

CENTENE CORP
Form 424B3
September 21, 2015
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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-206463

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TRANSACTION PROPOSED YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Dear Stockholders:

Each of the boards of directors of Centene Corporation and Health Net, Inc. has unanimously approved a merger, combining Centene and Health Net and bringing together two complementary managed care organizations with a history of operating excellence to create a stronger, larger and more geographically diverse organization that will be well positioned to create greater value for all of our stockholders.

Centene and Health Net entered into an agreement and plan of merger on July 2, 2015. Subject to stockholder approvals and the satisfaction (or waiver to the extent legally permissible) of certain other closing conditions, Centene and Health Net will combine their businesses through the merger of Health Net with a newly formed, direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, with Health Net thereupon becoming a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene as the surviving corporation, in a transaction which is referred to as the merger. In addition, as more fully described herein, immediately following the completion of the merger and contingent upon Health Net's receipt before the effective time of the merger of an opinion from Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, its outside legal counsel, that the mergers will constitute a reorganization under Section 368(a) of Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which is referred to as the Code, Health Net, as the surviving corporation in the merger, will merge with and into another direct wholly owned Centene subsidiary, with the latter subsidiary surviving, in a transaction which is referred to as the subsequent merger. The merger and the subsequent merger are referred to collectively as the mergers or the transaction in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

If the merger is completed, Health Net stockholders (other than (i) Centene, Health Net, Chopin Merger Sub I, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, which is referred to as Merger Sub I, and Chopin Merger Sub II, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, which is referred to as Merger Sub II, (ii) holders of Health Net stock options, restricted stock units or performance share awards (with respect to such underlying shares only) and (iii) any stockholders holding shares of Health Net common stock with respect to which appraisal rights are properly demanded and not withdrawn under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware) will receive \$28.25 in cash and 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock for each share of Health Net common stock, which ratio is referred to as the exchange ratio, and which cash and stock consideration combined are referred to as the merger consideration. This exchange ratio is fixed and will not be adjusted to reflect stock price changes prior to the closing of the merger. No fractional shares of Centene common stock will be issued in the merger. Instead of receiving any fractional shares, each holder of Health Net common stock will be paid an amount in cash, without interest, rounded down to the nearest cent, equal to the product of (x) the amount of the fractional share interest in a share of Centene common stock to which such holder would otherwise be entitled (rounded to three decimal places) and (y) an amount equal to the volume weighted average price per share of Centene common stock on the New York Stock Exchange, which is referred to as the NYSE, on each of the ten consecutive trading days ending with the third complete trading day immediately prior to the closing date, weighted by the total

volume of trading in Centene common stock on each such trading day. Centene stockholders will continue to own their existing shares of common stock of Centene, the form of which will not be changed by the transaction.

Upon completion of the merger, former Health Net stockholders will own approximately 29% of the then outstanding Centene common stock, based on the number of shares and stock-based awards of Centene and Health Net outstanding as of September 17, 2015. The value of the merger consideration to be received in exchange for each share of Health Net common stock will fluctuate with the market value of Centene common stock until the merger is completed.

The merger and the subsequent merger, if both are consummated, are intended to constitute a single integrated transaction that qualifies as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. If the subsequent merger is consummated, in general no gain or loss will be recognized by U.S. holders of Health Net common stock upon the exchange of Health Net common stock for Centene common stock except that U.S. holders will recognize gain (but not loss) to the extent such U.S. holders receive cash (including the cash portion

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of the merger consideration and any cash received in lieu of a fractional share). If the subsequent merger is not consummated, U.S. holders of Health Net common stock would recognize gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (i) the sum of the fair market value of the Centene common stock received in the merger and any cash received and (ii) such U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the Health Net common stock surrendered in exchange therefor. You are strongly urged to consult with a tax advisor to determine the particular U.S. federal, state or local or foreign income or other tax consequences of the mergers to you. You will not know at the time of your respective vote whether the subsequent merger will take place, and therefore you will not know the precise tax treatment of the merger or mergers when you vote.

Based on Centene's closing stock price on September 18, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available, the merger consideration represented approximately \$67.03 in value per share of Health Net common stock, which represents a premium of approximately 3.0% over Health Net's closing stock price on July 1, 2015, the last trading day before the public announcement of the transaction described herein. The value of the merger consideration to be received in exchange for each share of Health Net common stock will fluctuate with the market value of Centene common stock until the merger is complete. The common stock of each of Centene and Health Net is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **CNC** and **HNT**, respectively. We urge you to obtain current market quotations for the shares of common stock of Centene and Health Net.

Each of Health Net and Centene is holding a special meeting of its stockholders to vote on the proposals necessary to complete the merger. Information about these meetings, the mergers, the share issuance, and the other business to be considered by stockholders at each of the special meetings is contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Any stockholder entitled to attend and vote at the Health Net or Centene special meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on such stockholder's behalf. Such proxy need not be a holder of Health Net or Centene common stock. We urge you to read this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the annexes and documents incorporated by reference carefully. **You should also carefully consider the risks that are described in the Risk Factors section beginning on page 44.**

Your vote is very important regardless of the number of shares of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock that you own. The merger cannot be completed without approval of (i) the Share Issuance proposal (as defined below) by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by the shares of Centene common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Centene special meeting that are entitled to vote on the proposal and (ii) the Merger proposal (as defined below) by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares of Health Net common stock outstanding and entitled to vote on the record date.

Whether or not you plan to attend your company's special meeting of stockholders, please submit your proxy as soon as possible to make sure that your shares are represented at that meeting.

The Centene board of directors unanimously recommends that Centene stockholders vote **FOR the proposal to approve the issuance of Centene common stock in the merger, which is necessary to complete the merger.**

The Health Net board of directors unanimously recommends that Health Net stockholders vote **FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, which is necessary to complete the merger.**

Michael F. Neidorff
Chairman, President and Chief

Jay M. Gellert
President and

Executive Officer
Centene

Chief Executive Officer
Health Net

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the merger, the subsequent merger or the other transactions described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the securities to be issued in connection with the merger or determined if this joint proxy statement/prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus is dated September 21, 2015, and is first being mailed to stockholders of Centene and Health Net on or about September 22, 2015.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON, OCTOBER 23, 2015

To the Stockholders of Centene:

A special meeting of stockholders of Centene Corporation will be held at Centene Plaza, 7700 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63105, on October 23, 2015 at 12:00 p.m., Central Time, for the following purposes:

1. To approve the issuance of Centene common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 2, 2015, by and among Centene, Chopin Merger Sub I, Inc., Chopin Merger Sub II, Inc. and Health Net, Inc., as the same may be amended from time to time, a copy of which is attached as Annex A to the joint proxy statement/prospectus accompanying this notice (the Share Issuance proposal).
2. To approve any proposal to adjourn the Centene special meeting from time to time, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the Share Issuance proposal (the Centene Adjournment proposal).
3. To approve an amendment to Centene's certificate of incorporation, as amended, to increase the number of authorized shares of Centene common stock from 200 million to 400 million, the full text of which is attached as Annex H to the joint proxy statement/prospectus accompanying this notice (the Charter Amendment proposal).

Approval of the Share Issuance proposal is required to complete the merger. Approval of the Charter Amendment proposal is not required to complete the merger.

Centene will transact no other business at the special meeting, except for business properly brought before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof by or at the direction of the board of directors.

The accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus further describes the matters to be considered at the Centene special meeting.

The Centene board of directors has set September 22, 2015 as the record date for the Centene special meeting. Only holders of record of Centene common stock at the close of business on September 22, 2015 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Centene special meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Any stockholder entitled to attend and vote at the Centene special meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on such stockholder's behalf. Such proxy need not be a holder of Centene common stock.

Your vote is very important regardless of the number of shares of Centene common stock that you own. The merger cannot be completed without approval of the Share Issuance proposal by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by the shares of Centene common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Centene special meeting that are entitled to vote on the proposal. To ensure your representation at the Centene special meeting, please complete and return the enclosed proxy card or submit your proxy by telephone or through the Internet. Please vote promptly whether or not you expect to attend the Centene special meeting. Submitting a proxy now will not prevent you from being able to vote in person at the Centene special meeting.

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The Centene board of directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and unanimously recommends that you vote **FOR** the Share Issuance proposal, **FOR** the Centene Adjournment proposal and **FOR** the Charter Amendment proposal.

By Order of the Centene Board of Directors,

Keith H. Williamson

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

September 21, 2015

PLEASE VOTE YOUR SHARES PROMPTLY. YOU CAN FIND INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING ON THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MERGER, ABOUT THE PROPOSALS IN THIS JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS OR ABOUT VOTING YOUR SHARES, PLEASE CALL EITHER:

Innisfree M&A Incorporated

501 Madison Avenue, 20th Floor

New York, New York 10024

Phone: (877) 825-8772

Banks & Brokers: (212) 750-5833

or

Morrow & Co., LLC

470 West Avenue

Stamford, CT 06902

Phone: (800) 662-5200

Banks & Brokers: (203) 658-9400

Email: Centene@morrowco.com

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Health Net, Inc.

21650 Oxnard Street

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

to be held on October 23, 2015

To the Stockholders of Health Net, Inc.:

We are pleased to invite you to attend the special meeting of stockholders of Health Net, Inc., a Delaware corporation (referred to as Health Net), which will be held at 21281 Burbank Boulevard, Woodland Hills, California 91367, on October 23, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., Pacific time, for the following purposes:

to vote on a proposal to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 2, 2015, by and among Centene Corporation, Chopin Merger Sub I, Inc., Chopin Merger Sub II, Inc. and Health Net, as amended from time to time (the merger agreement), which is further described in the sections titled The Merger and The Merger Agreement, beginning on pages 54 and 134, respectively, and a copy of which is attached as Annex A to the joint proxy statement/prospectus accompanying this notice, which is referred to as the Merger proposal;

to vote on an advisory (non-binding) proposal to approve the compensation that may be paid or become payable to Health Net's named executive officers that is based on or otherwise related to the proposed transactions, which is referred to as the Merger-Related Compensation proposal; and

to vote on a proposal to approve the adjournment of the Health Net special meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the Merger proposal, which is referred to as the Health Net Adjournment proposal.

Health Net will transact no other business at the special meeting except such business as may properly be brought before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof by or at the direction of the Health Net board of directors. Please refer to the joint proxy statement/prospectus of which this notice is a part for further information with respect to the business to be transacted at the Health Net special meeting.

The Health Net board of directors has fixed the close of business on September 22, 2015 as the record date for the Health Net special meeting. Only Health Net stockholders of record at that time are entitled to receive notice of, and to vote at, the Health Net special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. A complete list of such stockholders will be available for inspection by any Health Net stockholder for any purpose germane to the special meeting during ordinary business hours for the 10 days preceding the Health Net special meeting at Health Net's offices at 21650 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. The eligible Health Net stockholder list will also be available at the Health Net special meeting for examination by any stockholder of record present at such meeting.

Completion of the merger is conditioned on adoption of the merger agreement by the Health Net stockholders, which requires the approval of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of Health Net common stock entitled to vote at the Health Net special meeting.

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The Health Net board of directors has unanimously approved the merger and the merger agreement, declared the merger agreement advisable and in the best interest of Health Net and its stockholders, and unanimously recommends that Health Net stockholders vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, FOR the approval, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, of the compensation that may be paid or become payable to Health Net's named executive officers that is based on or otherwise relates to the proposed transactions and FOR the proposal to approve the adjournment of the Health Net special meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary or appropriate, to permit further solicitation of proxies.

Your vote is very important regardless of the number of shares of Health Net common stock that you own. Whether or not you expect to attend the Health Net special meeting in person, to ensure your representation at the Health Net special meeting, we urge you to submit a proxy to vote your shares as promptly as possible by (i) visiting the Internet site listed on the Health Net proxy card, (ii) calling the toll-free number listed on the Health Net proxy card or (iii) submitting your Health Net proxy card by mail by using the provided self-addressed, stamped envelope. Submitting a proxy will not prevent you from voting in person, but it will help to secure a quorum and avoid added solicitation costs. Any eligible holder of Health Net stock who is present at the Health Net special meeting may vote in person, thereby revoking any previous proxy. In addition, a proxy may also be revoked in writing before the Health Net special meeting in the manner described in the accompanying document. If your shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee, or through the Health Net 401(k) Plan please follow the instructions on the voting instruction card furnished by the broker, bank or other nominee, or your plan administrator.

The enclosed joint proxy statement/prospectus provides a detailed description of the merger and the merger agreement and the other matters to be considered at the Health Net special meeting. We urge you to carefully read this joint proxy statement/prospectus, including any documents incorporated by reference herein, and the annexes in their entirety. If you have any questions concerning the merger or this joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies or need help voting your shares of Health Net common stock, please contact Health Net's proxy solicitor:

MacKenzie Partners, Inc.

105 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10016

Phone: (212) 929-5500

Email: proxy@mackenziepartners.com

Website: www.mackenziepartners.com

By Order of the Health Net Board of Directors,

Kathleen A. Waters

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Woodland Hills, California

September 21, 2015

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REFERENCES TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates by reference important business and financial information about Centene and Health Net from other documents that are not included in or delivered with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For a listing of the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, see *Where You Can Find More Information* beginning on page 220.

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus by requesting them in writing or by telephone from Innisfree M&A Incorporated or Morrow & Co., LLC, Centene's proxy solicitors, or MacKenzie Partners, Inc., Health Net's proxy solicitor, at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

For Centene Stockholders:

Innisfree M&A Incorporated
501 Madison Avenue, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10022
(877) 825-8772 (toll-free)
(212) 750-5833 (collect)

or

Morrow & Co., LLC
470 West Ave,
Stamford, CT 06902
(800) 662-5200 (toll-free)
(203) 658-9400 (collect)

For Health Net Stockholders:

MacKenzie Partners, Inc.
105 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10016
Phone: (212) 929-5500
Email: proxy@mackenziepartners.com
Website: www.mackenziepartners.com

To receive timely delivery of the documents in advance of the special meetings, you should make your request no later than October 8, 2015, which is 10 business days before the special meetings.

You may also obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus without charge through the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is referred to as the SEC, website at www.sec.gov. In addition, you may obtain copies of documents filed by Centene with the SEC by accessing Centene's website at www.centene.com under the tab *Investors* and then under the heading *SEC Filings*. You may also obtain copies of documents filed by Health Net with the SEC by accessing Health Net's website at www.healthnet.com under the tab *Investor Relations* and then under the heading *Financial Information*.

We are not incorporating the contents of the websites of the SEC, Centene, Health Net or any other entity into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. We are providing the information about how you can obtain certain documents that are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus at these websites only for your convenience.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGERS AND THE SPECIAL MEETINGS

The following questions and answers briefly address some commonly asked questions about the mergers and each of the Centene and Health Net special meetings. They may not include all the information that is important to stockholders of Centene and Health Net. Stockholders should carefully read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the annexes and the other documents referred to or incorporated by reference herein.

Q: What are the mergers?

A: Centene Corporation, which is referred to as Centene, and Health Net, Inc., which is referred to as Health Net, have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 2, 2015, which (as amended from time to time) is referred to as the merger agreement. A copy of the merger agreement is attached as Annex A to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The merger agreement contains the terms and conditions of the proposed business combination of Centene and Health Net. Under the merger agreement, subject to satisfaction (or waiver to the extent legally permissible) of the conditions to the merger set forth in the merger agreement and described hereinafter, Chopin Merger Sub I, Inc., a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, which is referred to as Merger Sub I, will merge with and into Health Net, with Health Net continuing as the surviving corporation and a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, in a transaction which is referred to as the merger. Pursuant to the merger agreement, immediately following the completion of the merger and contingent upon Health Net's receipt before the effective time of the merger of an opinion from Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, which is referred to as Morgan Lewis, its outside legal counsel, that the mergers will constitute a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Code, Health Net, as the surviving corporation in the merger, will merge with and into Chopin Merger Sub II, Inc., another direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, which is referred to as Merger Sub II, with Merger Sub II continuing as the surviving corporation and a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, in a transaction which is referred to as the subsequent merger, and together with the merger is referred to as the mergers or the transaction.

Q: Why am I receiving these materials?

A: Centene and Health Net are sending these materials to their respective stockholders to help them decide how to vote their shares of Centene or Health Net common stock, as the case may be, with respect to the merger and other matters to be considered at their respective special meetings.

The merger cannot be completed unless Centene stockholders approve the issuance of Centene common stock in the merger and Health Net stockholders adopt the merger agreement. Each of Centene and Health Net is holding a special meeting of its stockholders to vote on the proposals necessary to complete the merger. Information about these special meetings, the mergers and the other business to be considered by stockholders at each of the special meetings is contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus constitutes both a joint proxy statement of Centene and Health Net and a prospectus of Centene. It is a joint proxy statement because each of the boards of directors of Centene and Health Net are soliciting proxies from their respective stockholders. It is a prospectus because Centene will issue shares of its common stock in exchange for outstanding shares of Health Net common stock in the merger.

Q: What will Health Net stockholders receive in the merger?

A: In the merger, Health Net stockholders (other than (i) Centene, Health Net, Merger Sub I, Merger Sub II or any of their respective subsidiaries, (ii) holders of Health Net stock options, restricted stock units or performance share awards (with respect to such underlying shares only) and (iii) any stockholders holding shares of Health Net common

stock with respect to which appraisal rights are properly demanded and not withdrawn under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, which is referred to as the DGCL) will receive \$28.25 in cash and 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock for each share of

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Health Net common stock, which is referred to as the exchange ratio, and which cash and stock consideration combined are referred to as the merger consideration. This exchange ratio is fixed and will not be adjusted to reflect changes in the stock price of either company before the merger is complete. No fractional shares of Centene common stock will be issued in the merger. Instead of receiving any fractional shares, each holder of Health Net common stock will be paid an amount in cash, without interest, rounded down to the nearest cent, equal to the product of (x) the amount of the fractional share interest in a share of Centene common stock to which such holder would otherwise be entitled (rounded to three decimal places) and (y) an amount equal to the volume weighted average price per share of Centene common stock on the New York Stock Exchange, which is referred to as the NYSE, on each of the ten consecutive trading days ending with the third complete trading day immediately prior to the closing date, weighted by the total volume of trading in Centene common stock on each such trading day, which amount in this clause (y) we refer to as the Centene stock value. Centene stockholders will continue to own their existing shares of common stock of Centene, the form of which will not be changed by the transaction.

The merger and the subsequent merger, if both are consummated, are intended to constitute a single integrated transaction that qualifies as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. If the subsequent merger is consummated, in general no gain or loss will be recognized by U.S. holders of Health Net common stock upon the exchange of Health Net common stock for Centene common stock except that U.S. holders will recognize gain (but not loss) to the extent such U.S. holders receive cash (including the cash portion of the merger consideration and any cash received in lieu of a fractional share). If the subsequent merger is not consummated, U.S. holders of Health Net common stock would recognize gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (i) the sum of the fair market value of the Centene common stock received in the merger and any cash received and (ii) such U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the Health Net common stock surrendered in exchange therefor. You are strongly urged to consult with a tax advisor to determine the particular U.S. federal, state or local or foreign income or other tax consequences of the mergers to you. You will not know at the time of your respective vote whether the subsequent merger will take place, and therefore you will not know the precise tax treatment of the merger or mergers when you vote. See *The Merger U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences* beginning on page 130 for additional information.

Q: What will happen to the preferred share purchase rights attached to Health Net common stock?

A: Prior to the completion of the merger, Health Net will terminate the rights agreement by and between Health Net and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., which is referred to as the Health Net rights agreement. In connection with such termination, all of the rights to purchase Series A Junior Preferred Stock of Health Net will be cancelled without any consideration therefor. Prior to the execution and delivery of the merger agreement, the Health Net rights agreement was amended in an action approved by the board of directors of Health Net, which is referred to as the Health Net Board, such that the restrictions set forth in the Health Net rights agreement would not apply to the mergers, the merger agreement, the Health Net Voting Agreement (as defined below), Centene, Merger Sub I or Merger Sub II.

