

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP INC
Form S-3ASR
February 04, 2008
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 4, 2008

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

UnitedHealth Group Incorporated

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota

6324

41-1321939

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(State or other jurisdiction of

(Primary Standard Industrial

(I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Classification Code Number)

Identification Number)

Christopher J. Walsh

Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel

UnitedHealth Group Center

UnitedHealth Group Center

9900 Bren Road East

9900 Bren Road East

Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343

Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343

(952) 936-1300

(952) 936-1300

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone

including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

number, including area code, of agent for service)

with copies to:

Richard J. Mattera

Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.

One Tabor Center

1200 Seventeenth St., Suite 1500

Denver, CO 80202

(303) 899-7300

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. "

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. b

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

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If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of each class of securities to be registered | Amount to be registered | Proposed maximum offering price per unit | Proposed maximum aggregate offering price | Amount of registration fee |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Debt Securities | (1) | (1) | (1) | \$0 (1) |

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of the securities is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee, except for \$117,700 that has already been paid with respect to \$1,000,000,000 aggregate initial offering price of securities that were previously registered pursuant to Registration Statement No. 333-127610, which was initially filed on August 16, 2005, and were not sold thereunder. Pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act, such unutilized filing fees shall be applied to the first \$117,700 of the filing fee payable pursuant to this Registration Statement.

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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 4, 2008

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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 periodic 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 information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 in any Current Report on Form 8-K), until the termination of this offering:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2007, June 30, 2007 and September 30, 2007; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K dated January 4, 2007, January 18, 2007, February 2, 2007, March 12, 2007, March 14, 2007, April 20, 2007, May 16, 2007, May 30, 2007, August 21, 2007 and December 6, 2007.

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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

This prospectus contains or incorporates by reference, and the applicable prospectus supplement will contain or incorporate by reference, forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, or PSLRA. The words or phrases believes, anticipates, expects, plans, seeks, intends, will likely result, estimates, projects or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements.

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. This discussion is intended to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the PSLRA. Except to the extent otherwise required by federal securities laws, we do not undertake to address or update forward-looking statements in future filings or communications regarding our business or operating results, and do not undertake to address how any of these factors may have caused results to differ from discussions or information contained in previous filings or communications. In addition, any of the matters discussed below may have affected past, as well as current, forward-looking statements about future results. 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. Many factors discussed below or incorporated by reference herein will be important in determining future results. 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 in our prior communications.

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UNITEDHEALTH GROUP

We are a diversified health and well-being company, serving approximately 70 million Americans. We are focused on improving the American health care system and how it works for multiple, distinct constituencies. We provide individuals with access to quality, cost-effective health care services and resources through approximately 550,000 physicians and other care providers and approximately 4,800 hospitals across the United States as of September 30, 2007. During 2006, we managed approximately \$92 billion in aggregate annual health care spending on behalf of the constituents and consumers we served. Our primary focus is on improving health care systems by simplifying the administrative components of health care delivery, promoting evidence-based medicine as the standard for care, and providing relevant, actionable data that physicians, health care providers, consumers, employers and other participants in health care can use to make better, more informed 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 improve access to health and well-being services, simplify the health care experience, promote quality and make health care more affordable.

Our revenues are derived from premium revenues 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. As we disclosed in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 4, 2007, during the fourth quarter of 2007, we completed the transition to our new segment reporting structure and will begin reporting on this basis in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. The new reporting structure will have four segments: Health Care Services (which will include Uniprise), Prescription Solutions (formerly in the Health Care Services segment), OptumHealth and Ingenix. Until the fourth quarter of 2007, we conducted our business primarily through operating divisions in the following business segments:

Uniprise;

Health Care Services, which includes our UnitedHealthcare, Ovations and AmeriChoice businesses;

OptumHealth; and

Ingenix.

Uniprise delivers health care and well-being services nationwide to large national employers, individual consumers and other health care organizations through three related business units: Uniprise Strategic Solutions, or USS, Definity Health and Exante Financial Services, or Exante. Each business unit works with other UnitedHealth Group businesses to deliver a complementary and integrated array of services. USS delivers strategic health and well-being solutions to large national employers. Definity Health provides consumer-driven health plans and services to employers and their employees. Exante delivers health care-focused financial services for consumers, employers and providers. Uniprise also offers transactional processing services to various intermediaries and health care entities. Most Uniprise products and services are delivered through its affiliates. Uniprise provides administrative and customer care services for certain other businesses of UnitedHealth Group. As of September 30, 2007, Uniprise served approximately 11.1 million individuals.

