, obtain reimbursement from employees for a percentage of the premiums that is determined by each employer. We also sell Insured plans directly to individual consumers in a number of states, including through Public Exchanges. Some Health Care products are sold directly to employees of employer groups on a fully employee-funded basis. In some cases, we bill the covered individual directly.

We offer Insured Medicare coverage on an individual basis as well as through employer groups to their retirees. Medicaid and CHIP members are enrolled on an individual basis. We also offer Insured health care coverage to members who are dually-eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Health Care products are sold through our sales personnel, as well as through independent brokers, agents and consultants who assist in the production and servicing of business; Public Exchanges; and Private Exchanges. For large plan sponsors, independent consultants and brokers are frequently involved in employer health plan selection decisions and sales. In some instances, we may pay commissions, fees and other amounts to brokers, agents, consultants and sales representatives who place business with us. In certain cases, our customer pays the broker for services rendered, and we may facilitate that arrangement by collecting the funds from the customer and transmitting them to the broker. We support our marketing and sales efforts with an advertising program that may include television, radio, billboards, print media and social media, supplemented by market research and direct marketing efforts.

### Pricing

For Commercial Insured plans (including our Public Exchange plans) contracts containing the pricing and other terms of the relationship are generally established in advance of the policy period and typically have a duration of one year. Fees under our ASC plans are generally fixed for a period of one year.

We use prospective rating methodologies in determining the premium rates charged to the majority of employer groups, and we also use retrospective rating methodologies for a limited number of groups. Premium rates for customers with more than approximately 125 employees generally take into consideration the individual plan sponsor's historical and anticipated claim experience where permitted by law. Some states may prohibit the use of one or more of these rating methods for some customers, such as small employer groups, or all customers.

Under prospective rating, a fixed premium rate is determined at the beginning of the policy period. We typically cannot recover unanticipated increases in health care costs in the current policy period; however, we may consider prior experience for a product in the aggregate or for a specific customer, among other factors, in determining premium rates for future policy periods. Where required by state laws, premium rates are filed and approved by state regulators prior to contract inception. Our future results could be adversely affected if the premium rates we request are not approved or are adjusted downward or their approval is delayed by state or federal regulators.

Under retrospective rating, we determine a premium rate at the beginning of the policy period. After the policy period has ended, the actual claim and cost experience is reviewed. If the actual claim costs and other expenses are less than expected, we may issue a refund to the plan sponsor based on this favorable experience. If the experience is unfavorable, in certain instances we may recover the resulting deficit through contractual provisions or consider the deficit in setting future premium levels. However, we may not recover the deficit if a plan sponsor elects to terminate coverage. Retrospective rating may be used for Commercial Insured plans that cover more than approximately 300 lives.

We have Medicare Advantage and PDP contracts with CMS to provide HMO, PPO and prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries in certain geographic areas. Under these annual contracts, CMS pays us a fixed capitation payment and/or a portion of the premium, both of which are based on membership and adjusted for demographic and health risk factors. CMS also considers inflation, changes in utilization patterns and average per capita fee-for-service Medicare costs in the calculation of the fixed capitation payment or premium. Our PDP contracts also provide a risk-sharing arrangement with CMS to limit our exposure to unfavorable expenses or benefit from favorable expenses. Amounts payable to us under the Medicare arrangements are subject to annual revision by CMS, and we elect to participate in each Medicare service area or region on an annual basis. Premiums paid to us for Medicare products are subject to federal government reviews and audits, which can result, and have resulted, in retroactive and prospective premium adjustments. In addition to payments received from CMS, some of our Medicare Advantage products and all of our PDP products require a supplemental premium to be paid by the member or sponsoring employer. In some cases these supplemental premiums are adjusted based on the member's income and asset levels. Compared to Commercial products, Medicare contracts generate higher per member per month revenues and health care costs.

Health Care Reform ties a portion of each Medicare Advantage plan's reimbursement to the plan's "star ratings." Beginning in 2015, plans must have an overall star rating of four or higher to qualify for quality bonus payments. CMS released our 2015 star ratings in October 2014. Our 2015 star ratings will be used to determine which of our Medicare Advantage plans have ratings of four stars or higher and qualify for bonus payments in 2016. Our average star ratings were 4.00, 4.04 and 3.53 for 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Based on our membership at December 31, 2014, 79.4% of our Medicare Advantage members were in plans with 2015 star ratings of at least 4.0 stars. In 2015 and going forward our Medicare Advantage plans' operating results are likely to continue to be significantly determined by their star ratings.