Q: When do Health Net and Centene expect to complete the transaction?

A: Centene and Health Net are working to complete the transaction as soon as practicable. We currently expect that the transaction will be completed by early 2016. Neither Centene nor Health Net can predict, however, the actual date on which the transaction will be completed because it is subject to conditions beyond each company's control, including federal and state regulatory approvals. See *The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Merger* beginning on page 156.

Q: What am I being asked to vote on, and why is this approval necessary?

A: Centene stockholders are being asked to vote on the following proposals:

1. to approve the issuance of Centene common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, pursuant to the merger agreement, which is referred to as the Share Issuance proposal;

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2. to approve any proposal to adjourn the Centene special meeting from time to time, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the Share Issuance proposal, which is referred to as the Centene Adjournment proposal; and

3. to approve an amendment to Centene's certificate of incorporation, as amended, to increase the number of authorized shares of Centene common stock from 200 million to 400 million, the full text of which is attached as Annex H to this joint proxy statement/prospectus, which is referred to as the Charter Amendment proposal.

Approval of the Share Issuance proposal by Centene stockholders is required to complete the merger. Approval of the Charter Amendment proposal is not required to complete the merger.

Health Net stockholders are being asked to vote on the following proposals:

1. to adopt the merger agreement, which is referred to as the Merger proposal;

2. to approve, on an advisory basis, the merger-related compensation arrangements of Health Net's named executive officers, which is referred to as the Merger-Related Compensation proposal; and

3. to approve any proposal to adjourn the Health Net special meeting from time to time, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to approve the Merger proposal, which is referred to as the Health Net Adjournment proposal.

Approval of the Merger proposal by Health Net stockholders is required for completion of the merger.

The Share Issuance proposal and the Merger proposal are collectively referred to as the Merger-Related proposals.

Q: What vote is required to approve each proposal at the Centene Special Meeting?

A: The Share Issuance proposal: The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by the shares of Centene common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Centene special meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve the Share Issuance proposal, which is referred to as the Centene Stockholder Approval.

The Centene Adjournment proposal: If a quorum is not present, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares of Centene common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Centene special meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve the Centene Adjournment proposal. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by the shares of Centene common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Centene special meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve the Centene Adjournment proposal.

The Charter Amendment proposal: The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares of Centene common stock outstanding and entitled to vote on the record date for the Centene special meeting is required to approve the Charter Amendment proposal.

Q: Have any Centene stockholders agreed to vote their shares in favor of any of the Centene proposals?

A: Yes. Michael F. Neidorff, President and Chief Executive Officer of Centene, who is referred to herein as the Centene Supporting Stockholder, entered into a voting agreement with Health Net, which is referred to as the Centene

Voting Agreement, pursuant to which the Centene Supporting Stockholder agreed, among other things, to (a) appear at each meeting of the stockholders of Centene or otherwise cause all of the shares beneficially owned at such time by the Centene Supporting Stockholder to be counted as present thereat for purposes of calculating a quorum, and respond to each request by Centene for written consent, if any; and (b) vote or cause to be voted (or deliver or cause to be delivered a written consent with respect to) all shares beneficially owned at

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such time by the Centene Supporting Stockholder (i) for the Share Issuance proposal and any actions in furtherance thereof at any meeting of the stockholders of Centene, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof, at which the Share Issuance proposal or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and other related agreements (or any amended version thereof), or such other actions, are submitted for the consideration and vote of the stockholders of Centene (or in response to a request by Centene for written consent with respect thereto), and (ii) against (A) any takeover proposal in respect of Centene and (B) any other corporate action the consummation of which would frustrate the purposes, or prevent or materially delay the consummation, of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. The Centene Voting Agreement terminates in certain circumstances specified therein. As of the close of business on September 14, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available, the Centene Supporting Stockholder has the power to vote and is the beneficial owner of approximately 0.8% and 2.9%, respectively, of the issued and outstanding shares of Centene common stock. The percentage of shares of Centene common stock that the Centene Supporting Stockholder has the power to vote or beneficially owns as of the record date is not expected to be meaningfully different from the percentage as of September 14, 2015. For a discussion of the Centene Voting Agreement, see *The Centene Voting Agreement* beginning on page 165.

Q: What vote is required to approve each proposal at the Health Net Special Meeting?

A: The Merger proposal: The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares of Health Net common stock outstanding and entitled to vote on the record date for the Health Net special meeting is required to approve the Merger proposal, which is referred to as the Health Net Stockholder Approval.

The Merger-Related Compensation proposal: The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by stockholders of Health Net entitled to vote thereon, represented (in person or by proxy) at the Health Net special meeting, is required to approve the Merger-Related Compensation proposal. Because the vote on the Merger-Related Compensation proposal is advisory only, it will not be binding on either Health Net or Centene. Accordingly, if the merger agreement is adopted and the merger is completed, the merger-related compensation will be payable to Health Net's named executive officers, subject only to the conditions applicable thereto, regardless of the outcome of the non-binding, advisory vote of Health Net's stockholders.

The Health Net Adjournment proposal: If a quorum is not present, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of shares of Health Net common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Health Net special meeting is required to approve the Health Net Adjournment proposal. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by the shares of Health Net common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Health Net special meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve the Health Net Adjournment proposal.

Q: Have any Health Net stockholders agreed to vote their shares in favor of any of the Health Net proposals?

A: Yes. Jay M. Gellert, President and Chief Executive Officer of Health Net, who is referred to herein as the Health Net Supporting Stockholder, entered into a voting agreement with Centene, which is referred to as the Health Net Voting Agreement, pursuant to which the Health Net Supporting Stockholder agreed, among other things, to (a) appear at each meeting of the stockholders of Health Net or otherwise cause all of the shares beneficially owned at such time by the Health Net Supporting Stockholder to be counted as present thereat for purposes of calculating a quorum, and respond to each request by Health Net for written consent, if any; and (b) vote or cause to be voted (or deliver or cause to be delivered a written consent with respect to) all shares beneficially owned at such time by the Health Net Supporting Stockholder (i) for the adoption of the merger agreement, the merger and other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and all agreements in furtherance of the merger and any actions in furtherance thereof at any meeting of the stockholders of Health Net, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof, at which

the merger agreement and other related agreements (or any amended version thereof), or such other actions, are submitted for the consideration and vote

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of the stockholders of Health Net (or in response to a request by Health Net for written consent with respect thereto), and (ii) against (A) any takeover proposal in respect of Health Net and (B) any other corporate action the consummation of which would frustrate the purposes, or prevent or materially delay the consummation, of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. The Health Net Voting Agreement terminates in certain circumstances specified therein. As of the close of business on September 14, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available, the Health Net Supporting Stockholder has the power to vote and is the beneficial owner of approximately 1.3% and 2.1%, respectively, of the issued and outstanding shares of Health Net common stock. The percentage of shares of Health Net common stock that the Health Net Supporting Stockholder has the power to vote or beneficially owns as of the record date is not expected to be meaningfully different from the percentage as of September 14, 2015. For a discussion of the Health Net Voting Agreement, see "The Health Net Voting Agreement" beginning on page 168.

Q: What happens if the non-binding advisory proposal to approve compensation that will or may be paid or provided by Health Net to its named executive officers in connection with the merger is not approved?

A: Approval, on an advisory (non-binding basis), of compensation that will or may be paid or provided by Health Net to its named executive officers in connection with the merger is not a condition to completion of the merger. The vote is an advisory vote and is not binding. If the merger is completed, Health Net may pay compensation in connection with the merger to its named executive officers even if Health Net stockholders fail to approve the non-binding advisory proposal to approve compensation that will or may be paid or provided by Health Net to its named executive officers in connection with the merger.

Q: What constitutes a quorum?

A: The presence at the Centene special meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the shares of Centene common stock issued and outstanding on the record date for the Centene special meeting and entitled to vote at the meeting will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Centene special meeting. The presence at the Health Net special meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of Health Net votes entitled to be cast by stockholders entitled to vote on the record date for the Health Net special meeting will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Health Net special meeting. Abstentions (which are described below) will count for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum for the transaction of business at each special meeting. Shares held in street name by brokers, banks or other nominees that do not have discretionary authority to vote the shares as to a particular matter and have not received voting instructions from their clients, which are referred to as broker non-votes, will be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum for the transaction of business at either special meeting to the extent there are any such broker non-votes.

Q: How does the Centene Board recommend that I vote?

A: The board of directors of Centene, which is referred to as the Centene Board, unanimously recommends that holders of Centene common stock vote **FOR** the Share Issuance proposal, **FOR** the Centene Adjournment proposal and **FOR** the Charter Amendment proposal.

Q: How does the Health Net Board recommend that I vote?

A: The Health Net Board unanimously recommends that Health Net stockholders vote **FOR** the Merger proposal and **FOR** the Health Net Adjournment proposal. In addition, the Health Net Board unanimously recommends that holders of Health Net common stock vote **FOR** the Merger-Related Compensation proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, any golden parachute compensation arrangement that may be paid or become payable to Health

Net s named executive officers that is based on or otherwise relates to the merger or contemplated by the merger agreement.

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Q: Is my vote required to approve the subsequent merger?

A: No. The constituent parties to the subsequent merger have approved the consummation of the subsequent merger. The subsequent merger is contingent upon (i) the consummation of the merger and (ii) Health Net's receipt before the effective time of the merger of an opinion from Morgan Lewis, Health Net's outside legal counsel, that the mergers will constitute a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Code.

Q: What do I need to do now?

A: After carefully reading and considering the information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, please vote your shares as soon as possible so that your shares will be represented at your respective company's special meeting. Please follow the instructions set forth on the proxy card or on the voting instruction form provided by the record holder if your shares are held in the name of your broker, bank or other nominee.

Please do not submit your Health Net stock certificates at this time. If the merger is completed, you will receive instructions for surrendering your Health Net stock certificates in exchange for shares of Centene common stock from the exchange agent.

Q: How do I vote?

A: If you are a stockholder of record of Centene as of September 22, 2015, which is referred to as the Centene record date, or a stockholder of Health Net as of September 22, 2015, which is referred to as the Health Net record date, you may submit your proxy before your respective company's special meeting in one of the following ways:

Telephone voting, use the toll-free number shown on your proxy card;

Via the Internet, visit the website shown on your proxy card to vote via the Internet; or

Mail, complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

If you are a stockholder of record, you may also cast your vote in person at your respective company's special meeting.

If your shares are held in street name, through a broker, bank or other nominee, that institution will send you separate instructions describing the procedure for voting your shares. Street name stockholders who wish to vote at the meeting will need to obtain a legal proxy form from their broker, bank or other nominee.

Q: When and where are the Centene and Health Net special meetings of stockholders? What must I bring to attend the special meeting?

A: The special meeting of Centene stockholders will be held at Centene Plaza, 7700 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63105 at 12:00 p.m., Central Time, on October 23, 2015. Subject to space availability, all Centene stockholders as of the Centene record date, or their duly appointed proxies, may attend the meeting. Since seating is limited, admission to the meeting will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration and seating will begin at 11:30 a.m., Central Time.

The special meeting of Health Net stockholders will be held at 21281 Burbank Boulevard, Woodland Hills, California 91367 at 10:00 a.m., Pacific Time, on October 23, 2015. Subject to space availability, all Health Net stockholders as of the Health Net record date, or their duly appointed proxies, may attend the meeting. Since seating is limited, admission to the meeting will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration and seating will begin at 9:30 a.m., Pacific Time.

If you wish to attend your respective company's special meeting, you must bring photo identification. If you hold your shares through a broker, bank or other nominee, you must also bring proof of ownership such as the voting instruction form from your broker or other nominee or an account statement.

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Q: If my shares are held in street name by a broker, bank or other nominee, will my broker, bank or other nominee vote my shares for me?

A: If your shares are held in street name in a stock brokerage account or by a broker, bank or other nominee, you must provide the record holder of your shares with instructions on how to vote your shares. Please follow the voting instructions provided by your broker, bank or other nominee. Please note that you may not vote shares held in street name by returning a proxy card directly to Centene or Health Net or by voting in person at your respective company's special meeting unless you provide a legal proxy, which you must obtain from your broker, bank or other nominee. Your broker, bank or other nominee is obligated to provide you with a voting instruction card for you to use.

Under the rules of the NYSE, brokers who hold shares in street name for a beneficial owner of those shares typically have the authority to vote in their discretion on routine proposals when they have not received instructions from beneficial owners. However, brokers are not allowed to exercise their voting discretion with respect to the approval of matters that the NYSE determines to be non-routine without specific instructions from the beneficial owner. It is expected that all proposals to be voted on at the Health Net special meeting, the Share Issuance proposal and the Centene Adjournment proposal are such non-routine matters and that the Charter Amendment proposal is a routine matter. Broker non-votes occur when a broker or nominee is not instructed by the beneficial owner of shares to vote on a particular proposal for which the broker does not have discretionary voting power.

If you are a Centene stockholder and you do not instruct your broker, bank or other nominee on how to vote your shares:

your broker, bank or other nominee may not vote your shares on the Share Issuance proposal, which broker non-votes, if any, will have no effect on the vote count for this proposal (assuming a quorum is present);

your broker, bank or other nominee may not vote your shares on the Centene Adjournment proposal, which broker non-votes, if any, will have no effect on the vote count for this proposal (regardless of whether a quorum is present); and

your broker, bank or other nominee may vote your shares on the Charter Amendment proposal.

If you are a Health Net stockholder and you do not instruct your broker, bank or other nominee on how to vote your shares:

your broker, bank or other nominee may not vote your shares on the Merger proposal, which broker non-votes, if any, will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST this proposal;

your broker, bank or other nominee may not vote your shares on the Merger-Related Compensation proposal, which broker non-votes, if any, will have no effect on the vote count for this proposal (assuming a quorum is present); and

your broker, bank or other nominee may not vote your shares on the Health Net Adjournment proposal, which broker non-votes, if any, will have no effect on the vote count for this proposal if a quorum is present, and will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST this proposal if a quorum is not present.

Q: How do I vote my shares of Health Net common stock held through Health Net s 401(k) Plan?

A: If you hold shares of Health Net common stock through Health Net s 401(k) Plan, you may vote your shares by telephone, mail or via the Internet as described above. If you vote your shares by telephone or via the Internet, your voting instructions must be received before 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on October 20, 2015 in order for you to instruct the 401(k) Plan trustee how to vote your shares. If you vote your shares by mail, your voting instructions must be received before 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on October 20, 2015 in order for you to instruct

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the 401(k) Plan trustee how to vote your shares. If you hold shares through the 401(k) Plan and do not timely submit your voting instructions by this deadline, your applicable shares will be voted in the same proportion to the shares held in the 401(k) Plan for which votes were cast.

If you hold shares of Health Net common stock through the 401(k) Plan, you may attend the Health Net special meeting. However, shares held through the 401(k) Plan can only be voted as described above, and cannot be voted in person at the Health Net special meeting.

Q: What if I fail to vote or abstain?

A: For purposes of each of the Centene special meeting and the Health Net special meeting, an abstention occurs when a stockholder attends the applicable special meeting in person and does not vote or returns a proxy with an abstain instruction.

Centene

Share Issuance proposal: An abstention will have no effect on the vote for the Share Issuance proposal. If a Centene stockholder is not present in person at the Centene special meeting and does not respond by proxy, it will have no effect on the vote count for the Share Issuance proposal (assuming a quorum is present).

Centene Adjournment proposal: If a quorum is not present, an abstention will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the Centene Adjournment proposal. If a quorum is present, an abstention will have no effect on the vote for the Centene Adjournment proposal. If a Centene stockholder is not present in person at the Centene special meeting and does not respond by proxy, it will have no effect on the vote count for the Centene Adjournment proposal (assuming a quorum is present).

Charter Amendment proposal: An abstention or failure to vote will have the same effect as a vote cast AGAINST the Charter Amendment proposal.

Health Net

Merger proposal: An abstention or failure to vote will have the same effect as a vote cast AGAINST the Merger proposal.

Merger-Related Compensation proposal: An abstention will have no effect on the vote on the Merger-Related Compensation proposal. If a Health Net stockholder is not present in person at the Health Net special meeting and does not respond by proxy, it will have no effect on the vote count for the Merger-Related Compensation proposal (assuming a quorum is present).

Health Net Adjournment proposal: If a quorum is not present, an abstention will have the same effect as a vote cast AGAINST the Health Net Adjournment proposal. If a quorum is present, an abstention will have no effect on the Health Net Adjournment proposal. If a Health Net stockholder is not present in person at the Health Net special meeting and does not respond by proxy, it will have no effect on the vote count for the Health Net Adjournment proposal (assuming a quorum is present).

Q: What will happen if I return my proxy or voting instruction card without indicating how to vote?

A: If you sign and return your proxy or voting instruction card without indicating how to vote on any particular proposal, the Centene common stock represented by your proxy will be voted as recommended by the Centene Board with respect to that proposal or the Health Net common stock represented by your proxy will be voted as recommended by the Health Net Board with respect to that proposal. Unless a Centene stockholder or a Health Net stockholder, as applicable, checks the box on its proxy card to withhold discretionary authority, the applicable proxy holders may use their discretion to vote on other matters relating to the Centene special meeting or Health Net special meeting, as applicable.

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Q: What if I hold shares of both Centene common stock and Health Net common stock?

A: If you are a stockholder of both Centene and Health Net, you will receive two separate packages of proxy materials. A vote as a Health Net stockholder will not constitute a vote as a Centene stockholder and vice versa. Therefore, please sign, date and return all proxy cards that you receive, whether from Centene or Health Net, or vote as both a Centene stockholder and as a Health Net stockholder by Internet or telephone.

Q: May I change or revoke my vote after I have delivered my proxy or voting instruction card?

A: Yes. If you are a record holder, you may change or revoke your vote before your proxy is voted at the Centene or Health Net special meeting as described herein. You may do this in one of four ways:

by sending a notice of revocation to the corporate secretary of Centene or Health Net, as applicable;

by logging onto the Internet website specified on your proxy card in the same manner you would to submit your proxy electronically or by calling the telephone number specified on your proxy card, in each case if you are eligible to do so;

by sending a completed proxy card bearing a later date than your original proxy card; or

by attending the Centene or Health Net special meeting, as applicable, and voting in person.

If you choose any of the first three methods, you must take the described action no later than the beginning of the applicable special meeting.

If your shares are held in an account at a broker, bank or other nominee or through the Health Net 401(k) Plan and you have delivered your voting instruction card to your broker, bank or other nominee, you should contact your broker, bank or other nominee, or your plan administrator to change your vote.

Q: What are the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger?

A: The merger and the subsequent merger, if both are consummated, are intended to constitute a single integrated transaction that qualifies as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. It is a condition to Centene's obligation to complete the subsequent merger that Health Net receive a written opinion of Morgan Lewis, Health Net's outside legal counsel, to the effect that the mergers will qualify as a reorganization described in Section 368(a) of the Code. If the subsequent merger is consummated, in general no gain or loss will be recognized by U.S. holders of Health Net common stock upon the exchange of Health Net common stock for Centene common stock except that U.S. holders will recognize gain (but not loss) to the extent such U.S. holders receive cash (including the cash portion of the merger consideration and any cash received in lieu of a fractional share). If the subsequent merger is not consummated, U.S. holders of Health Net common stock would recognize gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (i) the sum of the fair market value of the Centene common stock received in the merger and any cash received and (ii) such U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the Health Net common stock surrendered in exchange therefor. You are strongly urged to consult with a tax advisor to determine the particular U.S. federal, state or local or foreign income or other tax consequences of the mergers to you. You will not know at the time of your respective vote

whether the subsequent merger will take place, and therefore you will not know the precise tax treatment of the merger or mergers when you vote. See The Merger U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences beginning on page 130 for additional information.

Q: Do I have appraisal rights in connection with the transaction?