Our Health Care Services segment consists of our UnitedHealthcare, Ovations and AmeriChoice businesses. UnitedHealthcare offers a comprehensive array of consumer-oriented health benefit plans and services for small and mid-sized employers, and individuals nationwide. Ovations provides health and well-being services for individuals age 50 and older, addressing their unique needs for preventative and acute health care services as well as for services dealing with chronic disease and other specialized issues for older individuals. Ovations, through its affiliates, is one of few enterprises fully dedicated to this market segment, providing products and services in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Ovations' wide array of products and services includes Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage health benefit coverage, and stand-alone prescription drug coverage and prescription drug discount cards, as well

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as disease management and chronic care programs. AmeriChoice, through its affiliates, provides network-based health and well-being services to beneficiaries of state Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Programs, and other government-sponsored health care programs.

OptumHealth offers a comprehensive platform of specialty health and wellness and ancillary benefits, services and resources to specific customer markets nationwide. These products and services include employee benefit offerings, provider networks and related resources focusing on behavioral health and substance abuse, dental, vision, disease management, complex and chronic illness and care facilitation. OptumHealth also offers solutions in the areas of complementary and alternative care, employee assistance, short-term and long-term disability, life insurance, work/life balance and health-related information. These services are designed to simplify the consumer health care experience and facilitate efficient health care delivery.

Ingenix offers database and data management services, software products, publications, consulting services, outsourced services and pharmaceutical development and consulting services on a nationwide and international basis. Ingenix is engaged in the simplification of health care administration with information and technology that helps customers accurately and efficiently document, code and bill for the delivery of care services. Ingenix is also a leader in contract research services, medical education services, publications, and pharmacoeconomics, outcomes, safety and epidemiology research through its i3 businesses. As of September 30, 2007, Ingenix's customers include more than 5,000 hospitals, 240,000 physicians, 1,500 payers and intermediaries, more than 240 Fortune 500 companies, and more than 250 life sciences companies, as well as other UnitedHealth Group businesses.

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 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. For purposes of computing these ratios, earnings represent income from continuing operations before extraordinary items. Fixed charges represent interest expense, including amounts capitalized, the interest factor in rental expenses, plus the amortization of debt discount and debt expense.

| | Nine Months Ended | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Sept. 30, 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 13.7x | 14.1x | 18.3x | 24.0x | 20.5x | 16.0x |

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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. The senior indenture has been filed 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. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax consequences and other special factors which should be considered prior to purchasing any original issue discount securities.

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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 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;

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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;

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;

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

whether the provisions described under the heading "Defeasance Provisions" on page 11 of 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 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.

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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.

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 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 described in this subsection, we are not restricted by the senior indenture from 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. 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;**

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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;

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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.

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 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 or unrelated 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 satisfactory to the senior trustee 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.

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We are required to deliver to the senior trustee an annual certificate, signed by an officer, stating that 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 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

We may omit to comply with certain restrictive covenants under the senior indenture and shall have no liability in respect of any term, condition or limitation set forth in any such restrictive covenant, and such omission to comply shall not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to a series of senior debt securities under the senior indenture, also known as covenant defeasance; provided that the following conditions shall have been satisfied:

We deposit with the senior trustee, in trust, sufficient money or government obligations to pay the principal, interest, any premium and any other sums due on a series of senior debt securities on the dates that the payments are due under the senior indenture and the terms of the senior debt securities of the series;

No event of default or default under the senior indenture shall have occurred on the date of the deposit;

We shall have delivered to the senior trustee an opinion of counsel which states that (i) holders of senior debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance and (ii) after the 91st day following the deposit, the deposited funds will not be subject to the effect of any applicable bankruptcy law;

The defeasance shall not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under the senior indenture or any other material agreement or instrument to which we are a party or by which we are bound; and

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We shall have delivered an officers certificate that states that (i) the deposit was not made with the intent of preferring the holders of the senior debt securities of the series to be defeased over our other creditors and (ii) all conditions precedent applicable to the legal defeasance or the covenant defeasance, as the case may be, have been complied with.

Modification and Amendment of Senior Indenture

Under the senior indenture, our rights and obligations and the rights of the holders of senior debt securities may be changed. Certain changes require the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of each series of senior debt securities affected by the modification or amendment. The following changes, however, may not be made without the consent of each holder of the outstanding senior debt securities:

changes to the stated maturity date of the principal or any interest installment;

reductions in the principal amount or interest due;

changes to the place of payment or form of currency regarding payment of principal;

impairment of the right to institute suit for the enforcement of payment;

reduction of the stated percentage of holders necessary to modify the senior indenture; or

modifications to any of these requirements, or modifications to reduce the percentage of outstanding senior debt securities necessary to waive compliance with certain provisions of the senior indenture or to waive certain defaults.

Global Senior Debt Securities

The senior debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depositary identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. The specific terms of the depositary arrangements with respect to a series of senior debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. See Book-Entry Issuance.