Rates for our Medicare Supplement products are regulated at the state level and vary by state and plan.

Under our Insured Medicaid contracts, state government agencies pay us fixed monthly rates per member that vary by state, line of business and demographics; and we arrange, pay for and manage health care services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries. These rates are subject to change by each state, and in some instances, provide for adjustment for health risk factors. CMS requires these rates to be actuarially sound. We also receive fees from our customers where we provide services under ASC Medicaid contracts. Our ASC Medicaid contracts generally are for periods of more than one year, and certain of them contain performance incentives and limited

financial risk sharing with respect to certain medical, financial and operational metrics. Under these arrangements, performance is evaluated annually, with associated financial incentive opportunities, and our financial risk share obligations are typically limited to a percentage of the fees otherwise payable to us. Payments to us under our Medicaid contracts are subject to the annual appropriation process in the applicable state.

Under our Duals contracts, the rate setting process is generally established by CMS in partnership with the state government agency participating in the demonstration project. Both CMS and the state government agency may seek premium and other refunds under certain circumstances, including if we fail to comply with CMS regulations or other contractual requirements.

We offer HMO and consumer-directed medical and dental plans to federal employees under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program. Premium rates and fees for those plans are subject to federal government review and audit, which can result, and have resulted, in retroactive and prospective premium and fee adjustments.

Beginning in 2014, Health Care Reform imposed significant new industry-wide fees, assessments and taxes. Refer to Note 2 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, beginning on page 80 of the Annual Report, which is incorporated by reference, for additional information on the Health Care Reform fees, assessments and taxes. Our goal is to collect in premiums and fees or solve for all of these estimated fees, assessments and taxes.

#### Competition

The health care benefits industry is highly competitive, primarily due to a large number of for-profit and not-for-profit competitors, our competitors' marketing and pricing, and a proliferation of competing products, including new products that are continually being introduced into the market. New entrants into the marketplace, as well as significant consolidation within the industry, have contributed to the competitive environment. In addition, the rapid pace of change as the industry evolves towards a consumer-focused retail marketplace, including Public and Private Exchanges, and the increased use of technology to interact with members, providers and customers, increase the risks we currently face from new entrants and disruptive actions by existing competitors compared to prior periods.

We believe that the significant factors that distinguish competing health plans include the perceived overall quality (including accreditation status), quality of service, comprehensiveness of coverage, cost (including premium rates, provider discounts and member out-of-pocket costs), product design, financial stability and ratings, breadth and quality of provider networks, ability to offer different provider network options, providers available in such networks, and quality of member support and care management programs. We believe that we are competitive on each of these factors. Our ability to increase the number of persons covered by our plans or to increase our revenues is affected by our ability to differentiate ourselves from our competitors on these factors. Competition may also affect the availability of services from health care providers, including primary care physicians, specialists and hospitals.

Our Insured products compete with local and regional health care benefits plans, in addition to health care benefits and other plans sponsored by other large commercial health care benefit insurance companies and numerous for-profit and not-for-profit organizations operating under licenses from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Additional competitors include other types of medical and dental provider organizations, various specialty service providers (including pharmacy benefit management services providers), integrated health care delivery organizations (networks of providers who also coordinate administrative services for and assume insurance risk of their members), HIT companies and, for certain plans, programs sponsored by the federal or state governments. Our ability to increase the number of persons enrolled in our Insured products also is affected by the desire and ability of employers to self-fund their health coverage.

Our ASC plans compete primarily with other large commercial health care benefit companies, numerous for-profit and not-for-profit organizations operating under licenses from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and third-party administrators.

Our international products compete with local, global and U.S.-based health plans and commercial health care benefit insurance companies, many of whom have a longer operating history and better brand recognition and greater market place presence in one or more geographies.

The provider solutions and HIT marketplaces and provider solutions and HIT products are evolving rapidly. We compete for provider solutions and HIT business with other large health plans and commercial health care benefit insurance companies as well as information technology companies and companies that specialize in provider solutions and HIT. Many of our information technology product competitors have longer operating histories, better brand recognition, greater market place presence and more experience in developing innovative products.

In addition to competitive pressures affecting our ability to obtain new customers or retain existing customers, our membership has been and may continue to be adversely affected by uncertain economic conditions and reductions in workforce by existing customers due to adverse and uncertain general economic conditions, especially in the U.S. and industries where our membership is concentrated.

#### Reinsurance

We currently have several reinsurance agreements with nonaffiliated insurers that relate to Health Care insurance policies. We entered into these contracts to reduce the risk of catastrophic losses which in turn reduces our capital and surplus requirements. We frequently evaluate reinsurance opportunities and refine our reinsurance and risk management strategies on a regular basis.