A: Under Delaware law, Centene stockholders will not be entitled to exercise any appraisal rights in connection with the merger, the subsequent merger or any other transaction described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

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Subject to the closing of the merger, record holders of Health Net common stock who do not vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and otherwise comply fully with the requirements and procedures of Section 262 of the DGCL may exercise their rights of appraisal, which generally entitle stockholders to receive a cash payment equal to the fair value of their Health Net common stock exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the mergers. The fair value could be higher or lower than, or the same as, the merger consideration. A detailed description of the appraisal rights and procedures available to Health Net stockholders is included in *The Merger Appraisal Rights* beginning on page 125. The full text of Section 262 of the DGCL is attached as Annex G to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: What will happen to my Health Net stock options and other stock-based awards?

A: Upon completion of the merger:

Each outstanding Health Net stock option that you hold will be cancelled in exchange for:

(i) a cash payment of \$28.25 for each share of Health Net common stock subject to the option, generally reduced by an amount of cash equal to any applicable withholding taxes; and

(ii) a distribution of 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock for each share of Health Net common stock subject to the option, generally reduced by a number of shares of Centene common stock with a Centene stock value equal to the aggregate exercise price of the option.

If the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to you in respect of your Health Net stock options is not sufficient to cover the applicable withholding taxes, then the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to you will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. If the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to you in respect of your Health Net stock options is not sufficient to cover the option exercise price, then the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to you will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. Any fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth in *The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders*.

Each outstanding Health Net restricted stock unit and performance share award that you hold that either (i) is vested in accordance with its vesting schedule as of the completion of the merger or (ii) becomes vested under its terms solely as a result of the completion of the merger will be cancelled in exchange for a cash payment per share subject to the award of \$28.25 and a distribution per share subject to the award of 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock.

Any applicable withholding taxes resulting from this treatment of your vested Health Net restricted stock units or performance share awards will be satisfied by reducing the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to you, but if the amount of that cash is not sufficient to cover the applicable withholding taxes, then the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to you will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. Any fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth in *The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders*.

Each outstanding Health Net restricted stock unit and performance share award that is not vested in accordance with its vesting schedule as of the completion of the merger and does not otherwise become vested under its terms solely as a result of the completion of the merger will be converted into an award relating to a number of shares of Centene common stock (rounded down to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (i) the number of shares of Health Net common stock that were issuable upon the vesting of such award immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, multiplied by (ii) the rollover award exchange ratio, as described hereinafter, but will otherwise remain outstanding subject to the same terms and conditions (including time-based vesting conditions) as applied to the award

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immediately prior to the completion of the merger. However, any outstanding performance criteria relating to converted Health Net performance share awards will be deemed to have been achieved at the target level. The rollover award exchange ratio is equal to the sum of (x) 0.622 and (y) the quotient of (1) \$28.25 divided by (2) the Centene stock value.

Q: What happens if I sell my shares of Health Net common stock after the record date but before the Health Net special meeting?

A: The record date for the Health Net special meeting (the close of business on September 22, 2015) is earlier than the date of the Health Net special meeting and earlier than the date that the merger is expected to be completed. If you sell or otherwise transfer your shares of Health Net common stock after the record date but before the date of the Health Net special meeting, you will retain your right to vote at the Health Net special meeting. However, you will not have the right to receive the merger consideration to be received by Health Net stockholders in the merger. In order to receive the merger consideration, you must hold your shares through completion of the merger.

Q: What happens if I sell my Centene shares after the record date but before the Centene special meeting?

A: The record date for the Centene special meeting (the close of business on September 22, 2015) is earlier than the date of the Centene special meeting. If you sell or otherwise transfer your Centene common shares after the record date but before the date of the Centene special meeting, you will retain your right to vote at the Centene special meeting.

Q: Whom should I contact if I have any questions about the proxy materials or voting?

A: If you have any questions about the proxy materials, or if you need assistance submitting your proxy or voting your shares or need additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the enclosed proxy card, you should contact the proxy solicitation agent for the company in which you hold shares.

If you are a Centene stockholder, you should contact the proxy solicitation agents for Centene, at:

Innisfree M&A Incorporated

(877) 825-8772

Bankers and brokers call collect at (212) 750-5833

If you are a Health Net stockholder, you should contact MacKenzie Partners, Inc., the proxy solicitation agent for Health Net, at (800) 322-2885 (toll-free) or (212) 929-5500 (collect).

Morrow & Co., LLC

(800) 662-5200

Bankers and brokers call collect at (203) 658-9400

Table of Contents**SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights selected information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and does not contain all the information that may be important to you. Centene and Health Net urge you to read carefully this joint proxy statement/prospectus in its entirety, including the annexes. Additional, important information, which Centene and Health Net also urge you to read, is contained in the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See *Where You Can Find More Information* beginning on page 220. Unless stated otherwise, all references in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to Centene are to Centene Corporation, all references to Health Net are to Health Net, Inc. and all references to the merger agreement are to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 2, 2015, by and among Centene Corporation, Chopin Merger Sub I, Inc., Chopin Merger Sub II, Inc. and Health Net, Inc., a copy of which is attached as Annex A to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.*

The Parties***Centene***

Centene is a diversified, multi-national health care enterprise that provides programs and services to government sponsored health care programs, focusing on under-insured and uninsured individuals. Centene provides member-focused services through locally based staff by assisting in accessing care, coordinating referrals to related health and social services and addressing member concerns and questions. Centene also provides education and outreach programs to inform and assist members in accessing quality, appropriate health care services. Centene believes its local approach, including member and provider services, enables it to provide accessible, quality, culturally-sensitive health care coverage to its communities. Centene's health management, educational and other initiatives are designed to help members best utilize the health care system to ensure they receive appropriate, medically necessary services and effective management of routine, severe and chronic health problems, resulting in better health outcomes. Centene combines its decentralized local approach for care with a centralized infrastructure of support functions such as finance, information systems and claims processing.

Centene operates in two segments: Managed Care and Specialty Services. Centene's Managed Care segment provides health plan coverage to individuals through government subsidized programs, including Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Long Term Care, Foster Care, dual-eligible individuals and the Supplemental Security Income Program, also known as the Aged, Blind or Disabled Program, or collectively ABD. Beginning in 2014, Centene's Managed Care segment also provides health plan coverage to individuals covered through federally-facilitated and state-based Health Insurance Marketplaces. Centene's Specialty Services segment consists of Centene's specialty companies offering diversified health care services and products to state programs, correctional facilities, health care organizations, employer groups and other commercial organizations, as well as to its own subsidiaries. For the year ended December 31, 2014, Centene's Managed Care and Specialty Services segments accounted for 89% and 11%, respectively, of Centene's total external premium and service revenues.

Centene's managed care membership totaled 4.1 million as of December 31, 2014. For the year ended December 31, 2014, Centene's premium and service revenues and net earnings from continuing operations attributable to Centene were \$15.7 billion and \$268 million, respectively, and its total cash flow from operations was \$1.2 billion.

On February 2, 2015, the Centene Board declared a two-for-one split of Centene common stock in the form of a 100% stock dividend distributed February 19, 2015 to stockholders of record on February 12, 2015. All share, per share and stock price information presented in this joint proxy statement/prospectus has been adjusted for the two-for-one stock split.

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Centene's initial health plan commenced operations in Wisconsin in 1984. Centene was organized in Wisconsin in 1993 as a holding company for its initial health plan and reincorporated in Delaware in 2001. Centene's corporate office is located at 7700 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63105, and its telephone number is (314) 725-4477. Centene's website address is www.centene.com. Information contained on Centene's website does not constitute part of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Centene's stock is publicly traded on the NYSE under the ticker symbol CNC.

Health Net

Health Net is a publicly traded managed care organization that delivers managed health care services through health plans and government-sponsored managed care plans. Health Net's mission is to help people be healthy, secure and comfortable. Health Net provides and administers health benefits to approximately 6.1 million individuals across the country through group, individual, Medicare (including the Medicare prescription drug benefit commonly referred to as Part D), Medicaid and dual eligible programs as well as programs with the U.S. Department of Defense, which is referred to as the DoD, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which is referred to as VA. Health Net also offers behavioral health, substance abuse and employee assistance programs, and managed health care products related to prescription drugs.

Health Net's Western Region Operations segment includes the operations of its commercial, Medicare and Medicaid health plans as well as the operations of its health and life insurance companies and certain operations of its behavioral health and pharmaceutical services subsidiaries, primarily in Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington. As of June 30, 2015, Health Net had approximately 3.2 million risk members in its Western Region Operations segment. For the year ended December 31, 2014, Western Region Operations health plan services premiums revenues were approximately \$13.4 billion.

Health Net's Government Contracts segment includes its government-sponsored managed care contract with the DoD under the TRICARE program in the North Region, its Military and Family Life Counseling, formerly Military and Family Life Consultant, which is referred to as MFLC, contract with DoD and other health care related government contracts, including the Veterans Choice and Patient Centered Community Care program, which is referred to as PC3/Choice, with VA. Under the T-3 contract for the TRICARE North Region, Health Net provides administrative services to approximately 2.8 million Military Health System eligible beneficiaries. For the year ended December 31, 2014, Government Contracts revenues were approximately \$604 million.

Health Net was incorporated in 1990. The current operations are the result of the April 1, 1997 merger transaction, which is referred to as the FHS Combination, involving Health Systems International, Inc., which is referred to as HSI, and Foundation Health Corporation. Health Net changed its name to Health Net, Inc. in November 2000. Prior to the FHS Combination, Health Net was the successor to the business conducted by Health Net of California, Inc., now its health maintenance organization, which is referred to as HMO, subsidiary in California, and HMO and preferred provider organization networks operated by QualMed, Inc., which combined with those networks in 1994 to create HSI.

Health Net's executive offices are located at 21650 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, California 91367, its website address is www.healthnet.com, and its phone number is (818) 676-6000. Information contained on Health Net's website does not constitute part of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Health Net common stock is listed on the NYSE, trading under the symbol HNT.

Merger Sub I

Chopin Merger Sub I, Inc., which is referred to as Merger Sub I, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, is a Delaware corporation incorporated on June 26, 2015 for the purpose of effecting the merger. Merger Sub I has not conducted any activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters

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contemplated by the merger agreement, including the preparation of applicable regulatory filings in connection with the merger. The principal executive offices of Merger Sub I are located at 7700 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

Merger Sub II

Chopin Merger Sub II, Inc., which is referred to as Merger Sub II and, together with Merger Sub I, the Merger Subs, a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene, is a Delaware corporation incorporated on June 26, 2015 for the purpose of effecting the subsequent merger, if applicable. Merger Sub II has not conducted any activities other than those incidental to its formation and the matters contemplated by the merger agreement, including the preparation of applicable regulatory filings in connection with the mergers. The principal executive offices of Merger Sub II are located at 7700 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

The Transaction

On July 2, 2015, Centene, Health Net, Merger Sub I and Merger Sub II entered into the merger agreement, which provides that, subject to the terms and conditions of the merger agreement and in accordance with the DGCL, Merger Sub I will merge with and into Health Net, with Health Net continuing as the surviving corporation and a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene. In addition, immediately following the completion of the merger and contingent upon Health Net's receipt before the effective time of the merger of an opinion from Morgan Lewis, Health Net's outside legal counsel, that the mergers will constitute a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Code, Health Net as the surviving corporation in the merger will merge with and into Merger Sub II, with Merger Sub II continuing as the surviving corporation and a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene.

Consideration to be Received in the Merger by Health Net Stockholders

In the merger, each share of Health Net common stock that is issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger (other than (i) any shares of Health Net common stock owned or held directly or indirectly by Centene, Health Net (including as treasury stock), Merger Sub I or Merger Sub II, which will be cancelled upon completion of the merger, (ii) shares underlying Health Net stock options, restricted stock units or performance share awards and (iii) any shares of Health Net common stock with respect to which appraisal rights are properly demanded and not withdrawn under the DGCL, which are referred to as appraisal shares) will be converted into the right to receive \$28.25 in cash and 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock, which is referred to as the exchange ratio, and which cash and stock consideration combined are referred to as the merger consideration. This exchange ratio is fixed and will not be adjusted to reflect stock price changes prior to the closing of the merger. The exchange ratio will be adjusted appropriately to fully reflect the effect of any reclassification, stock split (including a reverse stock split), recapitalization, split-up, combination, exchange of shares, readjustment or other similar transaction (including any exercise of rights issued pursuant to the Health Net rights agreement), or any stock dividend declared thereon, with respect to the shares of either Centene common stock or Health Net common stock with a record date prior to completion of the merger. No fractional shares of Centene common stock will be issued in connection with the merger. Instead of receiving any fractional shares, each holder of Health Net common stock will be paid an amount in cash, without interest, rounded down to the nearest cent, equal to the product of (x) the amount of the fractional share interest in a share of Centene common stock to which such holder would otherwise be entitled (rounded to three decimal places) and (y) the Centene stock value. Centene stockholders will continue to own their existing shares of Centene common stock, the form of which will not be changed by the transaction.

Table of Contents**Treatment of Stock Options and Other Stock-Based Awards*****Health Net***

Each outstanding Health Net stock option will be cancelled upon completion of the merger in exchange for (i) a cash payment of \$28.25 for each share of Health Net common stock subject to the option, generally reduced by an amount of cash equal to any applicable withholding taxes, and (ii) a distribution of 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock for each share of Health Net common stock subject to the option, generally reduced by a number of shares of Centene common stock with a Centene stock value equal to the aggregate exercise price of the option (such aggregate amount hereinafter referred to as the Health Net Stock Option Consideration). If the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to a holder of Health Net stock options is not sufficient to cover the applicable withholding taxes, then the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. If the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to a holder of Health Net stock options is not sufficient to cover the option exercise price, then the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. Any fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth in The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders.

Each outstanding Health Net restricted stock unit and performance share award that either (i) is vested in accordance with its vesting schedule as of the completion of the merger or (ii) becomes vested under its terms solely as a result of the completion of the merger will be cancelled upon the completion of the merger in exchange for a cash payment per share subject to the award of \$28.25 and a distribution per share subject to the award of 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock.

Any applicable withholding taxes resulting from this treatment of vested Health Net restricted stock units and performance share awards will be satisfied by reducing the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to the holder of the vested award, but if the amount of that cash is not sufficient to cover the applicable withholding taxes, then the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. However, any fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth in The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders.

Each outstanding Health Net restricted stock unit and performance share award that is not vested in accordance with its vesting schedule as of the completion of the merger and does not otherwise become vested under its terms solely as a result of the completion of the merger will be converted into an award relating to a number of shares of Centene common stock (rounded down to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (i) the number of shares of Health Net common stock that were issuable upon the vesting of such award immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, multiplied by (ii) the rollover award exchange ratio, as described hereinafter, but will otherwise remain outstanding subject to the same terms and conditions (including time-based vesting conditions) as applied to the award immediately prior to the completion of the merger. However, any outstanding performance criteria relating to converted Health Net performance share awards will be deemed to have been achieved at the target level. The rollover award exchange ratio is equal to the sum of (x) 0.622 and (y) the quotient of (1) \$28.25 divided by (2) the Centene stock value.

For a more complete discussion of the treatment of Health Net stock options, restricted stock units and performance share awards, see The Merger Agreement Treatment of Health Net Stock Options and Other Stock-Based Awards on page 135. For further discussion of the treatment of Health Net stock options, restricted stock units and performance share awards held by directors and executive officers of Health Net, see The Merger Interests of Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger Interests of Directors and Executive Officers of Health Net in the Merger beginning

on page 107.

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Centene

Neither the merger nor the subsequent merger (if it occurs) will affect Centene's stock options or other stock-based awards. All such awards will remain outstanding subject to the same terms and conditions that are applicable to such stock options or other stock-based awards prior to the mergers.

Centene Board of Directors Following Completion of the Merger

Board of Directors. The merger agreement provides that the parties will take all actions so that immediately following the completion of the merger, the Centene Board will include one director to be designated by the Health Net Board from those directors serving on the Health Net Board as of July 2, 2015, who qualifies as an independent director as defined by Section 303A.02 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual and is reasonably acceptable to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of Centene. Other than such additional director, no changes to the Centene Board or Centene senior management are expected in connection with the consummation of the mergers.

For a more complete discussion of the directors and executive officers of the surviving corporation, see *The Merger Governance of Centene Following Completion of the Merger* beginning on page 106.

Headquarters

Upon completion of the transaction, Centene's corporate headquarters will remain in St. Louis, Missouri, with operations throughout the country.

Recommendations of the Centene Board of Directors

After careful consideration, the Centene Board unanimously recommends that holders of Centene common stock vote **FOR** the Share Issuance proposal, **FOR** the Centene Adjournment proposal and **FOR** the Charter Amendment proposal.

For a more complete description of the Centene Board's reasons for the transaction and the recommendations of the Centene Board, see *The Merger Rationale for the Transaction* and *The Merger Centene Board of Directors Recommendations and Its Reasons for the Transaction* beginning on pages 64 and 65, respectively.

Recommendations of the Health Net Board of Directors

After careful consideration, the Health Net Board unanimously recommends that holders of Health Net common stock vote **FOR** the Merger proposal and **FOR** the Health Net Adjournment proposal.

After careful consideration, the Health Net Board unanimously recommends that holders of Health Net common stock vote **FOR** the Merger-Related Compensation proposal to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis, any golden parachute compensation arrangement that may be paid or become payable to Health Net's named executive officers that is based on or otherwise relates to the merger or contemplated by the merger agreement.

For a more complete description of the Health Net Board's reasons for the transaction and the recommendation of the Health Net Board, see *The Merger Rationale for the Transaction* and *The Merger Health Net Board of Directors Recommendation and Its Reasons for the Transaction* beginning on pages 64 and 65, respectively.

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Opinions of Financial Advisors

Centene's Financial Advisors

Opinion of Allen & Company LLC

Centene has engaged Allen & Company LLC, referred to as Allen & Company, as a financial advisor to Centene in connection with the proposed merger. On July 1, 2015, at a meeting of the Centene Board held to evaluate the merger, Allen & Company rendered an oral opinion, which was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated July 1, 2015, to the Centene Board as to the fairness, from a financial point of view and as of the date of such opinion, to Centene of the merger consideration payable by Centene pursuant to the merger agreement.

The full text of Allen & Company's written opinion, dated July 1, 2015, which describes the procedures followed, matters considered, assumptions made and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken, is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex D and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You are encouraged to read Allen & Company's opinion carefully and in its entirety. Allen & Company's opinion was intended for the benefit and use of the Centene Board (in its capacity as such) in connection with its evaluation of the merger consideration from a financial point of view to Centene and did not address any other aspect of the merger. Allen & Company's opinion did not constitute a recommendation as to the course of action that the Centene Board should pursue in connection with the merger, or otherwise address the merits of the underlying decision by Centene to engage in the merger, including in comparison to other strategies or transactions that might be available to Centene or in which Centene might engage. The opinion does not constitute advice or a recommendation to any stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote or act on any matter relating to the merger or otherwise.

Opinion of Evercore Group L.L.C.

Centene has engaged Evercore Group L.L.C., referred to as Evercore, as a financial advisor to Centene in connection with the proposed merger. On July 1, 2015, at a meeting of the Centene Board, Evercore rendered its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed by delivery of a written opinion that, based upon and subject to the factors, procedures, assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in its opinion, as of July 1, 2015, the merger consideration was fair, from a financial point of view, to Centene.

The full text of the written opinion of Evercore, dated as of July 1, 2015, which sets forth, among other things, the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations on the scope of review undertaken in rendering its opinion, is attached as Annex E to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You are urged to read Evercore's opinion carefully and in its entirety. Evercore's opinion was addressed to, and provided for the information and benefit of, the Centene Board (in its capacity as such) in connection with its evaluation of the merger consideration from a financial point of view and did not address any other aspects or implications of the merger. The opinion does not constitute a recommendation to the Centene Board or to any other persons in respect of the merger, including as to how any holder of shares of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock should vote or act in respect of the Centene share issuance or the merger. Evercore's opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to other business or financial strategies that might be available to Centene, nor does it address the underlying business decision of Centene to engage in the merger.