Governing Law

The senior indenture will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

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BOOK-ENTRY ISSUANCE

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, the securities of each series offered by means of this prospectus will be issued in the form of one or more fully registered global securities, without coupons, each of which we refer to as a global security. Each such global security will be registered in the name of a depository or a nominee of a depository and held through one or more international and domestic clearing systems, principally the book-entry systems operated by The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, in the United States and by Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., or Euroclear, as an operator of the Euroclear System, and Clearstream Banking S.A., or Clearstream, in Europe. No person who acquires an interest in these global securities will be entitled to receive a certificate or other instrument representing the person's interest in the global securities except as set forth herein under **Definitive Securities** or in the accompanying prospectus supplement. Unless and until definitive securities are issued, all references to actions by holders of securities issued in global form refer to actions taken by DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, upon instructions from their respective participants, and all references herein to payments and notices to the holders refer to payments and notices to DTC, its nominee, Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, as the registered holder of the offered securities. Electronic securities and payment transfer, processing, depository and custodial links have been established among these systems and others, either directly or indirectly, which enable global securities to be issued, held and transferred among these clearing systems through these links.

Although DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream have agreed to the procedures described below in order to facilitate transfers of global securities among participants in DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform these procedures, and these procedures may be modified or discontinued at any time. Neither we nor the trustee or any registrar and transfer agent with respect to our securities of any series offered by means of this prospectus will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC, Euroclear, Clearstream or any of their respective direct or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing DTC's, Euroclear's or Clearstream's operations.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement or supplements relating to the securities of a series, those securities in the form of one or more global securities will be registered in the name of DTC or a nominee of DTC. Where appropriate with respect to the securities of a series being offered and sold by means of this prospectus, links will be established among DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream to facilitate the initial issuance of any of those securities sold outside of the United States and cross-market transfers of those securities associated with secondary market trading. While the following information in this prospectus concerning DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream and their respective book-entry systems has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, we take no responsibility for the accuracy of that information.

DTC

DTC has advised us as follows: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC was created to hold securities for its participating organizations, referred to as direct DTC participants, and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between direct DTC participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the direct DTC participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Direct DTC participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Indirect access to the DTC system is also available to others, referred to as indirect DTC participants, for example, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations, that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct DTC participant, either directly or indirectly.

Beneficial interests in a global security will be shown on, and transfers of beneficial interests in the global security will be made only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants, both direct and indirect.

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When you purchase securities through the DTC system, the purchases must be made by or through a direct DTC participant, which will receive credit for the securities in its account on DTC's records. When you actually purchase the securities, you will become their beneficial owner. Your ownership interest will be recorded only on the direct or indirect DTC participants' records. DTC will have no knowledge of your individual ownership of the securities. DTC's records will show only the identity of the direct DTC participants and the amount of the securities held by or through them.

You will not receive a written confirmation of your purchase or sale or any periodic account statement directly from DTC. You should instead receive these confirmations and account statements from the direct or indirect DTC participant through which you purchase the securities. The direct or indirect DTC participants are responsible for keeping accurate account of the holdings of their customers. The trustee will wire payments on the securities to the DTC nominee that is the registered holder of the securities. The trustee and we will treat DTC or its nominee as the owner of each global security for all purposes. Accordingly, the trustee, any paying agent and we will have no direct responsibility or liability to pay amounts due on a global security to you or any other beneficial owners in that global security. Any redemption notices will be sent by us directly to DTC, which will, in turn, inform the direct or indirect DTC participants, which will then contact you as a beneficial holder.

Under the rules, regulations and procedures creating and affecting DTC and its operations, DTC is required to make book-entry transfers between direct DTC participants on whose behalf it acts with respect to the securities and is required to receive and transmit distributions of principal of and interest on the securities. Direct and indirect DTC participants with which investors have accounts with respect to the securities similarly are required to make book-entry transfers and receive and transmit payments on behalf of their respective investors.

As DTC can only act on behalf of direct DTC participants, who in turn act on behalf of indirect DTC participants and certain banks, the ability of a person having a beneficial interest in a security held in DTC to transfer or pledge that interest to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of that interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate representing that interest. The laws of some states of the United States require that certain persons take physical delivery of securities in definitive form in order to transfer or perfect a security interest in those securities. Consequently, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a security held in DTC to those persons may be limited.

DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of securities under the terms and conditions of the securities (including, without limitation, the presentation of securities for exchange) only at the direction of one or more of the direct DTC participants to whose accounts with DTC interests in the relevant securities are credited, and only in respect of the portion of the aggregate principal amount of the securities as to which that direct DTC participant or those direct DTC participants has or have given the direction. However, in certain circumstances described below, DTC will exchange the global securities held by it for certificated securities, which it will distribute to the direct DTC participants.