#### Factors Affecting Forward-Looking Information

Information regarding certain of the important factors that may materially affect our Health Care business and our statements concerning future events is included in the "Forward-Looking Information/Risk Factors" section of the MD&A, beginning on page 42 of the Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Group Insurance**

#### Principal Products

Group Insurance products consist primarily of the following:

- *Life Insurance Products* consist principally of group term life insurance, the amounts of which may be fixed or linked to individual employee wage levels. We also offer voluntary spouse and dependent term life insurance, and group universal life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance. We offer life insurance products on an Insured basis.
- *Disability Insurance Products* provide employee income replacement benefits for both short-term and long-term disability (and products which combine both). We also offer disability products with additional case management features. Similar to Health Care products, we offer disability benefits on both an Insured and employer-funded basis. We also provide absence management services to employers, including short-term and long-term disability administration and leave management.
- *Long-Term Care Insurance Products* provide benefits to cover the cost of care in private home settings, adult day care, assisted living or nursing facilities. We no longer solicit or accept new long-term care customers. Long-term care benefits were offered primarily on an Insured basis. The product was available on both a service reimbursement and disability basis.

#### Principal Markets and Sales

We offer our Group Insurance products in 49 states as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada. Depending on the product, we market to a range of customers from small employer groups to large, multi-site and/or multi-state employer programs.

We market Group Insurance products and services primarily to employers that sponsor our products for the benefit of their employees and their employees' dependents. Frequently, employers offer employees a choice of benefits, from which the employee makes his or her selection during a designated annual open enrollment period. Typically, employers pay all of the monthly premiums to us and, through payroll deductions, obtain reimbursement from employees for a percentage of the premiums that is determined by each employer. Some Group Insurance products are sold directly to employees of employer groups on a fully employee-funded basis. In some cases, we bill the covered individual directly.

Group Insurance products are sold through our sales personnel, as well as through independent brokers, agents and consultants who assist in the production and servicing of business. For large plan sponsors, independent consultants and brokers are frequently involved in employer plan selection decisions and sales. We pay commissions, fees and other amounts to brokers, agents, consultants and sales representatives who place business with us. We support our marketing and sales efforts with an advertising program that may include direct marketing efforts as well as television, radio, billboards, print media and social media, supplemented by market research.

#### Pricing

For Insured Group Insurance plans, employer group contracts containing the pricing and other terms of the relationship are generally established in advance of the policy period. We use prospective and retrospective rating methodologies to determine the premium rates charged to employer groups. These are typically offered with rate guarantees that generally range from one to five years.

Under prospective rating, a fixed premium rate is determined at the beginning of the policy period. We cannot recover unanticipated increases in mortality or morbidity costs in the current policy period; however, we may consider prior experience for a product in the aggregate or for a specific customer, among other factors, in determining premium rates for future policy periods.

Under retrospective rating, we determine a premium rate at the beginning of the policy period. After the policy period has ended, the actual claim and cost experience is reviewed. If the actual claim costs and other expenses are less than expected, we may issue a refund to the plan sponsor based on this favorable experience. If the experience is unfavorable, we consider the deficit in setting future premium levels, and in certain instances, we may recover the deficit through contractual provisions such as offsets against refund credits that develop for future policy periods. However, we may not recover the deficit if a plan sponsor elects to terminate coverage. Retrospective rating is most often used for Insured employer-funded plans that cover more than approximately 3,000 lives.

#### Competition

For the group insurance industry, we believe that the significant factors that distinguish competing companies are cost, quality of service, financial strength of the insurer, comprehensiveness of coverage, and product array and design. We believe we are reasonably competitive on each of these factors; however, some of our competitors have greater scale, financial and other resources, better brand recognition and lower expenses. The group life and group disability markets remain highly competitive.

#### Reinsurance

We currently have several reinsurance agreements with nonaffiliated insurers that relate to both life and long-term disability products. Most reinsurance arrangements are established on a case-by-case basis, and a subset of our reinsurance agreements cover closed blocks of business and cancelled cases. We also have reinsurance that provides a limited degree of catastrophic risk protection for certain of our life products. We frequently evaluate reinsurance opportunities and refine our reinsurance and risk management strategies on a regular basis.