Table of Contents***Health Net's Financial Advisor*****Opinion of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC**

In connection with its consideration of the merger, the Health Net Board received on July 1, 2015 from Health Net's financial advisor, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, which is referred to as J.P. Morgan, its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing on the same day, that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors, assumptions, limitations and qualifications set forth in its opinion, the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of Health Net common stock in the merger and, if applicable, the subsequent merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders. The full text of the written opinion of J.P. Morgan, dated July 1, 2015, which sets forth, among other things, the assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by J.P. Morgan in connection with rendering its opinion, is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex F and is incorporated herein by reference. You should read this opinion and the description beginning on page 89 carefully and in their entirety. J.P. Morgan's opinion is addressed to the Health Net Board, is directed only to the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of Health Net common stock and does not address any other matter. The opinion does not constitute a recommendation as to how any such stockholder should vote with respect to the merger or any other matter.

For a description of the opinion that the Health Net Board received from J.P. Morgan, see *The Merger Opinion of Health Net's Financial Advisor* beginning on page 89 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Interests of Directors and Executive Officers in the Mergers

You should be aware that some of the directors and executive officers of Centene and Health Net have interests in the mergers that are different from, or are in addition to, the interests of stockholders generally. These interests include the following:

For Health Net's Directors and Executive Officers: The accelerated vesting and settlement of certain stock-based compensation awards; the conversion of certain restricted stock units and performance share awards; indemnification and insurance; the appointment of one independent director to be designated by the Health Net Board from those directors serving on the Health Net Board as of July 2, 2015, who qualifies as an independent director as defined by Section 303A.02 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual and is reasonably acceptable to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of Centene; the anticipated service in senior positions of certain members of Health Net's senior management team following the mergers; the treatment of compensation arrangements relating to certain executive officers; the indemnification of Health Net's directors and officers by Centene; and the interests and obligations of Mr. Jay M. Gellert pursuant to the Health Net Voting Agreement. For a further discussion of the Health Net Voting Agreement, see *The Health Net Voting Agreement* beginning on page 168.

For Centene's Directors and Executive Officers: Mr. Michael F. Neidorff, currently the Chairman of the Centene Board and Centene's President and Chief Executive Officer, will continue in those positions immediately following the completion of the mergers; Mr. Neidorff and eight other directors of Centene will continue to serve as directors of Centene immediately following the completion of the mergers; and the interests and obligations of Mr. Michael F. Neidorff pursuant to the Centene Voting Agreement. For a further discussion of the Centene Voting Agreement, see *The Centene Voting Agreement* beginning on page 165.

The Centene Board and the Health Net Board were aware of these additional interests by their respective directors and executive officers and considered these potential interests, among other matters, in evaluating and negotiating the merger agreement and the mergers, in approving the merger agreement and in recommending the applicable

merger-related proposals.

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For a further discussion of the interests of Health Net and Centene directors and executive officers in the mergers, see *The Merger Interests of Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger* beginning on page 107.

The Centene Voting Agreement

In connection with entering into the merger agreement, Michael F. Neidorff, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Centene, who is referred to herein as the Centene Supporting Stockholder, entered into a voting agreement with Health Net, which is referred to as the Centene Voting Agreement, pursuant to which the Centene Supporting Stockholder agreed to, among other things, vote his shares of Centene common stock (i) for the Share Issuance proposal and any actions in furtherance thereof at any meeting of the stockholders of Centene, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof, at which the Share Issuance proposal, or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and the other related agreements (or any amended versions thereof), or such other actions, are submitted for the consideration and vote of the stockholders of Centene (or in response to a request by Centene for written consent with respect thereto), and (ii) against (A) any takeover proposal in respect of Centene and (B) any other corporate action the consummation of which would frustrate the purposes, or prevent or materially delay the consummation, of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing agreements each of Health Net and the Centene Supporting Stockholder have agreed that the foregoing obligations will not in any way restrict the Centene Supporting Stockholder from taking any action in his capacity as a director, officer or employee of Centene that is otherwise permitted to be taken pursuant to the merger agreement. The Centene Voting Agreement terminates upon the earliest to occur of: (x) the termination of the merger agreement; (y) an adverse recommendation by the Centene Board; or (z) the receipt of the Centene stockholder approval in respect of the Share Issuance proposal. As of the close of business on September 14, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available, the Centene Supporting Stockholder has the power to vote and is the beneficial owner of approximately 0.8% and 2.9%, respectively, of the issued and outstanding shares of Centene common stock. The percentage of shares of Centene common stock that the Centene Supporting Stockholder has the power to vote or beneficially owns as of the record date is not expected to be meaningfully different from the percentage as of September 14, 2015.

For a further discussion of the Centene Voting Agreement, see *The Centene Voting Agreement* beginning on page 165.

The Health Net Voting Agreement

In connection with entering into the merger agreement, Jay M. Gellert, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Health Net, who is referred to herein as the Health Net Supporting Stockholder, entered into a voting agreement with Centene, which is referred to as the Health Net Voting Agreement, pursuant to which the Health Net Supporting Stockholder agreed to, among other things, vote his shares of Health Net common stock (i) for the adoption of the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and all agreements in furtherance of the merger and any actions in furtherance thereof at any meeting of the stockholders of Health Net, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof, at which such merger agreement and the other related agreements (or any amended version thereof), or such other actions, are submitted for the consideration and vote of the stockholders of Health Net (or in response to a request by Health Net for written consent with respect thereto), and (ii) against (A) any takeover proposal with respect to Health Net and (B) any other corporate action the consummation of which would frustrate the purposes, or prevent or materially delay the consummation, of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing agreements each of Centene and the Health Net Supporting Stockholder have agreed that the foregoing obligations will not in any way restrict the Health Net Supporting Stockholder from making any action in his capacity as a director, officer or employee of Health Net that is otherwise permitted to be taken pursuant to the merger agreement. The Health Net Voting Agreement terminates upon the earliest to occur of: (x) the termination of the merger agreement; (y) an adverse recommendation by the Health Net

Board; or (z) the receipt

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of the Health Net stockholder approval in respect of the Merger proposal. As of the close of business on September 14, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available, the Health Net Supporting Stockholder has the power to vote and is the beneficial owner of approximately 1.3% and 2.1%, respectively, of the issued and outstanding shares of Health Net common stock. The percentage of shares of Health Net common stock that the Health Net Supporting Stockholder has the power to vote or beneficially owns as of the record date is not expected to be meaningfully different from the percentage as of September 14, 2015.

For a further discussion of the Health Net Voting Agreement, see [The Health Net Voting Agreement](#) beginning on page 168.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger

Centene and Health Net intend for the mergers, taken together, to be treated as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, it is not a condition to Health Net's obligation or Centene's obligation to complete the transactions that the mergers, taken together, be treated as a reorganization. The subsequent merger is predicated on Health Net receiving an opinion from Morgan Lewis, with a copy delivered to Centene, to the effect that the mergers will constitute a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If Morgan Lewis does not deliver such an opinion, then the subsequent merger will not occur, and the initial merger will be a taxable transaction as described under [The Merger U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences Tax Consequences if the Transaction Does Not Qualify as a Reorganization Described in Section 368\(a\) of the Code](#). If the opinion is delivered, it will be based, and the discussion under [The Merger U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences Tax Consequences if the Second Merger Does Occur and the Transaction Qualifies as a Transaction Described in Section 368\(a\) of the Code](#) is based, on the facts, representations and warranties contained in representation letters provided by Centene and Health Net to Morgan Lewis, and on customary factual assumptions set forth in Morgan Lewis' opinion. The opinion of Morgan Lewis, if delivered, will not be binding on the Internal Revenue Service or any court. Health Net and Centene have not sought and will not seek any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service regarding any matters relating to the transactions and, as a result, there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the conclusions set forth herein.

For a more complete description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger, see [The Merger U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences](#) beginning on page 130.

Accounting Treatment of the Merger

The merger and the subsequent merger, if it occurs, will be accounted for as an acquisition of Health Net by Centene under the acquisition method of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S., which is referred to as GAAP.

Appraisal Rights

Under Delaware law, Centene stockholders will not be entitled to any appraisal rights in connection with the merger, the subsequent merger or any other transactions described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Under Delaware law, if the merger is completed, record holders of Health Net common stock who do not vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and who otherwise properly exercise their appraisal rights will be entitled to

seek appraisal for, and obtain payment in cash for the judicially determined fair value of, their shares of Health Net common stock, in lieu of receiving the merger consideration. The fair value could be higher or lower than, or the same as, the merger consideration. The relevant provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State

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of Delaware, which is referred to as the DGCL, are included as Annex G to this proxy statement/prospectus. Health Net stockholders are encouraged to read these provisions carefully and in their entirety. Moreover, due to the complexity of the procedures for exercising the right to seek appraisal, Health Net stockholders who are considering exercising that right are encouraged to seek the advice of legal counsel. Failure to comply strictly with these provisions may result in loss of the right of appraisal. For a more detailed description of Health Net stockholder's appraisal rights, see *The Merger Appraisal Rights* beginning on page 125.

Regulatory Approvals

HSR Act

The merger is subject to the requirements of the Hart Scott Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, which is referred to as the HSR Act, which prevents Centene and Health Net from completing the merger until required information and materials are furnished to the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, which is referred to as the DOJ, and the Federal Trade Commission, which is referred to as the FTC, and the HSR Act waiting period is terminated or expires. On July 17, 2015, Centene and Health Net filed the requisite notification and report forms under the HSR Act with the DOJ and the FTC. On August 11, 2015, early termination of the waiting period under the HSR Act was granted by the FTC and DOJ.

Other Regulatory Approvals

Pursuant to the insurance laws and, in some instances, the health care laws of Arizona, California, Oregon and the Cayman Islands, applicable regulatory authorities must approve of (or provide non-objection, grant of exemption, or, in certain circumstances, alternative resolution, as the case may be, to) Centene's acquisition of control of Health Net's health maintenance organization and insurance companies. In addition, various other pre- and post-closing notification filings (which are not conditions to the completion of the merger) will be made pursuant to applicable insurance and health care regulatory laws. For more information about regulatory approvals relating to the merger, including a discussion of circumstances that may constitute Burdensome Conditions (as defined herein), see the sections entitled *The Merger Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger* beginning on page 122, *The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements Reasonable Best Efforts* beginning on page 150 and *The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Merger* beginning on page 156.

Although we expect that all regulatory clearances and approvals will be obtained, we cannot assure you that these clearances and approvals will be timely obtained or obtained under the terms of the merger agreement at all or that the granting of these clearances and approvals will not involve the imposition of additional conditions on the completion of the merger, including the requirement to divest assets, or require changes to the terms of the merger agreement. These conditions or changes could result in the conditions to the merger not being satisfied.

For a more complete discussion of regulatory approvals relating to the merger, see *The Merger Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger* beginning on page 122.

Litigation Related to the Merger

In connection with the merger, two purported Health Net stockholders filed two putative class action lawsuits against Health Net, Centene, the Merger Subs and the members of the Health Net Board. The lawsuits, as amended and consolidated, allege, among other things, that the merger consideration is inadequate, that the process culminating in the merger was flawed, that the directors of Health Net breached their fiduciary duties in connection with the merger, and that Centene and the Merger Subs aided and abetted the breaches of fiduciary duty. The amended complaint also

alleges that the Form S-4 Registration Statement filed on August 19, 2015 contains material misstatements and omits material information. The consolidated lawsuit seeks to enjoin the merger and other relief. For a more detailed description of litigation in connection with the merger, see [The Merger Litigation Relating to the Merger](#).

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Conditions to Completion of the Mergers

The parties expect to complete the merger after all of the conditions to the merger in the merger agreement are satisfied or waived, including after Centene and Health Net receive stockholder approval of the Share Issuance proposal and Merger proposal, respectively, at their respective special meetings and receive all required regulatory approvals. The parties currently expect to complete the transaction by early 2016. However, it is possible that factors outside of each company's control could require them to complete the transaction at a later time or not to complete it at all.

Conditions to the Obligations of the Parties to Complete the Merger

The obligations of each of Centene, Merger Sub I and Health Net to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction (or waiver to the extent legally permissible) of various conditions, including the following:

Centene having obtained the Centene Stockholder Approval, and Health Net having obtained the Health Net Stockholder Approval;

the shares of Centene common stock to be issued in the merger or otherwise reserved for issuance in connection therewith having been approved for listing on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance;

no law or order (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent) will have been promulgated, entered, enforced, enacted or issued or be applicable to the merger or the Centene stock issuance by any governmental entity and continuing in effect that prohibits, prevents or makes illegal the consummation of the merger or the Centene stock issuance;

effectiveness of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, and the absence of any stop order suspending such effectiveness and of any proceeding seeking a stop order relating to such registration statement;

the waiting period (and any extensions thereof) under the HSR Act applicable to the merger having expired or been terminated; and

filings with and consents of any government entity specified in the merger agreement and required for the completion of the merger having been made or obtained. For a discussion of the governmental filings and consents required for the merger, see "The Merger Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger" beginning on page 122.

Conditions to the Obligations of Each of Centene and Merger Sub I to Complete the Merger

In addition, the obligations of each of Centene and Merger Sub I to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction (or waiver to the extent legally permissible) on or prior to the closing date of the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of Health Net set forth in the merger agreement with respect to (i) the organization of Health Net, (ii) the capitalization of Health Net and certain voting matters, and (iii) authority, execution and delivery, enforceability, state takeover statutes, the Health Net rights agreement, conflicts with organizational documents, absence of a Health Net material adverse effect or any event, change, effect, development, state of facts, condition, circumstance or occurrence that would be reasonably expected to have a Health Net material adverse effect since December 31, 2014 and through July 2, 2015 and brokers being true and correct in all respects (except to the extent that any inaccuracies would be de minimis, in the aggregate, with respect to clause (ii)) as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the closing date (or, in the case of representations and warranties that address matters only as of a particular date, as of such date);

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all other representations and warranties of Health Net set forth in the merger agreement being true and correct in all respects (without giving effect to any materiality or Health Net material adverse effect qualifier in such representation or warranty), as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the closing date (or, in the case of representations and warranties that address matters only as of a particular date, as of such date), except to the extent that breaches of such representations or warranties, individually or in the aggregate, have not had, and would not reasonably be expected to have a Health Net material adverse effect;

Health Net having performed or complied with, as applicable, in all material respects, the obligations, agreements and covenants (in each case, other than certain notification obligations) required by the merger agreement to be performed or complied with by Health Net;

since the date of the merger agreement, no event, change, effect, development, state of facts, condition, or circumstance having occurred that, individually or in the aggregate, has had or would reasonably be expected to have a Health Net material adverse effect;

Centene and the Merger Subs having received a certificate validly executed and signed on behalf of Health Net by its chief executive officer and chief financial officer certifying that the conditions above have been satisfied; and

no proceeding by a governmental entity shall be pending seeking to impose a Burdensome Condition, as described hereinafter; no Burdensome Condition shall have been imposed or required in connection with certain filings with or as a condition to the receipt of certain consents from any governmental entity specified in the merger agreement; and none of such filings or consents shall contain any Burdensome Condition. For a discussion of the circumstances that would constitute Burdensome Conditions, see The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements Reasonable Best Efforts beginning on page 150.

Conditions to the Obligations of Health Net to Complete the Merger

The obligation of Health Net to complete the merger is subject to the satisfaction (or waiver to the extent legally permissible) on or prior to the closing date of the following conditions:

the representations and warranties of Centene and each Merger Sub set forth in the merger agreement with respect to (i) the organization of Centene and the Merger Subs, (ii) the capitalization of Centene and certain voting matters and (iii) authority, execution and delivery, enforceability, state takeover statutes, conflicts with organizational documents, the absence of a Centene material adverse effect or any event, change, effect, development, state of facts, condition, circumstance or occurrence that would be reasonably expected to have a Centene material adverse effect since June 29, 2014 and through July 2, 2015 and brokers being true and correct in all respects (except to the extent that any inaccuracies would be de minimis, in the aggregate, with respect to clause (ii)) as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the closing date (or, in the case of representations and warranties that address matters only as of a particular date, as of such date);

all other representations and warranties of Centene and each Merger Sub set forth in the merger agreement being true and correct in all respects (without giving effect to any materiality or Centene material adverse effect qualifier in such representation or warranty), as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the closing date as though made on or as of such date (or, in the case of representations and warranties that address matters only as of a particular date, as of such date), except to the extent that breaches of such representations or warranties, individually or in the aggregate, have not had, and would not reasonably be expected to have a Centene material adverse effect;

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Centene and each Merger Sub having performed or complied with, as applicable, in all material respects the obligations, agreements and covenants (in each case, other than certain notification obligations) required by the merger agreement to be performed or complied with by each of them;

since the date of the merger agreement, no event, change, effect, development, state of facts, condition, or circumstance having occurred that, individually or in the aggregate, has had or would reasonably be expected to have a Centene material adverse effect; and

Health Net having received a certificate validly executed and signed on behalf of Centene by its chief executive officer and chief financial officer certifying that the conditions above have been satisfied.

Conditions to the Obligations of Each of Centene, Merger Sub II and Health Net to Complete the Subsequent Merger

The obligations of each of Centene, Merger Sub II and Health Net (as the surviving corporation in the merger) to complete the subsequent merger is subject to receipt by Health Net on or prior to the effective time of the merger of a written opinion of Morgan Lewis, its outside legal counsel, to the effect that the mergers will qualify as a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Code.

To the extent legally permissible, the conditions set forth in the merger agreement may be waived by Centene or Health Net, subject to the agreement of the other party in certain circumstances. For a more complete discussion of the conditions to the merger, see *The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Merger* beginning on page 156.

Treatment of Health Net's Existing Debt; Financing

There is no financing condition to the merger and the merger is not conditioned upon the funding of the Financing, as described herein.

In connection with the merger, the parties intend to terminate Health Net's existing revolving credit facility. In addition, Health Net agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to cooperate with Centene to conduct a consent solicitation with respect to Health Net's 6.375% Senior Notes due 2017, which are referred to as the 2017 Notes, to obtain from the requisite holders thereof an agreement to amend the defined term *Change of Control* in the 2017 Notes to provide that the merger will not constitute a *Change of Control*. Health Net commenced such consent solicitation on August 3, 2015 and received the requisite consents on August 12, 2015. Following the receipt of the requisite consents, the amendments became effective on August 14, 2015. We refer to such consent solicitation as the *Consent Solicitation*.

Centene has agreed to pay or reimburse Health Net for financing the *Consent Solicitation*. Centene has obtained a commitment letter from Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, WF Investment Holdings, LLC, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Barclays Bank PLC, Citibank, N.A., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., SunTrust Bank, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., Fifth Third Bank, Regions Bank, Regions Capital Markets, a Division of Regions Bank, U.S. Bank, National Association, U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc., Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc. and The PrivateBank and Trust Company, which is referred to as the *Financing Commitment*, to fund up to \$1 billion under a new revolving credit facility and \$2.67 billion under a senior bridge facility to consummate the merger. We refer to the financing contemplated by the commitment letters as the *Financing*.

The Financing is subject to customary conditions and will be unsecured. The Financing Commitments will terminate on the date that is the earlier of (a) consummation of the merger, (b) the termination of the merger agreement and (c) one business day after the Outside Date, which is July 2, 2016.

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For further information regarding the Financing, see The Merger Treatment of Health Net's Existing Debt; Financing beginning on page 124 and The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements Financing on page 153.

Timing of the Transaction

The transaction is expected to be completed by early 2016. However, it is possible that factors outside of each company's control could require them to complete the merger at a later time or not to complete the merger or the subsequent merger at all.