It is DTC's current practice, upon receipt of any payment of distributions or liquidation amounts, to proportionately credit direct DTC participants' accounts on the payment date based on their holdings of the relevant securities. In addition, it is DTC's current practice to pass through any consenting or voting rights to such direct DTC participants by using an omnibus proxy. Consequently, those direct DTC participants should, in turn, make payments to and solicit votes from you, the ultimate owner of securities, based on their customary practices. Payments to you with respect to your beneficial interest in any securities will be the responsibility of the direct and indirect DTC participants and not of DTC, the trustee or our company.

Euroclear

Euroclear was created in 1968 to hold securities for participants of Euroclear and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thus eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and risk from lack of simultaneous

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transfers of securities and cash. Transactions may now be settled through Euroclear in many currencies, including United States dollars and Japanese yen. Euroclear provides various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interfaces with domestic markets in several countries generally similar to the arrangements for cross-market transfers with DTC.

Euroclear is operated by the Euroclear Operator under a contract with Euroclear Clearance System plc, a U.K. corporation, or the Euroclear Clearance System. The Euroclear Operator conducts all operations, and all Euroclear securities clearance accounts and Euroclear cash accounts are accounts with the Euroclear Operator, not Euroclear Clearance System. The Euroclear Clearance System establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear participants. Euroclear participants include banks (including central banks), securities brokers and dealers and other professional financial intermediaries and may include the underwriters of the securities offered by this prospectus or one or more of their affiliates. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear participant, either directly or indirectly. Euroclear is an indirect DTC participant.

The Euroclear Operator is a Belgian bank, which is regulated and examined by the Belgian Banking Commission and the National Bank of Belgium.

The Terms and Conditions Governing Use of Euroclear, the related Operating Procedures of Euroclear and applicable Belgian law govern securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear Operator. Specifically, these terms and conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawal of securities and cash from Euroclear and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear.

All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. The Euroclear Operator acts under the terms and conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants and has no record of or relationship with persons holding securities through Euroclear participants.

Distributions with respect to securities held beneficially through Euroclear will be credited to the cash accounts of Euroclear participants in accordance with Euroclear's terms and conditions, to the extent received by the Euroclear Operator and by Euroclear.

Euroclear will record the ownership interests of its participants in much the same way as does DTC. If DTC is the depository for the securities of a series, it will record the total ownership of any of the securities of the U.S. agent of Euroclear as a participant in DTC. When securities are to be transferred from the account of a direct DTC participant to the account of a Euroclear participant, the purchaser must send instructions to Euroclear through an Euroclear participant at least one day prior to settlement. Euroclear will instruct its U.S. agent to receive securities against payment. After settlement, Euroclear will credit its participant's account with the interest in the securities purchased. Credit for the securities will appear on the next day (European time).

In instances in which the securities of a series are held by DTC or its nominee, settlement will take place during New York business hours. Direct DTC participants will be able to employ their usual procedures for sending securities to the relevant U.S. agent acting for the benefit of Euroclear participants. The sale proceeds will be available to the DTC seller on the settlement date. As a result, to the direct DTC participant, a cross-market transaction will settle no differently than a trade between two direct DTC participants.

When a Euroclear participant wishes to transfer securities to a direct DTC participant, the seller will be required to send instructions to Euroclear through an Euroclear participant at least one business day prior to settlement. In these cases, Euroclear will instruct its U.S. agent to transfer these securities against payment for them. The payment will then be reflected in the account of the Euroclear participant the following day, with the proceeds back-valued to the value date, which would be the preceding day, when settlement occurs in New York. If settlement is not completed on the intended value date, that is, the trade fails, proceeds credited to the Euroclear participant's account will instead be valued as of the actual settlement date.

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You should be aware that you will only be able to make and receive deliveries, payments and other communications involving the securities through Euroclear on the days when Euroclear is open for business. Euroclear may not be open for business on days when banks, brokers and other institutions are open for business in the United States. In addition, because of time zone differences, problems may occur when completing transactions involving Euroclear on the same business day as in the United States.

Clearstream

Clearstream was incorporated as a limited liability company under Luxembourg law. Clearstream is owned by Cedel International, société anonyme, and Deutsche Börse AG. The shareholders of these two entities are banks, securities dealers and financial institutions. Clearstream holds securities for its customers and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between Clearstream customers through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of Clearstream customers, thus eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. Clearstream provides to its customers, among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities, securities lending and borrowing and collateral management. Clearstream interfaces with domestic markets in a number of countries. Clearstream has established an electronic bridge with the Euroclear Operator to facilitate settlement of trades between Clearstream and Euroclear.