#### Factors Affecting Forward-Looking Information

Information regarding certain of the important factors that may materially affect our Group Insurance business and our statements concerning future events is included in the "Forward-Looking Information/Risk Factors" section of the MD&A, beginning on page 42 of the Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

## **Large Case Pensions**

### **Principal Products**

Large Case Pensions manages a variety of retirement products (including pension and annuity products) primarily for tax-qualified pension plans. We do not actively market Large Case Pensions products, but continue to accept deposits from existing customers and manage the run-off of our existing business. Contracts provide non-guaranteed, experience-rated and guaranteed investment options through general and separate account products. Large Case Pensions products that use separate accounts provide contract holders with a vehicle for investments under which the contract holders primarily assume the investment risk. Large Case Pensions earns a management fee on these separate accounts.

In 1993, we discontinued our fully-guaranteed Large Case Pensions products. Information regarding these products is incorporated herein by reference to Note 20 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 135 in the Annual Report.

### **Factors Affecting Forward-Looking Information**

Information regarding certain of the important factors that may materially affect our Large Case Pensions business and our statements concerning future events is included in the "Forward-Looking Information/Risk Factors" section of the MD&A, beginning on page 42 of the Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

## **Other Matters**

### **Access to Reports**

Our reports to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports are available without charge on our website at [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com) as soon as practicable after they are electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. The information on or linked to our website is neither a part of nor incorporated by reference in this Form 10-K or any of our other SEC filings. Copies of these reports are also available, without charge, from Aetna's Investor Relations Department, 151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06156.

### **Regulation**

For information regarding significant regulation affecting us, refer to "Regulatory Environment" and for a discussion of certain factors that may cause our actual results to differ from currently anticipated results in connection with regulation that affects us, see "Forward-Looking Information/Risk Factors", each sections of the MD&A, beginning on pages 26 and 42, respectively, of the Annual Report, which are incorporated herein by reference.

### **Patents and Trademarks**

We own a number of trademarks and patents that are important to Aetna. Some of the trademarks include Aetna, as well as the corresponding Aetna design logo, Aetna Navigator<sup>®</sup>, ActiveHealth<sup>®</sup>, bSwift<sup>™</sup>, CareEngine<sup>®</sup>, Coventry<sup>®</sup>, DocFind<sup>®</sup>, Healthagen<sup>®</sup>, Healthy Merits<sup>®</sup>, iTriage<sup>®</sup>, Medicity<sup>®</sup>, Meritain Health<sup>®</sup>, NeoCare Solutions<sup>SM</sup>, PayFlex<sup>®</sup>, Practice IQ<sup>SM</sup>, Prodigy Health Group<sup>®</sup>, Springboard Marketplace<sup>™</sup> and Wellmatch<sup>®</sup>. Some of our patents include the CareEngine patent that expires in 2021 and the Master Patient Index patent that expires in 2028. We consider these patents and trademarks and our other patents, trademarks and trade names important in the operation of our business. However, our business, including that of each of our individual segments, is not dependent on any individual patent, trademark or trade name.

### **Employees**

We had approximately 48,800 employees at December 31, 2014.

**Customer Concentration**

The U.S. federal government is a significant customer of both the Health Care segment and the Company. Premiums and fees and other revenue paid by the federal government accounted for approximately 28% of the Health Care segment's revenue and 27% of our consolidated revenue in 2014. Contracts with CMS for coverage of Medicare-eligible individuals accounted for 89% of our federal government premiums and fees and other revenue, with the balance coming from federal employee-related benefit programs. No other individual customer, in any of our segments, accounted for 10% or more of our consolidated revenues in 2014. Our Medicaid business accounted for approximately 12% of the Health Care segment's revenue and approximately 11% of our consolidated revenue in 2014. However, no individual state government agency accounted for more than 10% of our consolidated revenue or the Health Care segment's revenue in 2014. Other than our contracts with CMS, our segments are not dependent upon a single customer or a few customers of which the loss would have a significant effect on the earnings of a segment. The loss of business from any one, or a few, independent brokers or agents would not have a material adverse effect on our earnings or the earnings of any of our segments. Refer to Note 19 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, beginning on page 132 of the Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference, regarding segment information.

**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

The information contained in the "Forward-Looking Information/Risk Factors" section of the MD&A, which begins on page 42 of the Annual Report, is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 2. Properties**

Our principal office is a building complex that is approximately 1.7 million square feet in size and is located at 151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. Our principal office is used by all of our business segments. We also own or lease other space in the greater Hartford area, Bethesda, Maryland, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, and various field locations in the U.S. and several foreign countries. Such properties are primarily used by our Health Care segment. We believe our properties are adequate and suitable for our business as presently conducted.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

The information contained under "Litigation and Regulatory Proceedings" in Note 18 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, which begins on page 129 of the Annual Report, is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not applicable.