No Solicitation

In the merger agreement, each of Centene and Health Net has agreed not to, nor permit any of its subsidiaries, nor authorize or permit any of the officers, directors or employees or any affiliate, investment banker, financial advisor, attorney, accountant or other representative retained by it or its subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly:

solicit, initiate or knowingly encourage (including by way of furnishing information), or take any other action to facilitate, any inquiry or the making of any proposal which constitutes, or may reasonably be expected to lead to, any takeover proposal;

enter into any letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, merger agreement or other agreement, arrangement or understanding relating to any takeover proposal (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement, which is described hereinafter, entered into in accordance with the merger agreement); or

enter into, continue or otherwise participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding any takeover proposal.

The merger agreement includes customary exceptions such that, prior to obtaining stockholder approval, the parties may engage in negotiations regarding and, subject to complying with certain specified procedures and, in certain circumstances, a payment of a termination fee as described below, the applicable party's board of directors may change its recommendation of the transaction (i) in light of, or terminate the merger agreement to enter into an agreement for, an unsolicited takeover proposal that is determined to be a superior proposal, or (ii) in light of an intervening event, in each case, to the extent necessary to do so to comply with applicable fiduciary duties. For a discussion of the limitations on solicitation of acquisition proposals from third parties and the ability of each company's board of directors to change its recommendation for the transaction, see The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements No Solicitation beginning on page 149.

Termination of the Merger Agreement; Termination Fees

The merger agreement may be terminated and the merger may be abandoned at any time prior to the effective time of the merger:

by the mutual written consent of Centene and Health Net.

by either Centene or Health Net:

if any governmental entity of competent jurisdiction has issued an order permanently restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the merger and such order has become final and non-appealable;

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if the merger has not been completed by July 2, 2016; provided, however, that this termination will not be available to any party that has breached its obligations in any material respect under the merger agreement in any manner that will have proximately caused or resulted in the failure of the merger to have been completed by such date;

if the Centene Stockholder Approval has not been obtained upon a vote taken at the duly convened Centene special meeting or at any adjournment or postponement of such meeting; or

if the Health Net Stockholder Approval has not been obtained upon a vote taken at the duly convened Health Net special meeting or at any adjournment or postponement of such meeting.

by Health Net:

prior to the Centene stockholder vote, in the event that (i) the Centene Board effects an adverse recommendation change, as described in more detail in The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements Adverse Recommendation Change and Termination beginning on page 147, (ii) the Centene Board or any committee thereof fails to include the Centene recommendation FOR the Share Issuance proposal in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, (iii) following the disclosure or announcement of a takeover proposal with respect to Centene (other than a tender or exchange offer described in clause (iv) below), the Centene Board fails to reaffirm publicly the Centene recommendation FOR the Share Issuance proposal within five business days after Health Net requests in writing that such recommendation be reaffirmed publicly, (iv) a tender offer or exchange offer is commenced that would, if completed, constitute a takeover proposal with respect to Centene and the Centene Board fails to recommend against acceptance of such tender offer or exchange offer by its stockholders (including by taking any position contemplated by Rule 14e-2 of the Exchange Act other than recommending rejection of such tender offer or exchange offer) within 10 business days of the commencement of such tender offer or exchange offer, or (v) the Centene Board publicly announces an intention to take any of the foregoing actions, which termination right pursuant to this bullet point we refer to as Health Net's Centene Board Action Termination Right;

prior to the Centene Stockholder Approval vote, if Centene is in willful breach of its no solicitation obligations;

if Centene materially breaches or fails to perform any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements set forth in the merger agreement, and such breach or failure to perform (i) would give rise to the failure of a closing condition regarding the accuracy of Centene's representations and warranties or Centene's compliance with its covenants and agreements and (ii) is incapable of being cured by Centene by July 2, 2016, or, if capable of being cured, has not been cured by Centene within 30 calendar days following receipt of written notice of such breach or failure to perform from Health Net (or, if earlier, July 2, 2016), which termination right pursuant to this bullet point we refer to as Health Net's Centene Breach Termination Right; or

prior to obtaining the Health Net Stockholder Approval, in accordance with, and subject to the terms and conditions of, the provisions described under The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements Adverse Recommendation Change and Termination.

by Centene:

prior to the Health Net stockholder vote, in the event that (i) the Health Net Board effects an adverse recommendation change, as described in more detail in The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements Adverse Recommendation Change and Termination beginning on page 147, (ii) the Health Net Board or any committee thereof fails to include the Health Net recommendation FOR the Merger proposal, (iii) following the disclosure or announcement of a takeover proposal with respect to Health Net (other than a tender or exchange offer described in

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clause (iv) below), the Health Net Board fails to reaffirm publicly the Health Net recommendation FOR the Merger proposal within five business days after Centene requests in writing that such recommendation under such circumstances be reaffirmed publicly, (iv) a tender offer or exchange offer is commenced that would, if completed, constitute a takeover proposal with respect to Health Net and the Health Net Board fails to recommend against acceptance of such tender offer or exchange offer by its stockholders (including, for these purposes, by taking any position contemplated by Rule 14e-2 of the Exchange Act other than recommending rejection of such tender offer or exchange offer) within 10 business days of the commencement of such tender offer or exchange offer, or (v) the Health Net Board publicly announces an intention to take any of the foregoing actions; which termination right pursuant to this bullet point we refer to as Centene's Health Net Board Action Termination Right;

prior to the Health Net Stockholder Approval, if Health Net is in willful breach of its no solicitation obligations;

if Health Net materially breaches or fails to perform any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements set forth in the merger agreement, and such breach or failure to perform (i) would give rise to the failure of a closing condition regarding the accuracy of Health Net's representations and warranties or Health Net's compliance with its covenants and agreements and (ii) is incapable of being cured by Health Net by July 2, 2016, or, if capable of being cured, has not been cured by Health Net within 30 calendar days following receipt of written notice of such breach or failure to perform from Centene (or, if earlier, July 2, 2016), which termination right pursuant to this bullet point we refer to as Centene's Health Net Breach Termination Right; or

prior to obtaining the Centene Stockholder Approval in accordance with, and subject to the terms and conditions of, the provisions described under The Merger Agreement Covenants and Agreements Adverse Recommendation Change and Termination.

If the merger agreement is terminated as described above, the merger agreement will be void and have no effect, and there shall not be any liability or obligation on the part of any party, except that:

no termination will affect the obligations of the parties contained in the confidentiality agreements entered into by Centene and Health Net in connection with entering into the merger agreement;

no termination will relieve any party from liability for any fraud, willful breach of a representation or warranty or willful breach of any covenant or other agreement contained in the merger agreement, in which case the aggrieved party will be entitled to all rights and remedies available at law or in equity, provided that if a termination fee is paid following termination for either party's willful breach of its no solicitation obligations as described below, such termination fee shall be the sole and exclusive remedy in connection with any such willful breach; and

certain other provisions of the merger agreement, including (i) provisions with respect to the ability of Health Net and Centene to pursue damages against the other party for fraud or willful breach of the merger agreement and (ii) provisions with respect to the allocation of fees and expenses, including, if applicable, the termination fees described below, will survive the termination of the merger agreement.

The merger agreement provides for termination fees in connection with a termination of the merger agreement under the following circumstances:

in the event Health Net terminates the merger agreement pursuant to clause (i) of Health Net's Centene Board Action Termination Right in the event that the Centene Board effects an adverse recommendation change in response to a Centene intervening event (as described hereinafter), Centene will pay to Health Net a fee in the amount of \$402 million on the second business day following the date of such termination.

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in the event Health Net terminates the merger agreement (a) pursuant to clauses (ii), (iii) or (iv) of Health Net's Centene Board Action Termination Right, (b) pursuant to clause (i) of Health Net's Centene Board Action Termination Right in the event that the Centene Board effects an adverse recommendation change in connection with a Superior Proposal or (c) due to Centene's willful breach of its no solicitation obligations, Centene will pay to Health Net a fee in the amount of:

\$302 million on the second business day following the date of such termination, if, with respect to clauses (a) and (b), such termination or, with respect to clause (c), such willful breach, occurs on or prior to 5:30 p.m., New York time, on August 17, 2015; or

\$367 million on the second business day following the date of such termination if, with respect to clauses (a) and (b), such termination or, with respect to clause (c), such willful breach, occurs after 5:30 p.m., New York time, on August 17, 2015.

in the event Centene terminates the merger agreement prior to obtaining the Centene Stockholder Approval, in accordance with, and subject to the terms and conditions of, the provisions described above under Covenants and Agreements Adverse Recommendation Change and Termination, Centene will pay to Health Net \$302 million if such termination occurs on or prior to 5:30 p.m., New York time, on August 17, 2015 or \$367 million if such termination occurs after 5:30 p.m., New York time, on August 17, 2015, in either case concurrently with, and as a condition to the effectiveness of, the termination.

in the event Centene terminates the merger agreement pursuant to clause (i) of Centene's Health Net Board Action Termination Right in the event that the Health Net Board effects an adverse recommendation change in response to a Health Net intervening event (as described hereinafter), Health Net will pay to Centene a fee in the amount of \$251 million on the second business day following the date of such termination.

in the event Centene terminates the merger agreement (a) pursuant to clauses (ii), (iii) or (iv) of Centene's Health Net Board Action Termination Right, (b) pursuant to clause (i) of Centene's Health Net Board Action Termination Right in the event that the Health Net Board effects an adverse recommendation change in connection with a Superior Proposal or (c) due to Health Net's willful breach of its no solicitation obligations, Health Net will pay to Centene a fee in the amount of:

\$188 million on the second business day following the date of such termination, if, with respect to clauses (a) and (b), such termination or, with respect to clause (c), such willful breach, occurs on or prior to 5:30 p.m., New York time, on August 17, 2015; or

\$229 million on the second business day following the date of such termination if, with respect to clauses (a) and (b), such termination or, with respect to clause (c), such willful breach, occurs after 5:30 p.m., New York time, on August 17, 2015.

in the event Health Net terminates the merger agreement prior to obtaining the Health Net Stockholder Approval, in accordance with, and subject to the terms and conditions of, the provisions described above, Health Net will pay to Centene \$188 million if such termination occurs on or prior to 5:30 p.m., New York time, on August 17, 2015 or \$229 million if such termination occurs after 5:30 p.m., New York time, on August 17, 2015, in either case concurrently with, and as a condition to the effectiveness of, the termination. We refer to each of the foregoing fees as the termination fees. In no event shall Centene or Health Net be required to pay a termination fee if such party has already paid a termination fee, and no termination fee shall be payable more than once.

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In addition to the termination fees described above, the merger agreement provides for other fees to be paid in connection with the termination of the merger agreement under the following circumstances:

in the event that the merger agreement is terminated by Centene or Health Net due to a failure to obtain the Centene Stockholder Approval at the Centene special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement thereof, Centene will pay to Health Net a fee in the amount of \$101 million either (i) concurrently with such termination (in the case of termination by Centene) or (ii) on the second business day following the date of such termination (in the case of termination by Health Net); and

in the event that the merger agreement is terminated by Centene or Health Net due to a failure to obtain the Health Net Stockholder Approval at the Health Net special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement thereof, Health Net will pay to Centene a fee in the amount of \$63 million either (i) concurrently with such termination (in the case of termination by Health Net) or (ii) on the second business day following the date of such termination (in the case of termination by Centene);

We refer to each of the foregoing fees as no-vote fees. In no event shall a no-vote fee be payable more than once.

The merger agreement further provides that Centene will pay Health Net a fee under the following circumstances:

After the date of the merger agreement, if:

a takeover proposal with respect to Centene is publicly disclosed, announced or otherwise made public by any person (other than Health Net or its affiliates), which is referred to as the Centene takeover proposal (and which substitutes 50% for 15% in the definition of takeover proposal);

the merger agreement is terminated by (i) either Centene or Health Net due to a failure to obtain the Centene Stockholder Approval at the Centene special meeting or (ii) by Health Net pursuant to Health Net's Centene Breach Termination Right, if the breach giving rise to Health Net's Centene Breach Termination Right rose to the level of a willful breach, and at the time of such termination the Centene takeover proposal has not been withdrawn and remains outstanding; and

within nine months after any such termination referred to in the preceding bullet point, Centene enters into any definitive agreement providing for any transaction contemplated by any Centene takeover proposal (regardless of when made and whether or not the same Centene takeover proposal initially referenced, which transaction is thereafter completed (regardless of when)) or completes any transaction contemplated by any Centene takeover proposal (regardless of when made and whether or not the same Centene takeover proposal initially referenced, which transaction is thereafter completed (regardless of when));

then Centene will pay to Health Net \$367 million, less the amount, if any, of the Centene no-vote fee previously paid by Centene to Health Net, concurrently with the occurrence of the completion of any Centene takeover proposal referred to in the preceding bullet point.

The merger agreement further provides that Health Net will pay Centene a fee under the following circumstances:

After the date of the merger agreement, if:

a takeover proposal with respect to Health Net is publicly disclosed, announced or otherwise made public by any person (other than Centene or its affiliates), which is referred to as the Health Net takeover proposal (and which substitutes 50% for 15% in the definition of takeover proposal);

the merger agreement is terminated by (i) either Centene or Health Net due to a failure to obtain the Health Net Stockholder Approval at the Health Net special meeting or (ii) by Centene pursuant

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to Centene's Health Net Breach Termination Right, if the breach giving rise to Centene's Health Net Breach Termination Right rose to the level of a willful breach, and at the time of such termination the Health Net takeover proposal has not been withdrawn and remains outstanding; and

within nine months after any such termination referred to in the preceding bullet point, Health Net enters into any definitive agreement providing for any transaction contemplated by any Health Net takeover proposal (regardless of when made and whether or not the same Health Net takeover proposal initially referenced, which transaction is thereafter completed (regardless of when)) or completed any transaction contemplated by any Health Net takeover proposal (regardless of when made and whether or not the same Health Net takeover proposal initially referenced, which transaction is thereafter completed (regardless of when));

then Health Net will pay to Centene \$229 million, less the amount, if any, of the Health Net no-vote fee previously paid by Health Net to Centene, concurrently with the occurrence of the completion of any Health Net takeover proposal referred to in the preceding bullet point.

The merger agreement further provides that Centene will pay Health Net a fee in the amount of \$250 million within two business days following the date of a termination of the merger agreement under the following circumstances:

the merger agreement is terminated by Health Net or Centene due to (i) a governmental entity of competent jurisdiction having issued an order permanently restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the merger and such order has become final and non-appealable (solely to the extent the order giving rise to such termination right relates to applicable U.S. federal antitrust laws) or (ii) the failure of the merger to be consummated by July 2, 2016; and

at the time of such termination, (i) the condition that the waiting period (and any extensions thereof) under the HSR Act applicable to the merger shall have expired or been terminated shall not have been satisfied and (ii) all of the other conditions to Centene's obligation to complete the merger (other than (A) the condition that no law or order (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent) will have been promulgated, entered, enforced, enacted or issued or be applicable to the merger or the Centene stock issuance by any governmental entity and continuing in effect that prohibits, prevents or makes illegal the consummation of the merger or the Centene stock issuance, but solely to the extent the order giving rise to the failure of such condition relates to applicable U.S. federal antitrust laws and (B) the condition that there shall not be pending any proceeding by a governmental entity seeking to impose a Burdensome Condition, but solely to the extent the proceeding giving rise to the failure of such condition was brought under applicable U.S. federal antitrust laws) have been satisfied (or in the case of conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied at the closing are capable of being satisfied if the closing were to occur on the date of such termination).

For a more detailed discussion of each party's termination rights and the related termination fee obligations, see *The Merger Agreement Termination* beginning on page 158 and *The Merger Agreement Effect of Termination; Termination Fees and Other Fees* beginning on page 160.

Matters to be Considered at the Special Meetings

Centene

At the Centene special meeting, Centene stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon:

the Share Issuance proposal;

the Centene Adjournment proposal; and

the Charter Amendment proposal.

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Stockholder approval of the Share Issuance proposal is required to complete the merger. Approval of the Charter Amendment proposal is not required to complete the merger.

The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by the shares of Centene common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Centene special meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve the Share Issuance proposal.

If a quorum is not present, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares of Centene common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Centene special meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve the Centene Adjournment proposal. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast at the meeting on the proposal is required to approve the Centene Adjournment proposal.

The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares of Centene common stock outstanding and entitled to vote on the record date for the Centene special meeting is required to approve the Charter Amendment proposal.

The Centene Board unanimously recommends that Centene stockholders vote **FOR** all of the proposals set forth above, as more fully described under Centene Proposals beginning on page 178.

Health Net

At the Health Net special meeting, Health Net stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon:

the Merger proposal;

the Merger-Related Compensation proposal; and

the Health Net Adjournment proposal.

Approval of the Merger proposal is required for completion of the merger.

The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares of Health Net common stock outstanding and entitled to vote on the record date for the Health Net special meeting is required to approve the Merger proposal.

The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by shares of Health Net common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Health Net special meeting and entitled to vote on such proposal is required to approve the Merger-Related Compensation proposal.

If a quorum is not present, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of shares of Health Net common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Health Net special meeting is required to approve the Health Net Adjournment proposal. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast by the shares of Health Net common stock represented (in person or by proxy) at the Health Net special meeting and entitled to vote on the proposal is required to approve the Health Net Adjournment proposal.

The Health Net Board unanimously recommends that Health Net stockholders vote **FOR** all of the proposals set forth above, as more fully described under Health Net Special Meeting beginning on page 181.

Voting by Centene and Health Net Directors and Executive Officers

As of the close of business on September 14, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available, directors and executive officers of Centene and their affiliates owned and were entitled to vote 2,436,926 shares of Centene common stock, representing approximately 2.0% of the total voting

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power of the shares of Centene common stock outstanding on that date. The number and percentage of shares of Centene common stock owned by directors and executive officers of Centene and their affiliates as of the record date are not expected to be meaningfully different from the number and percentage as of September 14, 2015. It is currently expected that Centene's directors and executive officers will vote their shares of Centene common stock in favor of each of the proposals to be considered at the Centene special meeting, although none of them have entered into any agreements obligating them to do so other than the Centene Supporting Stockholder.

As of the close of business on September 14, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available, directors and executive officers of Health Net and their affiliates owned and were entitled to vote 1,479,114 and beneficially owned 2,790,137 shares, respectively, of Health Net common stock, representing approximately 1.9% of the total voting power and approximately 3.6% of the total issued and outstanding shares, respectively, of Health Net common stock outstanding on that date. The number and percentage of shares of Health Net common stock owned by directors and executive officers of Health Net and their affiliates as of the record date are not expected to be meaningfully different from the number and percentage as of September 14, 2015. It is currently expected that Health Net's directors and executive officers will vote their shares of Health Net common stock in favor of each of the proposals to be considered at the Health Net special meeting, although none of them have entered into any agreements obligating them to do so other than the Health Net Supporting Stockholder.

In addition, (i) the Centene Supporting Stockholder entered into the Centene Voting Agreement with Health Net pursuant to which, among other things, such stockholder agreed to vote in favor of the Centene share issuance and to vote against any takeover proposals in respect of Centene and (ii) the Health Net Supporting Stockholder entered into the Health Net Voting Agreement with Centene pursuant to which, among other things, such stockholder agreed to vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and to vote against any takeover proposals in respect of Health Net.

Risk Factors

You should also carefully consider the risks that are described in the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 44.

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SELECTED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA

The following selected historical financial information is being provided to assist you in your analysis of the financial aspects of the transaction.

The Centene annual historical information is derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Centene as of and for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2014. The assets, liabilities and results of operations of Kentucky Spirit Health Plan and University Health Plans have been classified as discontinued operations for all periods presented.

The Health Net annual historical information is derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Health Net as of and for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2014. On April 1, 2012, Health Net completed the sale of the business operations of its Medicare PDP business, which is referred to as the PDP Business, to Pennsylvania Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of CVS Caremark Corporation. As such, the selected historical financial information included below of Health Net includes the results of the PDP Business for the period from January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2012, and does not include the results of the PDP Business for the period from April 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014.

The data as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 has been derived from the unaudited interim financial statements of both Centene and Health Net and, in the opinion of each company's management, includes all normal and recurring adjustments that are considered necessary for the fair presentation of the results for the interim period.