As a registered bank in Luxembourg, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector. Clearstream participants are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations. In the United States, Clearstream participants are limited to securities brokers and dealers and banks, and may include the underwriters of the securities offered by means of this prospectus or one or more of their affiliates. Other institutions that maintain a custodial relationship with a Clearstream participant may obtain indirect access to Clearstream. Clearstream is an indirect DTC participant.

Distributions with respect to the securities held beneficially through Clearstream will be credited to cash accounts of Clearstream participants in accordance with its rules and procedures, to the extent received by Clearstream.

Clearstream will record the ownership interests of its participants in much the same way as does DTC. If DTC is the depository for the securities of a series, it will record the total ownership of any of the securities of the U.S. agent of Clearstream as a participant in DTC. When securities are to be transferred from the account of a direct DTC participant to the account of a Clearstream participant, the purchaser must send instructions to Clearstream through a Clearstream participant at least one day prior to settlement. Clearstream will instruct its U.S. agent to receive securities against payment. After settlement, Clearstream will credit its participant's account with the interest in the securities. Credit for the securities will appear on the next day (European time).

In instances in which the securities of a series are held by DTC or its nominee, settlement will take place during New York business hours. Direct DTC participants will be able to employ their usual procedures for sending securities to the relevant U.S. agent acting for the benefit of Clearstream participants. The sale proceeds will be available to the DTC seller on the settlement date. As a result, to the direct DTC participant, a cross-market transaction will settle no differently than a trade between two direct DTC participants.

When a Clearstream participant wishes to transfer securities to a direct DTC participant, the seller will be required to send instructions to Clearstream through a Clearstream participant at least one business day prior to settlement. In these cases, Clearstream will instruct its U.S. agent to transfer these securities against payment for them. The payment will then be reflected in the account of the Clearstream participant the following day, with the proceeds back-valued to the value date, which would be the preceding day, when settlement occurs in New York. If settlement is not completed on the intended value date, that is, the trade fails, proceeds credited to the Clearstream participant's account will instead be valued as of the actual settlement date.

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You should be aware that you will only be able to make and receive deliveries, payments and other communications involving the securities through Clearstream on the days when Clearstream is open for business. Clearstream may not be open for business on days when banks, brokers and other institutions are open for business in the United States. In addition, because of time zone differences, problems may occur when completing transactions involving Clearstream on the same business day as in the United States.

Definitive Securities

Securities represented by one or more global securities will be exchangeable for definitive securities, that is, certificated securities, with the same terms in authorized denominations only if:

DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream, as the case may be, is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under applicable law, and a successor is not appointed by us within 90 days; or

we decide to discontinue the book-entry system; or

an event of default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the securities.

If the global security is exchanged for definitive securities, the trustee will keep the registration books for the securities at its corporate office and follow customary practices and procedures regarding those certificated securities.

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MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following discussion summarizes certain material United States federal income tax considerations of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the senior debt securities. The following discussion does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax effects. The discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code, United States Treasury Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, rulings and pronouncements and judicial decisions in effect as of the date of this prospectus, any of which may be subsequently changed, possibly retroactively, or interpreted differently by the IRS, so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. The discussion does not address all of the United States federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder in light of such holder's particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as certain financial institutions, insurance companies, dealers in securities or currencies, pass-through entities, expatriates, tax-exempt organizations, persons holding the senior debt securities as part of a straddle, hedge, integrated, conversion or constructive sale transaction, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities, certain former citizens or residents of the United States, and persons with a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar. In addition, except where noted, this summary deals only with a senior debt security held as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code by a beneficial owner who purchases the senior debt security on original issuance at the first price at which a substantial portion of the senior debt securities are sold for cash to persons other than bond houses, brokers, or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers, which we refer to as the issue price. Moreover, the effect of any alternative minimum tax, applicable state, local or foreign tax laws or of United States federal tax law other than income taxation is not discussed.

As used herein, United States Holder means a beneficial owner of senior debt securities who, or that, is:

- (1) a citizen or resident of the United States, including an alien resident who is a lawful permanent resident of the United States or meets the substantial presence test under Section 7701(b) of the Code;
- (2) a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes), created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- (3) an estate, the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- (4) a trust if (i) (A) a United States court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and (B) one or more United States persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (ii) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury Regulations to be treated as a United States person.

As used herein, a non-United States Holder means a beneficial owner of senior debt securities, other than a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes), who or that is not a United States Holder.

If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for United States tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of senior debt securities, then the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. A holder of senior debt securities that is a partnership, and partners in such partnership, are urged to consult their tax advisors about the United States federal income tax consequences of purchasing, owning, and disposing of the senior debt securities.

We have not sought and will not seek any rulings from the IRS with respect to the matters discussed below. There can be no assurance that the IRS will not take a different position concerning the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership or disposition of the senior debt securities or that any such position would not be sustained.

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PERSONS CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR INDEPENDENT TAX ADVISORS WITH REGARD TO THE APPLICATION OF THE TAX CONSEQUENCES DISCUSSED BELOW TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATIONS, AS WELL AS THE APPLICATION OF ANY STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN OR OTHER TAX LAWS, INCLUDING GIFT AND ESTATE TAX LAWS.

United States Holders

Interest

Interest on the senior debt securities generally will be taxable to a United States Holder as ordinary income at the time that it is paid or accrued, in accordance with the United States Holder's method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes.

Sale, Retirement, Redemption or Other Taxable Disposition of a Senior Debt Security

A United States Holder of a senior debt security will recognize gain or loss upon the sale, retirement, redemption or other taxable disposition of such senior debt security in an amount equal to the difference between:

- (1) the amount of cash and the fair market value of other property received in exchange therefor (other than amounts attributable to accrued but unpaid stated interest, which will be subject to tax as ordinary income to the extent not previously included in income); and
- (2) the United States Holder's adjusted tax basis in such senior debt security. A United States Holder's adjusted tax basis in a senior debt security will, in general, be the price paid for the senior debt security by the United States Holder.

Any gain or loss recognized on a taxable disposition of such senior debt security will generally be capital gain or loss. Such capital gain or loss will generally be long-term capital gain or loss if the senior debt security has been held by the United States Holder for more than one year. Otherwise, such capital gain or loss will be a short-term capital gain or loss. In the case of certain non-corporate United States Holders (including individuals), long-term capital gain generally will be subject to a maximum United States federal income tax rate of 15%, which maximum tax rate currently is scheduled to increase to 20% for dispositions occurring during the taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to certain limitations.

Non-United States Holders

Interest

Interest paid to a non-United States Holder of the senior debt securities will not be subject to United States federal withholding tax under the portfolio interest exception, provided that:

- (1) the non-United States Holder does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock;
- (2) the non-United States Holder is not
 - (A) a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us through stock ownership or
 - (B)

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a bank that received the senior debt security on an extension of credit made pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of its trade or business; and

- (3) the beneficial owner of the senior debt security provides a certification, signed under penalties of perjury, that it is not a United States person. Such certification is generally made on an IRS Form W-8BEN or a suitable substitute form.

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Interest paid to a non-United States Holder that does not qualify for the portfolio interest exception and that is not effectively connected to a United States trade or business (or, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is not attributable to a United States permanent establishment) will be subject to United States federal withholding tax at a rate of 30%, unless a United States income tax treaty applies to reduce or eliminate withholding.

A non-United States Holder will generally be subject to tax in the same manner as a United States Holder with respect to interest, and such non-United States holder will generally be exempt from the 30% withholding tax provided the certification requirements discussed below are satisfied, if such amounts are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by the non-United States Holder in the United States and, if an applicable tax treaty requires, such interest is attributable to a United States permanent establishment maintained by the non-United States Holder. Such effectively connected income received by a non-United States Holder which is a corporation may in certain circumstances be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or, if applicable, a lower treaty rate.

To claim the benefit of a lower treaty rate or to claim exemption from withholding because the income is effectively connected with a United States trade or business, the non-United States Holder must provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or a suitable substitute form) claiming an exemption from or reduction in withholding under the benefit of an applicable income tax treaty, or IRS Form W-8ECI (or a suitable substitute form) stating that interest paid on the senior debt securities is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with the non-United States Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States, as applicable. Such certificate must contain, among other information, the name and address of the non-United States Holder.

Non-United States Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding applicable income tax treaties, which may provide different rules.

Sale of Senior Debt Securities

A non-United States Holder generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax or withholding tax on gain realized on the sale or exchange of a senior debt security unless:

- (1) the non-United States Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the sale or exchange and certain other conditions are met; or
- (2) the gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business of the non-United States Holder in the United States and, if an applicable tax treaty requires, such gain is attributable to a United States permanent establishment maintained by such holder.

A non-United States Holder will generally be subject to tax in the same manner as a United States Holder with respect to gain realized on the sale or exchange of a senior debt security if such gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by the non-United States Holder in the United States and, if an applicable tax treaty requires, such gain is attributable to a United States permanent establishment maintained by the non-United States Holder. In certain circumstances, a non-United States Holder which is a corporation will be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or, if applicable, a lower treaty rate on such income.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Certain non-corporate United States Holders may be subject to information reporting requirements on payments of principal and interest on a senior debt security and payments of the proceeds of the sale of a senior debt security, and backup withholding tax at the applicable rate (currently 28%) may apply to such payments if the United States Holder:

- (1) fails to furnish an accurate taxpayer identification number, or TIN, or certification of exempt status to the payor in the manner required;

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(2) is notified by the IRS that it has failed to properly report payments of interest or dividends; or

(3) under certain circumstances, fails to certify, under penalties of perjury, that it has furnished a correct TIN and that it has not been notified by the IRS that it is subject to backup withholding.