The information is only a summary and should be read in conjunction with each company's historical consolidated financial statements and related notes contained in the Centene and Health Net annual reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2015, which are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, as well as other information that has been filed with the SEC. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) beginning on page 220 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus for information on where you can obtain copies of this information. The historical results included below and elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus are not necessarily indicative of the future performance of Centene, Health Net or the combined company.

Table of Contents**Centene Corporation**

(in millions, except share data)	Six Months Ended		As of and for the				
	June 30, 2015	2014	2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	2012	2011	2010
Statement of operations data:							
Premium and service revenues (1)	\$ 9,945	\$ 7,093	\$ 15,667	\$ 10,526	\$ 7,682	\$ 5,052	\$ 4,284
Earnings from continuing operations, net of income tax expense	153	80	261	162	76	117	94
Discontinued operations, net of income tax expense (benefit)	(1)	1	3	4	(87)	(9)	4
Net earnings (loss)	152	81	264	166	(11)	108	98
(Earnings) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	(1)	1	7	(1)	13	3	(3)
Net earnings attributable to Centene Corporation	\$ 151	\$ 82	\$ 271	\$ 165	\$ 2	\$ 111	\$ 95
Net earnings (loss) per common share attributable to Centene Corporation:							
Basic:							
Continuing operations	\$ 1.28	\$ 0.70	\$ 2.30	\$ 1.49	\$ 0.86	\$ 1.20	\$ 0.93
Discontinued operations	(0.01)	0.01	0.03	0.03	(0.84)	(0.09)	0.04
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 1.27	\$ 0.71	\$ 2.33	\$ 1.52	\$ 0.02	\$ 1.11	\$ 0.97
Diluted:							
Continuing operations	\$ 1.24	\$ 0.68	\$ 2.23	\$ 1.43	\$ 0.83	\$ 1.15	\$ 0.90
Discontinued operations	(0.01)	0.01	0.02	0.04	(0.81)	(0.09)	0.04
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 1.23	\$ 0.69	\$ 2.25	\$ 1.47	\$ 0.02	\$ 1.06	\$ 0.94
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:							
Cash and cash equivalents (1)	\$ 1,967	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,546	\$ 974	\$ 746	\$ 494	\$ 434
Investments and restricted deposits (1)	1,782	1,203	1,557	941	727	653	640
Total assets	7,022	4,683	5,838	3,529	2,774	2,190	1,944
Medical claims liability (1)	2,092	1,394	1,723	1,112	815	519	457
Long term debt (1)	1,139	885	888	666	535	348	328
Total stockholders' equity	1,940	1,486	1,743	1,243	954	936	797

(1) From Continuing Operations

Table of Contents**Health Net, Inc.**

(in millions, except share data)	As of and for the						
	Six Months Ended			Year Ended December 31,			
	June 30, 2015	2014	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(unaudited)						
Revenues:							
Health plan services premiums	\$ 7,724	\$ 6,143	\$ 13,361	\$ 10,377	\$ 10,459	\$ 9,879	\$ 9,492
Government contracts	296	298	604	572	689	1,417	3,344
Net Income	\$ 88	\$ 150	\$ 146	\$ 170	\$ 122	\$ 72	\$ 204
Income Summary (1):							
Net Income Per Share Basic (1):							
Income from continuing operations	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.87	\$ 1.83	\$ 2.14	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.69	\$ 1.75
Income of discontinued operation, net of tax (2)					1.18	0.12	0.33
Net income	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.87	\$ 1.83	\$ 2.14	\$ 1.49	\$ 0.81	\$ 2.08
Net Income Per Share Diluted (1):							
Income from continuing operations	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.80	\$ 2.12	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.68	\$ 1.73
Income of discontinued operation, net of tax (2)					1.16	0.12	0.33
Net income	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.80	\$ 2.12	\$ 1.47	\$ 0.80	\$ 2.06
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:							
Cash and cash equivalents and investments available for sale	\$ 3,135	\$ 2,273	\$ 2,665	\$ 2,060	\$ 2,153	\$ 1,790	\$ 2,022
Total assets	5,860	4,777	5,396	3,929	3,934	3,608	4,132
Loans payable Long term	210	100	100	100	100	113	
Senior notes payable	400	399	400	399	399	399	399
Total stockholders equity (3)	1,712	1,822	1,709	1,629	1,557	1,443	1,694

- (1) The six months ended June 30, 2015 was impacted by \$73.7 million pretax expenses primarily related to the Cognizant Transaction. The six months ended June 30, 2014 reflects a tax benefit of \$72.6 million, net of adjustments to reserve for uncertain tax benefits, created by a loss on the stock of one of our subsidiaries. For 2014, includes an \$88.5 million pretax asset impairment primarily related to Health Net's assets held for sale in connection with the Cognizant Transaction and \$96.8 million of pretax expenses primarily related to the Cognizant Transaction. Health Net's operating results for the year ended December 31, 2014 were also impacted by fees imposed under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which we refer to as the ACA, including \$141.4 million in amortization of deferred costs of health insurer fee and \$97.6 million in other ACA fees. For 2013, Health Net had approximately \$56 million in favorable reserve developments related to prior years. These reserve developments related to prior years when considered together with the provision for adverse deviation recorded as of December 31, 2013, did not have a material impact on Health Net's operating results or financial

condition. In addition, Health Net's operating results for the year ended December 31, 2013 were impacted by \$12.0 million in pretax costs primarily related to Health Net's continuing efforts to address scale issues. For 2012, includes a gain on sale of discontinued operation in the amount of \$114.8 million after-tax. Health Net's operating results for the year ended December 31, 2012 were impacted by approximately \$35 million of adverse development related to prior years recorded as part of Health Net's health care cost. In addition, Health Net's operating results for the year ended December 31, 2012 were impacted by pretax costs of \$35.6 million related to Health Net's G&A cost reduction efforts, a \$5.0 million expense related to the early termination of a medical management contract and \$1.3 million in

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litigation-related expenses net of an insurance reimbursement. For 2011, includes a \$181 million pretax expense related to a litigation judgment in the first quarter. In addition, Health Net's operating results for the year ended December 31, 2011 were impacted by a \$40.8 million favorable adjustment to loss on sale of Health Net's Northeast health plan subsidiaries that were sold on December 11, 2009 and a \$6.8 million benefit from litigation reserve adjustments, partially offset by pretax costs of \$25.2 million related to Health Net's G&A cost reduction efforts. For 2010, includes pretax charges of \$61.2 million related to Health Net's operations strategy and other cost management initiatives, and \$9.0 million in early debt extinguishment and related interest rate swap termination costs, partially reduced by a \$46.5 million benefit from litigation reserve adjustments and a \$42.0 million adjustment to loss on sale of Northeast health plan subsidiaries.

- (2) Includes the operating results of Health Net's PDP Business that was sold on April 1, 2012.
- (3) No cash dividends were declared in any of the periods presented.

Table of Contents**SELECTED UNAUDITED PRO FORMA COMBINED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The transaction will be accounted for under the acquisition method of accounting, which means the assets and liabilities of Health Net will be recorded, as of the completion of the transaction, at their respective fair values and added to those of Centene. For a more detailed description of the acquisition method of accounting, see The Merger Accounting Treatment on page 122 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

We have presented below selected unaudited pro forma combined consolidated financial information, which is referred to as Selected Pro Forma Financial Information, that reflects the acquisition method of accounting and gives effect to the transaction, in the case of the statement of operations information, as though the transaction had occurred as of January 1, 2014 and, in the case of the balance sheet information, as though the transaction had occurred as of June 30, 2015.

The unaudited pro forma combined consolidated financial information, which is referred to as Unaudited Pro Forma Financial Information, has been prepared giving effect to the payment of the merger consideration in exchange for each share of Health Net common stock outstanding as of the close of business on September 14, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available. The number of shares of Health Net common stock outstanding as of the record date is not expected to be meaningfully different from the number as of September 14, 2015.

The Unaudited Pro Forma Financial Information would have been different had the companies actually been combined as of January 1, 2014 or June 30, 2015. For example, the Selected Pro Forma Financial Information does not reflect cost savings that may result from the transaction. The combined pro forma financial information has been presented for illustrative purposes only and is based on assumptions and estimates considered appropriate by Centene's management; however, it is not necessarily indicative of the results of operations and financial position that would have been achieved had the pro forma events taken place on the dates indicated, or of the future consolidated results of operations or of the financial position of the combined company. The following Selected Pro Forma Financial Information has been derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, the Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes beginning on page 188 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2015	Year Ended December 31, 2014
	(in millions, except share data)	
Combined Consolidated Statement of Operations Information:		
Total Revenues	\$ 18,657	\$ 30,525
Earnings from operations	401	488
Net earnings attributable to common stockholders	137	240
Net earnings per common share:		
Basic	\$ 0.82	\$ 1.45
Diluted	\$ 0.79	\$ 1.41
Weighted average shares outstanding		
Basic	167,996,171	165,447,666

Diluted

172,709,431

170,297,711

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	As of
	June 30, 2015
	(in millions)
Combined Consolidated Balance Sheet Information	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,841
Investments and restricted deposits	4,161
Goodwill and Intangible assets, net	5,689
Total assets	17,117
Medical claims liability	3,850
Long term debt	4,131
Total stockholders' equity	4,870

Table of Contents**COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL AND UNAUDITED PRO FORMA COMBINED PER SHARE INFORMATION**

The following table sets forth selected historical per share information of Centene and Health Net and unaudited pro forma combined consolidated per share information reflecting the transaction between Centene and Health Net, under the acquisition method of accounting, and the issuance of 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock in exchange for each share of Health Net common stock. You should read this information in conjunction with the selected historical financial information, included elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, and the historical financial statements of Centene and Health Net and related notes contained in the Centene and Health Net annual reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and the quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2015, which are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The unaudited Centene pro forma combined consolidated per share information is derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, the Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes beginning on page 188 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The historical per share information is derived from audited financial statements of Centene and Health Net as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014 and the unaudited financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 2015.

The unaudited pro forma combined consolidated per share information would have been different had the companies actually been combined as of the beginning of the periods presented. For example, the unaudited pro forma combined consolidated per share information does not reflect cost savings that may result from the transaction. The unaudited pro forma combined consolidated per share information has been presented for illustrative purposes only and is based on assumptions and estimates considered appropriate by Centene's management; however, it is not necessarily indicative of the results of operations and financial position that would have been achieved had the pro forma events taken place on the dates indicated, or of the future consolidated results of operations or of the financial position of the combined company.

	As of/For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2015	As of/For the Year Ended December 31, 2014
Centene Historical per Common Share Data:		
Net income-basic	\$ 1.27	\$ 2.33
Net income-diluted	1.23	2.25
Book value (1)	16.29	14.72
Health Net Historical per Common Share Data:		
Net income-basic	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.83
Net income-diluted	1.13	1.80
Book value (1)	22.15	21.89
Unaudited Pro Forma Combined per Centene Common Share Data:		
Net income-basic	\$ 0.82	\$ 1.45
Net income-diluted	0.79	1.41
Book value (1)	28.96	N/A
Unaudited Pro Forma Combined per Health Net Equivalent Share Data:		
Net income-basic (2)	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.90

Net income-diluted (2)	0.49	0.88
Book value (1)(2)	18.01	N/A

- (1) Amount is calculated by dividing shareholders' equity by common shares or shares of common stock, as applicable, outstanding. Pro forma book value per share as of December 31, 2014, is not meaningful as the estimated pro forma adjustments were calculated as of June 30, 2015.
- (2) Amounts calculated by multiplying unaudited pro forma combined per share amounts by the exchange ratio in the merger (0.622 of a Centene common share for each share of Health Net common stock).

Table of Contents**COMPARATIVE PER SHARE MARKET PRICE AND DIVIDEND INFORMATION****Market Prices**

The table below sets forth, for the calendar quarters indicated, the high and low sales prices per share of Centene common stock and Health Net common stock, both of which trade on the NYSE under the symbols **CNC** and **HNT**, respectively.

	Centene Common Stock		Health Net Common Stock	
	High	Low	High	Low
2013:				
First Calendar Quarter	\$ 24.28	\$ 20.29	\$ 29.57	\$ 24.16
Second Calendar Quarter	26.37	21.07	33.30	26.69
Third Calendar Quarter	32.52	26.01	33.90	29.11
Fourth Calendar Quarter	33.92	27.06	33.52	25.40
2014:				
First Calendar Quarter	\$ 33.18	\$ 28.44	\$ 35.70	\$ 29.23
Second Calendar Quarter	38.84	27.56	42.33	30.39
Third Calendar Quarter	41.99	35.49	47.95	40.84
Fourth Calendar Quarter	54.24	37.53	55.19	42.61
2015:				
First Calendar Quarter	\$ 71.66	\$ 51.73	\$ 61.55	\$ 50.79
Second Calendar Quarter	82.18	61.85	65.33	52.40
Third Calendar Quarter (through September 18, 2015)	83.00	57.57	76.67	61.96

On February 2, 2015, the Centene Board declared a two-for-one split of Centene common stock in the form of a 100% stock dividend distributed February 19, 2015 to stockholders of record on February 12, 2015. All share and per share information presented in this filing has been adjusted for the two-for-one stock split.

On July 1, 2015, the last trading day before the public announcement of the signing of the merger agreement, the closing sale price per share of Centene common stock was \$80.90 and the closing sale price per share of Health Net common stock was \$65.06, in each case on the NYSE. On September 18, 2015, the latest practicable date before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the closing sale price per share of Centene common stock was \$62.35 and the closing sale price per share of Health Net common stock was \$65.16, in each case on the NYSE. The table below sets forth the equivalent market value per share of Health Net common stock on July 1, 2015 and September 18, 2015, as determined by multiplying the closing prices of shares of Centene common stock on those dates by the exchange ratio of 0.622 and adding the cash portion of the merger consideration of \$28.25 per share, without interest. Although the exchange ratio is fixed, the market prices of Centene common stock and Health Net common stock will fluctuate before the special meetings and before the merger is completed. The market value of the merger consideration ultimately received by Health Net stockholders will depend on the closing price of Centene common stock on the day such stockholders receive their shares of Centene common stock pursuant to the merger agreement.

	Centene Common Stock	Health Net Common Stock	Implied Per Share Value of Merger Consideration
July 1, 2015	\$ 80.90	\$ 65.06	\$ 78.57
September 18, 2015	\$ 62.35	\$ 65.16	\$ 67.03

The market prices of Centene common stock and Health Net common stock have fluctuated since the date of the announcement of the merger agreement and will continue to fluctuate from the date of this proxy statement/

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prospectus to the date of the Health Net special meeting and the date the merger is completed and thereafter. No assurance can be given concerning the market prices of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock before completion of the merger or Centene common stock after completion of the merger. The exchange ratio is fixed in the merger agreement, but the market price of Centene common stock (and therefore the value of the merger consideration) when received by Health Net stockholders after the merger is completed could be greater than, less than or the same as shown in the table above. Accordingly, Health Net stockholders are advised to obtain current market quotations for Centene common stock and Health Net common stock in deciding whether to vote for adoption of the merger agreement.

Dividends

Centene has never declared any cash dividends on its capital stock and currently anticipates retaining any future earnings for the development, operation, and expansion of its business. Health Net has not paid any dividends on its common stock during fiscal years 2013, 2014 and year-to-date fiscal 2015 and has no present intention of paying any dividends on its common stock. However, the board of directors of each of Centene and Health Net retains its right to review the dividend policy periodically subject to, among other things, the limitations set forth in the merger agreement.

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CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations and business of Centene, Health Net and the combined businesses of Centene and Health Net and certain plans and objectives of Centene and Health Net with respect thereto, including the expected benefits of the merger. These statements may be made directly in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or may be incorporated by reference to other documents and may include statements for the period after completion of the merger. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate only to historical or current facts. Forward-looking statements often use words such as anticipate, target, expect, estimate, intend, plan, goal, believe, hope, will, may, would, could or should or other words of similar meaning or the negative thereof. There are several factors which could cause actual plans and results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

The expected closing date of the transaction;

The possibility that the estimated synergies (as described hereinafter) and value creation from the merger will not be realized, or will not be realized within the expected time period;

The risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully;

Disruption from the merger making it more difficult to maintain business and operational relationships;

The risk that unexpected costs will be incurred;

Changes in economic conditions, political conditions, changes in federal or state laws or regulations, including the ACA and the Health Care Education Affordability Reconciliation Act and any regulations enacted thereunder, provider and state contract changes, the outcome of pending legal or regulatory proceedings, reduction in provider payments by governmental payors, the expiration of Centene's or Health Net's Medicare or Medicaid managed care contracts by federal or state governments and tax matters;

The possibility that the merger does not close, including, but not limited to, due to the failure to satisfy the closing conditions, including the receipt of approval of Centene's stockholders and Health Net's stockholders;

The risk that financing for the transaction may not be available on favorable terms;

Risks and uncertainties discussed in the reports that Centene and Health Net have filed with the SEC; and

Risks and uncertainties set forth in or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus in the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page 44.

These forward-looking statements reflect Centene's and Health Net's current views with respect to future events and are based on numerous assumptions and assessments made by Centene and Health Net in light of their experience and perception of historical trends, current conditions, business strategies, operating environments, future developments and other factors they believe appropriate. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will occur in the future. The factors described in the context of such forward-looking statements in this document could cause Centene's and Health Net's plans with respect to the merger, actual results, performance or achievements, industry results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by such forward-looking statements. Although it is believed that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove to have been correct and persons reading this document are therefore cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements which speak only as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or, in the case of a document incorporated by reference, as of the date of that document. Neither Centene nor Health Net assumes any

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obligation to update the information contained in this document (whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise), except as required by applicable law. A further list and description of risks and uncertainties can be found in Centene's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 and in its subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K as well as in Health Net's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 and in its subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K.

Table of Contents**RISK FACTORS**

*In addition to the other information included and incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, including, among others, the matters addressed in the section entitled **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements** beginning on page 42, you should carefully consider the following risk factors before deciding whether to vote for the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, in the case of Health Net stockholders, or for the proposal to approve the issuance of the shares of Centene common stock forming part of the merger consideration, in the case of Centene stockholders. In addition, you should read and consider the risks associated with each of the businesses of Health Net and Centene because these risks will relate to the combined company following the completion of the merger. Descriptions of some of these risks can be found in the respective Annual Reports of Centene and Health Net on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as such risks may be updated or supplemented in each company's subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or Current Reports on Form 8-K, which are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You should also consider the other information in this document and the other documents incorporated by reference into this document. See the section entitled **Where You Can Find More Information** beginning on page 220.*

Risks Related to the Merger

The merger is subject to conditions, some or all of which may not be satisfied, or completed on a timely basis, if at all. Failure to complete the merger could have material adverse effects on Centene and Health Net.

The completion of the merger is subject to a number of conditions, including, among others, the approval by the Centene stockholders of the issuance of the shares of its common stock forming part of the merger consideration, the approval by Health Net stockholders of the adoption of the merger agreement and the receipt of certain other regulatory approvals, which make the completion and timing of the completion of the merger uncertain. See the section entitled **The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Merger**, beginning on page 156, for a more detailed discussion. Also, either Centene or Health Net may terminate the merger agreement if the merger has not been consummated by July 2, 2016, except that this right to terminate the merger agreement will not be available to any party whose failure to perform any obligation under the merger agreement has been the cause of or the primary factor that resulted in the failure of the merger to be consummated on or before that date.