A non-United States Holder is generally not subject to backup withholding if it certifies as to its status as a non-United States Holder under penalties of perjury in the manner described in Non-United States Holders Interest above or otherwise establishes an exemption, provided that neither we nor our paying agent has actual knowledge or reason to know that the non-United States Holder is a United States person or that the conditions of any other exemptions are not, in fact, satisfied. However, information reporting requirements will apply to payments of interest to non-United States Holders. Copies of these information returns may also be made available under the provisions of a specific treaty or agreement to the tax authorities of the country in which the non-United States Holder resides.

The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of senior debt securities to or through the United States office of any broker, United States or foreign, will be subject to information reporting and possible backup withholding unless the owner certifies as to its non-United States status under penalties of perjury in the manner described in Non-United States Holders Interest above or otherwise establishes an exemption, provided that the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the non-United States Holder is a United States person or that the conditions of any other exemption are not, in fact, satisfied.

The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of a senior debt security to or through a non-United States office of a non-United States broker that is not a United States related person, generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. For this purpose, a United States related person is:

(1) a controlled foreign corporation for United States federal income tax purposes;

(2) a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income from all sources for the three-year period ending with the close of its taxable year preceding the payment, or for such part of the period that the broker has been in existence, is derived from activities that are effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business; or

(3) a foreign partnership that is either engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the United States or of which more than 50% of its income or capital interests are held by United States persons.

In the case of the payment of proceeds from the disposition of senior debt securities to or through a non-United States office of a broker that is either a United States person or a United States related person, the payment may be subject to information reporting unless the broker has documentary evidence in its files that the owner is a non-United States Holder and the broker has no knowledge or reason to know to the contrary. Backup withholding will not apply to payments made through foreign offices of a broker that is a United States person or a United States related person (absent actual knowledge that the payee is a United States person).

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a holder will be allowed as a refund or a credit against such holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided that the requisite procedures are followed.

Holders of senior debt securities are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding their qualification for exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining such an exemption, if applicable.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities (a) through underwriters or dealers, (b) directly to one or more purchasers, or (c) through agents. The prospectus supplement will include the names of underwriters, dealers or agents 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, and any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

We may offer these securities to the public through underwriting syndicates managed by managing underwriters or through underwriters without a syndicate. If underwriters are used, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. They may resell the securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Unless otherwise indicated in the related prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to customary conditions precedent and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities offered if any of the securities are purchased. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, all securities will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters who purchase securities from us for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot give any assurance concerning the liquidity of the trading market for any securities.

In order to facilitate the offering of the securities, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of these securities or any other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on these securities. Specifically, the underwriters may over-allot in connection with any such offering, creating a short position in the securities for their own accounts. In addition, to cover over-allotments or to stabilize the price of the securities or of any other securities, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the securities or any other securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of the securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the securities in the offering, if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

Underwriters, dealers, and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and any discounts or commissions received by them from us and any profit on the resale of the securities by them may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers, and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, UnitedHealth Group or its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of their businesses.

One or more firms, referred to as remarketing firms, may also offer or sell the securities, if the prospectus supplement so indicates, in connection with a remarketing arrangement upon their purchase. Remarketing firms will act as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. These remarketing firms will offer or sell the securities in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to the terms of the securities. The prospectus

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supplement will identify any remarketing firm and the terms of its agreement, if any, with us and will describe the remarketing firm's compensation. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters in connection with the securities they remarket. Remarketing firms may be entitled under agreements that may be entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act and may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers and agents to solicit offers by certain specified institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in a prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions included in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for solicitation of the contracts.

Unless indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we do not expect to list the securities on a securities exchange.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, legal matters will be passed upon for us by Christopher J. Walsh, our Deputy General Counsel, and to the extent that such legal matters are governed by New York law, by Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. Any underwriters will be advised on legal matters by their own counsel, which will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Mr. Walsh 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 financial statements and management's report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports incorporated herein by reference (which reports expressed an unqualified opinion on the consolidated financial statements and included explanatory paragraphs that describe that the 2005 and 2004 consolidated financial statements have been restated to reflect certain adjustments resulting from our historical stock option granting practices and that we adopted the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment in 2006, discussed in notes 3 and 2, respectively, to the consolidated financial statements and express an unqualified opinion on management's assessment regarding internal control over financial reporting and on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting), and 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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Table of Contents**PART II.****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

| | Amount |
|---|---------------------|
| SEC Registration Fee | \$ (a) |
| Accounting Fees and Expenses | 115,500 |
| Legal Fees and Expenses | 100,000 |
| Trustee s and Depositary Fees and Expenses | 50,000 |
| Printing Expenses | 15,000 |
| Blue Sky and Legal Investment Fees and Expenses | 25,000 |
| Rating Agencies Fees | 1,140,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 250,000 |
| Total | \$ 1,695,500 |

- (a) Because this registration statement covers an indeterminate amount of securities, the SEC registration fee is not currently determinable. Such fee is deferred in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) of the Securities Act. All fees and expenses other than the SEC registration fee are estimated.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Section 302A.521 of the Minnesota Business Corporation Act provides that a corporation shall indemnify any person who is made or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the former or present official capacity (as defined) of such person against judgments, penalties, fines (including, without limitation, excise taxes assessed against such person with respect to any employee benefit plan), settlements and reasonable expenses, including attorneys fees and disbursements, incurred by such person in connection with the proceeding if, with respect to the acts or omissions of such person complained of in the proceeding, such person: (1) has not been indemnified therefor by another organization or employee benefit plan; (2) acted in good faith; (3) received no improper personal benefit and Section 302A.255 (with respect to director conflicts of interest), if applicable, has been satisfied; (4) in the case of a criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful; and (5) reasonably believed that the conduct was in the best interests of the corporation in the case of acts or omissions in such person s official capacity for the corporation or reasonably believed that the conduct was not opposed to the best interests of the corporation in the case of acts or omissions in such person s official capacity for other affiliated organizations. Proceeding means a threatened, pending or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration or investigative proceeding, including one by or in the right of the corporation.

Our bylaws provide for the indemnification of such persons, for such expenses and liabilities, in such manner, under such circumstances and to such extent as permitted by Section 302A.521 of the Minnesota Business Corporation Act. We maintain a standard policy of directors and officers insurance.

In the Underwriting Agreement, a form of which is filed herewith, the underwriters will agree to indemnify, under certain conditions, us, our directors, certain of our officers and persons who control us within the meaning of the Securities Act, against certain liabilities.

Item 16. List of Exhibits

| Number | Description |
|--------|-------------|
|--------|-------------|

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- 1.1 Form of underwriting agreement
- 4.1 Indenture, dated as of February 4, 2008, between UnitedHealth Group Incorporated and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee

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| Number | Description |
|---------------|--|
| 5.1 | Opinion of Christopher J. Walsh, Deputy General Counsel of UnitedHealth Group Incorporated |
| 5.2 | Opinion of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. |
| 12.1 | Ratio of earnings to fixed charges |
| 23.1 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP |
| 23.2 | Consent of Christopher J. Walsh, Deputy General Counsel of UnitedHealth Group Incorporated (included as part of Exhibit 5.1) |
| 23.3 | Consent of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. (included as part of Exhibit 5.2) |
| 24.1 | Power of attorney from directors of UnitedHealth Group Incorporated |
| 25.1 | Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of U.S. Bank National Association to act as Trustee under the Indenture |

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and
 - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

Provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed or furnished by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

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- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:
 - (A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

 - (B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or the prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of such undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, such undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

- (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

- (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that, in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Minnetonka, State of Minnesota, on February 4, 2008.

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP INCORPORATED

By: /s/ Stephen J. Hemsley
 Stephen J. Hemsley
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on February 4, 2008.

| Signature | Title |
|---|---|
| /s/ Stephen J. Hemsley Stephen J. Hemsley | Director, President and Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer) |
| /s/ George L. Mikan III George L. Mikan III | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer) |
| /s/ Eric S. Rangen Eric S. Rangen | Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer (principal accounting officer) |
| * | |
| William C. Ballard, Jr. | Director |
| * | |
| Richard T. Burke | Director |
| * | |
| Robert J. Darretta | Director |
| * | |
| Michele J. Hooper | Director |
| * | |
| James A. Johnson | Director |
| * | |
| Thomas H. Kean | Director |

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| Signature | Title |
|--|--------------|
| * Douglas W. Leatherdale | Director |
| * Mary O. Munding, Dr. P.H. | Director |
| * Robert L. Ryan | Director |
| * Gail R. Wilensky, Ph.D. | Director |

* The undersigned, by signing his name hereto, does hereby execute this registration statement on behalf of the directors of UnitedHealth Group Incorporated listed above pursuant to the Power of Attorney filed herewith as Exhibit 24.1.

By: /s/ Christopher J. Walsh
Christopher J. Walsh
As Attorney-In-Fact

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