If the merger is not completed, Centene's and Health Net's respective ongoing businesses may be materially adversely affected and, without realizing any of the benefits of having completed the merger, Centene and Health Net will be subject to a number of risks, including the following:

the market price of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock could decline;

Centene or Health Net could owe substantial termination fees to the other party under certain circumstances;

if the merger agreement is terminated and the Centene Board or the Health Net Board seeks another business combination, Centene stockholders and Health Net stockholders cannot be certain that Centene or Health Net will be able to find a party willing to enter into a transaction on terms equivalent to or more attractive than the terms that the other party has agreed to in the merger agreement;

time and resources committed by Centene and Health Net's respective management to matters relating to the merger could otherwise have been devoted to pursuing other beneficial opportunities for their respective companies;

Centene or Health Net may experience negative reactions from the financial markets or from their respective customers or employees; and

Centene and Health Net will be required to pay their respective costs relating to the merger, such as legal, accounting, financial advisory and printing fees, whether or not the merger is completed.

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In addition, if the merger is not completed, Centene or Health Net could be subject to litigation related to any failure to complete the merger or related to any enforcement proceeding commenced against Centene or Health Net to perform their respective obligations under the Merger Agreement. The materialization of any of these risks could adversely impact Centene and Health Net's respective ongoing businesses.

Similarly, delays in the completion of the merger could, among other things, result in additional transaction costs, loss of revenue or other negative effects associated with uncertainty about completion of the merger.

The merger agreement contains provisions that limit each party's ability to pursue alternatives to the merger, could discourage a potential competing acquiror of either Centene or Health Net from making a favorable alternative transaction proposal and, in specified circumstances, could require either party to pay substantial termination fees to the other party.

The merger agreement contains certain provisions that restrict each of Centene's and Health Net's ability to initiate, solicit, knowingly encourage or, subject to certain exceptions, engage in discussions or negotiations with respect to, or approve or recommend, any third-party proposal for an alternative transaction. Further, even if the Centene Board withdraws or qualifies its recommendation with respect to the issuance of the shares of Centene common stock forming part of the merger consideration or if the Health Net Board withdraws or qualifies its recommendation with respect to the adoption of the merger agreement, unless the merger agreement has been terminated in accordance with its terms, Centene or Health Net, as the case may be, will still be required to submit each of their merger-related proposals to a vote at their special meeting of stockholders. In addition, the other party generally has an opportunity to offer to modify the terms of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement in response to any third-party alternative transaction proposal before the board of directors of the company that has received a third-party alternative transaction proposal may withdraw or qualify its recommendation with respect to the merger-related proposal.

In some circumstances, upon termination of the merger agreement, a party will be required to pay a termination fee of between \$63 million and \$402 million to the other party. See the sections entitled "Summary No Solicitation" beginning on page 25, "The Merger Agreement Termination; Effect of Termination; Termination Fees and Other Fees" beginning on page 158.

These provisions could discourage a potential third-party acquiror or merger partner that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant portion of Centene or Health Net or pursuing an alternative transaction from considering or proposing such a transaction, even if it were prepared to pay consideration with a higher per share cash or market value than the per share cash or market value proposed to be received or realized in the merger. In particular, a termination fee, if applicable, may be substantial, and could result in a potential third-party acquiror or merger partner proposing to pay a lower price to the Centene stockholders or Health Net stockholders than it might otherwise have proposed to pay absent such a fee.

If the merger agreement is terminated and either Centene or Health Net determines to seek another business combination, Centene or Health Net, as applicable, may not be able to negotiate a transaction with another party on terms comparable to, or better than, the terms of the merger.

The merger is subject to the expiration or termination of applicable waiting periods and the receipt of approvals, consents or clearances from regulatory authorities that may impose conditions that could have an adverse effect on Health Net, Centene or the combined company or, if not obtained, could prevent completion of the merger.

Before the merger may be completed, any waiting period (or extension thereof) applicable to the merger must have expired or been terminated, and any approvals, consents or clearances required in connection with the merger must

have been obtained, in each case, under applicable law, including pursuant to the insurance laws and, in some instances, state health care laws. In deciding whether to grant the required regulatory approval, consent or clearance, the relevant governmental entities will consider the effect of the merger on competition

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within their relevant jurisdiction. The terms and conditions of the approvals, consents and clearances that are granted may impose requirements, limitations or costs or place restrictions on the conduct of the combined company's business. Under the merger agreement, Centene and Health Net have agreed to use their reasonable best efforts to obtain such approvals, consents and clearances and therefore may be required to comply with conditions or limitations imposed by governmental authorities, except that neither party may be required to agree to any term, limitation, condition, restriction or requirement that, individually or in the aggregate, would have or would reasonably be expected to have a material and adverse effect on the financial condition, business, revenue or EBITDA of Centene or Health Net, in each case, as currently conducted, or a requirement that would or would reasonably be expected to restrict or prohibit any lines or types of business in which Centene or Health Net shall be permitted to engage and would have or would reasonably be expected to have a material and adverse effect on Centene or Health Net.

In addition, regulators may impose conditions, terms, obligations or restrictions in connection with their approval of or consent to the merger, and such conditions, terms, obligations or restrictions may delay completion of the merger or impose additional material costs on or materially limit the revenues of the combined company following the completion of the merger. There can be no assurance that regulators will choose not to impose such conditions, terms, obligations or restrictions, and, if imposed, such conditions, terms, obligations or restrictions may delay or lead to the abandonment of the merger. For a more detailed description of the regulatory review process, see the section entitled "The Merger Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger" beginning on page 122.

The exchange ratio is fixed and will not be adjusted in the event of any change in either Centene's or Health Net's stock price. As a result, the merger consideration payable to Health Net's stockholders may be subject to change if Centene's stock price fluctuates.

Upon completion of the merger, each share of Health Net common stock will be converted into the right to receive \$28.25 in cash and 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock. This exchange ratio will not be adjusted for changes in the market price of either Centene common stock or Health Net common stock between the date the merger agreement was signed and completion of the merger. Due to the fixed exchange ratio, fluctuations in the price of Centene common stock will drive corresponding changes in the value of the merger consideration payable to each Health Net stockholder. As a result, changes in the price of Centene common stock prior to the completion of the merger will affect the value of Centene common stock that Health Net common stockholders will receive on the closing date.

The price of Centene common stock has fluctuated during the period between the date the merger agreement was executed and the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, and may continue to change through the date of each of Centene and Health Net's stockholder meetings and the date the merger is completed. For example, based on the range of closing prices of Centene common stock during the period from July 1, 2015, the last full trading day before the public announcement of the merger, through September 18, 2015, the latest practicable trading date before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the exchange ratio represented a value of the stock portion of the merger consideration ranging from a high of \$51.63 to a low of \$35.81 for each share of Health Net common stock. The actual market value of the Centene common stock received by holders of Health Net common stockholders upon completion of the merger may be outside this range.

These variations could result from changes in the business, operations or prospects of Centene or Health Net prior to or following the completion of the merger, regulatory considerations, general market and economic conditions and other factors both within and beyond the control of Centene or Health Net. At the time of the special stockholders meetings, Health Net stockholders will not know with certainty the value of the shares of Centene common stock that they will receive upon completion of the merger.

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Members of the management and board of directors of Health Net and Centene have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of other stockholders.

In considering whether to approve and adopt the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, Health Net and Centene stockholders should recognize that members of management and the Health Net and Centene Board have interests in the merger that differ from, or are in addition to, their interests as stockholders of Health Net or Centene.

The executive officers and directors of Health Net have arrangements with Health Net that provide for severance, accelerated vesting of certain rights and other benefits upon completion of the merger and/or if their employment or service is terminated under certain circumstances following the completion of the merger. Executive officers and directors of Health Net also have rights to indemnification, advancement of expenses and directors' and officers' liability insurance that will survive the completion of the merger. One independent director to be designated by the Health Net Board from those directors serving on the Health Net Board as of July 2, 2015, who qualifies as an independent director as defined by Section 303A.02 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual and is reasonably acceptable to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of Centene, will be appointed to the Centene Board as of immediately following the closing. The Health Net Board was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in approving the merger agreement and making its recommendation that the Health Net stockholders vote **FOR** the Merger proposal, the Merger-Related Compensation proposal and the Health Net Adjournment proposal.

With respect to Centene, these interests include that all nine members of the Centene Board, including Mr. Neidorff, will remain on the Centene Board, and Mr. Neidorff, the Chairman of the Centene Board and Centene's President and Chief Executive Officer, will remain as the Chairman of the Centene Board and Centene's President and Chief Executive Officer. The executive officers of Centene will remain the executive officers of the combined company. The Centene Board was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in approving the merger agreement and making its recommendation that the Centene stockholders vote **FOR** the Share Issuance proposal, the Centene Adjournment proposal and the Charter Amendment proposal.

These interests are further described in *The Merger* Interests of Directors and Executive Officers of Centene in the Merger beginning on page 107 and *The Merger* Interests of Directors and Executive Officers of Health Net in the Merger.

If the mergers do not qualify as a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Code, the stockholders of Health Net may be required to pay substantial U.S. federal income taxes.

Centene and Health Net intend for the mergers, taken together, to be treated as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, it is not a condition to Health Net's obligation or Centene's obligation to complete the transactions that the mergers, taken together, be treated as a reorganization. If the subsequent merger is not completed or if the IRS or a court determines that the mergers should not be treated as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, in either event, a holder of Health Net common stock would recognize taxable gain or loss upon the exchange of Health Net common stock for Centene common stock pursuant to the merger. See *The Merger* U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences beginning on page 130.

Each party is subject to business uncertainties and contractual restrictions while the proposed merger is pending, which could adversely affect each party's business and operations.

In connection with the pendency of the merger, it is possible that some customers, suppliers and other persons with whom Centene or Health Net has a business relationship may delay or defer certain business decisions or might decide to seek to terminate, change or renegotiate their relationships with Centene or Health

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Net, as the case may be, as a result of the merger, which could negatively affect Centene's or Health Net's respective revenues, earnings and cash flows, as well as the market price of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock, regardless of whether the merger is completed.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, each of Centene or Health Net is subject to certain restrictions on the conduct of its business prior to completing the merger, which may adversely affect its ability to execute certain of its business strategies, including the ability in certain cases to enter into or amend contracts, acquire or dispose of assets, incur indebtedness or incur capital expenditures. Such limitations could adversely affect each party's businesses and operations prior to the completion of the merger.

Each of the risks described above may be exacerbated by delays or other adverse developments with respect to the completion of the merger.

Uncertainties associated with the merger may cause a loss of management personnel and other key employees which could adversely affect the future business and operations of the combined company.

Centene and Health Net are dependent on the experience and industry knowledge of their officers and other key employees to execute their business plans. The combined company's success after the completion of the merger will depend in part upon the ability of Centene and Health Net to retain key management personnel and other key employees. Prior to completion of the merger, current and prospective employees of Centene and Health Net may experience uncertainty about their roles within the combined company following the completion of the merger, which may have an adverse effect on the ability of each of Centene and Health Net to attract or retain key management and other key personnel. In addition, no assurance can be given that the combined company will be able to attract or retain key management personnel and other key employees of Centene and Health Net to the same extent that Centene and Health Net have previously been able to attract or retain their own employees.

Litigation filed against Health Net, Centene, the Merger Subs and the members of the Health Net Board could prevent or delay the consummation of the merger or result in the payment of damages following completion of the merger.

In connection with the merger, two purported Health Net stockholders have filed two putative stockholder class action lawsuits against Health Net, Centene, the Merger Subs and the members of the Health Net Board. The lawsuits, as amended and consolidated, allege, among other things, that the merger consideration is inadequate, that the process culminating in the merger was flawed, that the directors of Health Net breached their fiduciary duties in connection with the merger, and that Centene and the Merger Subs aided and abetted the breaches of fiduciary duty. The amended complaint also alleges that the Form S-4 Registration Statement filed on August 19, 2015 contains material misstatements and omits material information. The consolidated lawsuit seeks to enjoin the merger and other relief. The outcome of any such litigation is uncertain. If a dismissal is not granted or a settlement is not reached, the lawsuits could prevent or delay completion of the merger and result in substantial costs to Centene and Health Net, including any costs associated with indemnification. Additional lawsuits may be filed against Centene, Health Net or the directors and officers of either company in connection with the merger. The defense or settlement of any lawsuit or claim that remains unresolved at the time the merger is consummated may adversely affect the combined company's business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. See "The Merger Litigation Related to the Merger" beginning on page 129 for more information about the lawsuits that have been filed related to the merger.

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The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is presented for illustrative purposes only and may not be reflective of the operating results and financial condition of the combined company following completion of the merger.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of what the combined company's actual financial position or results of operations would have been had the merger been completed on the dates indicated. Further, the combined company's actual results and financial position after the merger may differ materially and adversely from the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data that is included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared with the expectation, as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, that Centene will be identified as the acquirer under GAAP and reflects adjustments based upon preliminary estimates of the fair value of assets to be acquired and liabilities to be assumed. The final acquisition accounting will be based upon the actual purchase price and the fair value of the assets and liabilities of the party that is determined to be the acquiree under GAAP as of the date of the completion of the merger. In addition, subsequent to the closing date, there will be further refinements of the acquisition accounting as additional information becomes available. Accordingly, the final acquisition accounting may differ materially from the pro forma condensed combined financial information reflected in this document. See

Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements beginning on page 188 for more information.

Completion of the merger may trigger change in control or other provisions in certain agreements to which Health Net is a party, which may have an adverse impact on the combined company's business and results of operations.

The completion of the merger may trigger change in control and other provisions in certain agreements to which Health Net is a party. If Centene and Health Net are unable to negotiate waivers of those provisions, the counterparties may exercise their rights and remedies under the agreements, potentially terminating the agreements or seeking monetary damages. Even if Centene and Health Net are able to negotiate waivers, the counterparties may require a fee for such waivers or seek to renegotiate the agreements on terms less favorable to Health Net or the combined company. Any of the foregoing or similar developments may have an adverse impact on the combined company's business and results of operations.

The Centene common shares to be received by Health Net stockholders upon completion of the merger will have different rights from shares of Health Net common stock.

Upon completion of the merger, Health Net stockholders will no longer be stockholders of Health Net but will instead become stockholders of Centene and their rights as Centene stockholders will be governed by the terms of Centene's certificate of incorporation, as amended, and Centene's by-laws. The terms of Centene's certificate of incorporation, as amended, and by-laws are in some respects materially different than the terms of Health Net's certificate of incorporation and bylaws, which currently govern the rights of Health Net stockholders. See Comparison of Rights of Stockholders of Centene and Health Net beginning on page 207 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus for a discussion of the different rights associated with shares of Health Net common stock and shares of Centene common stock.

Risks Relating to the Combined Company after Completion of the Merger

The combined company may be unable to successfully integrate the businesses of Centene and Health Net and realize the anticipated benefits of the merger.

The success of the merger will depend, in part, on the combined company's ability to successfully combine the businesses of Centene and Health Net, which currently operate as independent public companies, and realize the anticipated benefits, including synergies, cost savings, innovation and operational efficiencies, from the combination. If the combined company is unable to achieve these objectives within the anticipated time frame, or

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at all, the anticipated benefits may not be realized fully or at all, or may take longer to realize than expected and the value of its common stock may be harmed. Additionally, rating agencies may take negative actions against the combined company.

The merger involves the integration of Health Net's business with Centene's existing business, which is a complex, costly and time-consuming process. Centene and Health Net have not previously completed a transaction comparable in size or scope to the proposed merger. The integration of the two companies may result in material challenges, including, without limitation:

the diversion of management's attention from ongoing business concerns and performance shortfalls at one or both of the companies as a result of the devotion of management's attention to the merger;

managing a larger combined company;

maintaining employee morale and retaining key management and other employees;

the possibility of faulty assumptions underlying expectations regarding the integration process;

retaining existing business and operational relationships and attracting new business and operational relationships;

consolidating corporate and administrative infrastructures and eliminating duplicative operations;

coordinating geographically separate organizations;

unanticipated issues in integrating information technology, communications and other systems;

unanticipated changes in federal or state laws or regulations, including the ACA and the Health Care Education Affordability Reconciliation Act and any regulations enacted thereunder; and

unforeseen expenses or delays associated with the merger.

Many of these factors will be outside of the combined company's control and any one of them could result in delays, increased costs, decreases in the amount of expected revenues and diversion of management's time and energy, which could materially affect the combined company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

Centene and Health Net are currently permitted to conduct only limited planning for the integration of the two companies following the merger and have not yet determined the exact nature of how the businesses and operations of

the two companies will be combined after the merger. The actual integration may result in additional and unforeseen expenses, and the anticipated benefits of the integration plan may not be realized.

Centene stockholders and Health Net stockholders will have a reduced ownership and voting interest after the merger and will exercise less influence over the policies of the combined company than they now have on the policies of Centene and Health Net, respectively.

Centene stockholders presently have the right to vote in the election of the Centene Board and on other matters affecting Centene. Health Net stockholders presently have the right to vote in the election of the Health Net Board and on other matters affecting Health Net. Immediately after the merger is completed, it is expected that current Centene stockholders will own approximately 71% of the combined company's common stock outstanding and current Health Net stockholders will own approximately 29% of the combined company's common stock outstanding, respectively.

As a result, current Centene stockholders and current Health Net stockholders will have less influence on the policies of the combined company than they now have on the policies of Centene and Health Net, respectively.

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The future results of the combined company may be adversely impacted if the combined company does not effectively manage its expanded operations following the completion of the merger.

Following the completion of the merger, the size of the combined company's business will be significantly larger than the current size of either Centene's or Health Net's respective businesses. The combined company's ability to successfully manage this expanded business will depend, in part, upon management's ability to design and implement strategic initiatives that address not only the integration of two discrete companies, but also the increased scale and scope of the combined business with its associated increased costs and complexity. There can be no assurances that the combined company will be successful or that it will realize the expected operating efficiencies, cost savings and other benefits currently anticipated from the merger.

The combined company is expected to incur substantial expenses related to the completion of the merger and the integration of Centene and Health Net.

The combined company is expected to incur substantial expenses in connection with the completion of the merger and the integration of Centene and Health Net. There are a large number of processes, policies, procedures, operations, technologies and systems that must be integrated, including purchasing, accounting and finance, sales, payroll, pricing, revenue management, marketing and benefits. In addition, the businesses of Centene and Health Net will continue to maintain a presence in St. Louis, Missouri and Woodland Hills, California, respectively. The substantial majority of these costs will be non-recurring expenses related to the merger (including financing of the merger), facilities and systems consolidation costs. The combined company may incur additional costs to maintain employee morale and to retain key employees. Centene and Health Net will also incur transaction fees and costs related to formulating integration plans for the combined business, and the execution of these plans may lead to additional unanticipated costs. Additionally, as a result of the merger, rating agencies may take negative actions with regard to the combined company's credit ratings, which may increase the combined company's costs in connection with the financing of the merger. These incremental transaction and merger-related costs may exceed the savings the combined company expects to achieve from the elimination of duplicative costs and the realization of other efficiencies related to the integration of the businesses, particularly in the near term and in the event there are material unanticipated costs.

The combined company will be significantly more leveraged than Centene is currently.

Upon completion of the merger, the combined company expects to incur approximately \$2,382 million in additional indebtedness. The combined company will have consolidated indebtedness of approximately \$4,136 million, which is greater than the current indebtedness of Centene prior to the merger. The increased indebtedness and higher debt-to-equity ratio of the combined company in comparison to that of Centene on a historical basis will have the effect, among other things, of reducing the flexibility of Centene to respond to changing business and economic conditions and increasing borrowing costs. For more information on the financial impact of the combined company's indebtedness, see Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements beginning on page 188.

The financing arrangements that the combined company will enter into in connection with the merger may, under certain circumstances, contain restrictions and limitations that could significantly impact the combined company's ability to operate its business.

Centene is incurring significant new indebtedness in connection with the merger. Centene and Health Net expect that the agreements governing the indebtedness that the combined company will incur in connection with the merger will contain covenants that, among other things, may, under certain circumstances, place limitations on the dollar amounts paid or other actions relating to:

payments in respect of, or redemptions or acquisitions of, debt or equity issued by the combined company or its subsidiaries, including the payment of dividends on Centene common stock;

incurring additional indebtedness;

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incurring guarantee obligations;

paying dividends;

creating liens on assets;

entering into sale and leaseback transactions;

making investments, loans or advances;

entering into hedging transactions;

engaging in mergers, consolidations or sales of all or substantially all of their respective assets; and

engaging in certain transactions with affiliates.

In addition, the combined company will be required to maintain a minimum amount of excess availability as set forth in these agreements.

The combined company's ability to maintain minimum excess availability in future periods will depend on its ongoing financial and operating performance, which in turn will be subject to economic conditions and to financial, market and competitive factors, many of which are beyond the combined company's control. The ability to comply with this covenant in future periods will also depend on the combined company's ability to successfully implement its overall business strategy and realize contemplated merger synergies.

Various risks, uncertainties and events beyond the combined company's control could affect its ability to comply with the covenants contained in its debt agreements. Failure to comply with any of the covenants in its existing or future financing agreements could result in a default under those agreements and under other agreements containing cross-default provisions. A default would permit lenders to accelerate the maturity of the debt under these agreements and to foreclose upon any collateral securing the debt. Under these circumstances, the combined company might not have sufficient funds or other resources to satisfy all of its obligations. In addition, the limitations imposed by financing agreements on the combined company's ability to incur additional debt and to take other actions might significantly impair its ability to obtain other financing.

Centene has obtained commitment letters from potential lenders. However, the definitive loan documents have not been finalized.

The market price of the combined company's common stock may be affected by factors different from those affecting the price of Centene or Health Net common stock.

Upon completion of the merger, holders of Centene common stock and Health Net common stock will be holders of common stock of Centene. As the businesses of Centene and Health Net are different, the results of operations as well

as the price of the combined company's common stock may in the future be affected by factors different from those factors affecting Centene and Health Net as independent stand-alone companies. The combined company will face additional risks and uncertainties that Centene or Health Net may currently not be exposed to as independent companies.

The market price of Centene's common stock may decline as a result of the merger.

The market price of Centene common stock may decline as a result of the merger if, among other things, the combined company is unable to achieve the expected growth in earnings, or if the operational cost savings estimates in connection with the integration of Centene's and Health Net's businesses are not realized, or if the transaction costs related to the merger are greater than expected, or if the financing related to the transaction is on unfavorable terms. The market price also may decline if the combined company does not achieve the perceived benefits of the merger as rapidly or to the extent anticipated by financial or industry analysts or if the effect of the

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merger on the combined company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows is not consistent with the expectations of financial or industry analysts.

Other Risk Factors of Centene and Health Net

Centene's and Health Net's businesses are and will be subject to the risks described above. In addition, Centene and Health Net are, and will continue to be subject to the risks described in Centene's and Health Net's respective Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 as updated by subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, all of which are filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 220 for the location of information incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

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THE MERGER

The following is a discussion of the transaction and the material terms of the merger agreement between Centene and Health Net. You are urged to read carefully the merger agreement in its entirety, a copy of which is attached as Annex A to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and incorporated by reference herein.

Background of the Merger

The Health Net Board regularly reviews and assesses Health Net's performance, risks, opportunities and strategy at board meetings. Additionally, the Health Net Board and management team regularly review and evaluate the possibility of pursuing various strategic alternatives and relationships as part of Health Net's ongoing efforts to strengthen its businesses and maximize value for its stockholders, taking into account economic, regulatory, competitive and other conditions.

In September 2013, the Health Net Board directed Health Net's management to engage financial advisors to assist with the identification of potential strategic partners and the consideration of a potential business combination. Health Net engaged financial advisors, including J.P. Morgan in connection with the foregoing strategic review process.

As part of this strategic process, Health Net had preliminary discussions with several entities and engaged in negotiations with two potential strategic partners (Strategic Party A) and (Strategic Party B). In early 2014, Strategic Party A offered to acquire Health Net. Despite several months of negotiations and price rounds, the highest price offered by Strategic Party A did not constitute a significant premium over the then current trading price of Health Net common stock. Strategic Party B submitted a preliminary non-binding indication of interest, but declined to submit an offer to acquire Health Net. The Health Net Board was actively involved in monitoring and participating in decisions regarding the negotiation process. Negotiations with Strategic Party A continued into mid-2014, focused primarily on pricing terms and the ability to procure the necessary antitrust clearance and state regulatory approvals required to complete a transaction. In July 2014, Strategic Party A decided to end discussions regarding a possible transaction with Health Net, noting significant concerns with state regulatory approval requirements. At this juncture, the Health Net Board directed management to cease active efforts towards a possible business combination.

The Health Net Board also directed management to renew its efforts to negotiate a possible outsourcing transaction with Cognizant Healthcare Services, LLC, which we refer to as Cognizant . On November 2, 2014, Health Net entered into an agreement with Cognizant, which was amended and restated on November 21, 2014. We refer to such agreement, as amended and restated, as the Cognizant Agreement . The Cognizant Agreement provided Health Net with the right to terminate the agreement until no later than ten (10) days after all regulatory approvals necessary to implement the Cognizant Agreement were obtained, which we refer to as a Pre-Commencement Termination Right. Health Net had the right to terminate the Cognizant Agreement after the Pre-Commencement Termination Right expired, but with a significant financial penalty.

In November 2014, Mr. Neidorff contacted Mr. Gellert to set up a meeting to discuss the business environment and their respective businesses. On or about November 25, 2014, Messrs. Neidorff and Gellert met in Los Angeles and spoke generally about market conditions and the complementary aspects of their respective businesses. They agreed to meet again to discuss whether there was a way for the two companies to work together. Mr. Gellert informed the members of the Health Net Board of these discussions and the directors agreed that Mr. Gellert should continue to communicate with Mr. Neidorff about potential avenues for the two companies to work together.

On March 2, 2015, Mr. Neidorff and other representatives of Centene met with Mr. Gellert and other representatives of Health Net in St. Louis. The parties discussed the future of their respective businesses and the managed care

industry and the expected impact of the ACA on each company as well as their respective

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philosophical business approaches. The parties did not discuss a potential transaction at this meeting. Mr. Neidorff concluded the meeting by stating that he wanted to maintain an open dialogue. Mr. Gellert and Mr. Neidorff informed their respective boards of directors of the content of these discussions.

In April 2015, Mr. Gellert was invited to meet with another potential strategic partner (Strategic Party C and, together with Strategic Party A and Strategic Party B, the Strategic Parties). On April 24, 2015, Mr. Gellert met with executives of Strategic Party C and discussed potential opportunities, including whether there were any viable structures for a potential business combination between the two parties. The parties identified significant hurdles to closing a potential transaction, including regulatory and antitrust approvals. Mr. Gellert informed the Health Net Board of these discussions.

Between the meeting in St. Louis on March 2, 2015 and the end of May, 2015, Mr. Neidorff contacted Mr. Gellert by telephone several times to discuss, among other things, market conditions and their businesses generally. On or about May 28, 2015, Mr. Neidorff's assistant contacted Mr. Gellert's assistant to schedule a meeting between the parties at a time when Mr. Neidorff intended to be on the west coast in early June 2015.

On June 8, 2015, Mr. Neidorff and other representatives of Centene, including representatives of Evercore and Allen & Company, met with Mr. Gellert and representatives of J.P. Morgan in Long Beach, California. At that meeting, Mr. Neidorff informed Mr. Gellert that Centene was interested in pursuing a potential business combination with Health Net. The parties discussed potential opportunities with respect to a combined entity as well as potential synergies. Mr. Gellert informed the Health Net Board of these discussions and scheduled a telephonic board meeting. Mr. Neidorff informed the Centene Board of the meeting.

On June 13, 2015, the Health Net Board met telephonically. At this meeting, Mr. Gellert provided background on Centene's business and details of his June 8 conversation with Mr. Neidorff. He informed the Health Net Board that Centene expressed interest in beginning due diligence during the week of June 15 and that Centene was interested in evaluating a potential transaction on an expedited basis in light of the upcoming expected implementation of the Cognizant Agreement and public speculation regarding consolidation activity in the health insurance industry. The Health Net Board authorized commencement of discussions and due diligence and agreed to discuss a potential transaction in greater detail on a call early during the week of June 15.

On Monday, June 15, 2015, Health Net and Centene exchanged parallel drafts of non-disclosure agreements. Between June 15 and June 16, 2015, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (Skadden), as counsel to Centene, and Morgan Lewis, as counsel to Health Net, negotiated the terms of the non-disclosure agreements. On Tuesday, June 16, 2015, the parties executed such agreements and commenced due diligence.

On Tuesday, June 16, 2015, the Health Net Board met telephonically. Mr. Gellert briefed the Health Net Board on recent developments in the health insurance industry, including announcements of, and public speculation regarding, acquisition activity in the sector. He noted that Centene had engaged McKinsey & Company to assist with identifying synergies, Evercore and Allen & Company as financial advisors, and Skadden as legal counsel. Mr. Gellert also informed the Health Net Board that Centene had indicated that it would consider proposing a business combination involving a significant stock component at a premium to Health Net's then current stock price consistent with market practice, which Centene described as between 15% to 24%, depending on its diligence evaluation. Mr. Gellert advised the Health Net Board that, in his view, Centene's investment of time and resources indicated its interest was genuine and that the potential value to Health Net stockholders justified an investment of Health Net's resources and engagement of external advisors, especially in light of the Health Net Board's prior interest in pursuing a strategic transaction and the potential long-term stand-alone challenges, such as, among others, the difficulty of expanding in other markets, previously identified by the Health Net Board. The Health Net Board agreed and approved the

engagement of J.P. Morgan, as well as Morgan Lewis as legal counsel for the transaction, Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP as Delaware legal counsel for the transaction, and Crowell & Moring LLP and Sidley Austin LLP as special legal counsel for the transaction.

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Representatives of J.P. Morgan advised the Health Net Board that, in light of Centene's current market capitalization, they expected that any proposal would have a significant stock component. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also discussed the financing that Centene would likely have to arrange to consummate the transaction. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also advised that Centene's interest appeared to be credible and *bona fide*. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also indicated, based on conversations with representatives of Centene's financial advisors, that Centene was eager to reach an agreement by the end of June, prior to the pending implementation of the Cognizant Agreement, which might preclude Centene's desired combined company strategy.

Mr. Gellert further advised the Health Net Board of the proposed timing for a potential transaction, noting that Centene had stated that it would not pursue a business combination once Health Net had initiated the implementation of the Cognizant Agreement. The Health Net Board then discussed the possibility of a transaction with other potential strategic partners, including the Strategic Parties. However, in light of the current trend toward consolidation in the industry and the potential regulatory and antitrust concerns associated with many potential transaction partners, the Health Net Board concluded that other potential transaction partners were not viable candidates for a business combination. During this meeting, it was also observed that, with the extensive transaction activity in the health care industry, maintaining confidentiality of the potential transaction would be a priority.

The Health Net Board further discussed Centene's likely strategy in managing the combined business, including potential synergies, as well as the potential impact of the upcoming Supreme Court decision in *King vs. Burwell*. Mr. Gellert noted that, like Health Net, Centene was a low cost leader with a clear strategy and that Centene management would likely want to retain many of Health Net's employees, who have executed that same strategy in California. He explained his view that Centene's and Health Net's complementary strategies, together with the combination of resources, provided a compelling business rationale for the potential transaction. The Health Net Board agreed that discussions should move forward for the potential transaction.

On Tuesday, June 16, 2015, the Centene Board met telephonically. Representatives of Skadden discussed various process considerations for the Centene Board in evaluating a possible transaction with Health Net and the directors' duties under Delaware law regarding a potential transaction with Health Net.

Mr. Neidorff reviewed other strategic alternatives the Centene Board had considered in the past and could consider in the future. Mr. Neidorff discussed the strategic and financial rationale for a transaction with Health Net and reasons for believing a transaction with Health Net would be beneficial for Centene's stockholders. Mr. Neidorff provided background on the discussions with Health Net regarding a potential transaction, including a summary of meetings and communications to date with Mr. Gellert.

Mr. Neidorff noted that in-person business diligence meetings had commenced at Health Net's corporate headquarters that day, with Centene's management and representatives from Centene's financial advisors, Evercore and Allen & Company, and McKinsey in attendance. Mr. Neidorff also reviewed the analyses of potential synergies that had been conducted to date, with McKinsey's assistance.

Evercore and Allen & Company then provided a business and financial overview of Health Net and an overview of the potential pro forma financial impact of the proposed transaction on Centene based on Wall Street research analysts' consensus estimates for Health Net. Centene's financial advisors also discussed preliminary views as to the potential market reaction to the proposed transaction.

From Tuesday, June 16, 2015 through Friday, June 19, 2015, representatives of Centene and various third-party advisors participated in due diligence meetings in Woodland Hills, California. Concurrently, Centene's independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG, LLP ("KPMG") reviewed Health Net's audit work papers from its

independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche, LLP (Deloitte).

On Sunday, June 21, 2015, Morgan Lewis sent an initial draft of certain portions of the merger agreement, including Health Net s representations and warranties, to Skadden.

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On Monday, June 22, 2015, the Health Net Board met telephonically. Management reported that, based upon conversations to date, there existed a reasonable basis to conclude that it was possible that the parties could reach agreement on an acceptable transaction. Management also noted Centene's stated deadline of July 1, 2015 to execute the merger agreement in order to avoid potential leaks of the potential transaction and to address certain considerations relating to the Cognizant Agreement. The Health Net Board recognized that timing was a key driver for the deal process.

The Health Net Board discussed the Cognizant Agreement, including employee transition matters and penalties associated with a termination of the Cognizant Agreement. The Health Net Board concluded that it would be important to secure Cognizant's agreement that Health Net could renew efforts to implement a version of the Cognizant Agreement if Health Net were unable to consummate the potential transaction with Centene.

Kathleen A. Waters, Health Net's Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, updated the Health Net Board on the progress of each party's due diligence, as well as "clean room" procedures agreed to by the parties to protect certain sensitive information.

Representatives of J.P. Morgan advised the Health Net Board regarding the financing that Centene would likely have to arrange to consummate the transaction and the fact that a significant portion of the merger consideration was expected to be in Centene common stock. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also presented materials previously provided to the Health Net Board in detail and answered questions from members of the Health Net Board who had reviewed the materials in advance of the meeting. Morgan Lewis advised on various financing, regulatory and stockholder vote matters, each of which was a contributing factor to the certainty of closing any business combination. The Health Net Board discussed that Centene would need to obtain stockholder approval of the issuance of shares of Centene common stock in the transaction. The Health Net Board discussed with the representatives of J.P. Morgan the considerations associated with the use of price collars in transactions involving a significant stock component, including the fact that most similar transactions do not contain price collars and the recognition that a price collar could be misconstrued as an indication that Health Net was not confident in the prospects of the combined company. The Health Net Board also discussed the various proposed termination fees and the context in which they would be payable by each party and determined to seek a meaningful termination fee by Centene to mitigate against any potential uncertainty, including failure to obtain the approval of Centene's stockholders.

Ms. Waters and Morgan Lewis also reviewed the regulatory approvals required for a potential transaction, and compared the anticipated approval process for the potential transaction with Centene to the anticipated approval process in the previously considered transaction with Strategic Party A.

The Health Net Board directed management to continue pursuing a potential transaction, with a focus on deal certainty and price. Management was further directed to contact Cognizant at an appropriate time, and to proceed on diligence and negotiation with Centene of definitive agreements in light of Centene's proposed transaction timing.

On Tuesday, June 23, 2015, the Centene Board met in person at Centene's headquarters. During the meeting, the Centene Board discussed a number of aspects which it believed were relevant to the Board's consideration of the potential transaction with Health Net including, among other things, an assessment of each company's strengths in terms of culture, technology and relationships with state governments. The Centene Board also discussed Centene's resources for undertaking a potential transaction with Health Net. During the course of the meeting, representatives of Skadden described certain considerations that the Centene Board should focus on in evaluating a potential transaction with Health Net, including the directors' duties under Delaware law with regard to a potential transaction with Health Net.

Mr. Neidorff then updated the Centene Board on his discussions with Mr. Gellert and on discussions between Centene's and Health Net's respective financial advisors regarding a possible transaction. He also reviewed with the Centene Board his preliminary discussions with the chief executive officers of other

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companies regarding a potential transaction, as had been reviewed previously with the Centene Board. Mr. Neidorff noted that such discussions had concluded at a preliminary stage and were no longer continuing.

The Centene Board then reviewed the key tasks completed on the potential transaction with Health Net during the week ended June 21 and discussed the ongoing due diligence process and findings then to date regarding synergies and financial, operational and legal matters concerning different aspects of Health Net's various businesses. The Centene Board then discussed the review conducted of Health Net's projections, the work performed by McKinsey, and a detailed analysis of Health Net's technology and IT and the current and pending contracts with Cognizant. The Centene Board further discussed, among other things, Health Net's government contracts business, Health Net's management and regional leadership, Health Net's projections, regulatory considerations concerning a potential transaction, and the potential impact on Health Net's business and operations of the pending decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *King v. Burwell* regarding the ACA.

Centene's financial advisors then discussed with the Centene Board a business and financial overview of Health Net and the potential pro forma financial impact of the proposed transaction on Centene based on Centene management's preliminary synergy estimates and, in the case of Health Net, the adjusted Health Net case, as well as a preliminary overview of implied transaction metrics at various illustrative purchase prices. Centene's financial advisors also discussed an overview of the proposed consideration, consisting of a mix of stock and cash, and potential financing plans for the proposed transaction.

Representatives of Skadden then reviewed the regulatory approvals required for a potential transaction and the terms of the draft merger agreement with the Centene Board.

On Tuesday, June 23, 2015, and Wednesday, June 24, 2015, Health Net participated in due diligence meetings in Centene's corporate offices. During this period, Messrs. Neidorff and Gellert continued to discuss potential synergies of the transaction. Mr. Neidorff also expressed Centene's interest in retaining key Health Net personnel, but no specific terms regarding such retention were discussed. Concurrently, Deloitte reviewed Centene's audit work papers from KPMG.

On Tuesday, June 23, 2015, Centene's financial advisors, at the direction of Centene, relayed to Health Net's financial advisor Centene's proposed mix of consideration, consisting of \$28.25 in cash and shares of Centene common stock, at a fixed exchange ratio, valued in the aggregate, as of such date, at \$73.00 per share (an approximately 13% premium over Health Net's closing stock price on June 23, 2015). Following this discussion, representatives of J.P. Morgan and Mr. Gellert communicated to Centene's financial advisors that the Health Net Board would likely view Centene's proposed consideration as inadequate and would likely be unwilling to engage in further discussions at that valuation in the proposed timeframe contemplated by Centene for a potential transaction.

On Wednesday, June 24, 2015, Skadden distributed an initial draft of the merger agreement to Morgan Lewis.

The parties continued their due diligence with conference calls and the exchange of documents from Wednesday, June 24, 2015 through July 1, 2015.

Between June 24, 2015 and July 1, 2015, Centene's and Health Net's legal counsel negotiated certain provisions of the merger agreement, including, among others, representations and warranties, covenants relating to regulatory approvals and various termination provisions, as well as related ancillary agreements, such as voting agreements.

On Thursday, June 25, 2015, Centene's financial advisors, at the direction of Centene, relayed to Health Net's financial advisors Centene's revised proposed mix of consideration, consisting of \$28.25 in cash and shares of Centene common

stock, at a fixed exchange ratio, valued in the aggregate, as of such date, at \$75.50 per share (an approximately 16% premium over Health Net's closing stock price on June 25, 2015).

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On Monday, June 29, 2015, the Health Net Board met in person in Los Angeles. Mr. Gellert provided the Health Net Board with an update on negotiations since the last meeting, including negotiations regarding price and contractual terms, as well as the progress of the due diligence process and timing considerations proposed by Centene and his view that the failure to meet the proposed timeframe would significantly diminish the chances of entering into a transaction with Centene.

Mr. Gellert explained that, while he did not believe that Health Net needed to effect a strategic transaction at that time, a business combination with Centene would be consistent with a number of the longer term strategic considerations previously discussed by the Health Net Board, many of which had been underlying Health Net's strategic review process during the prior year. Mr. Gellert advised the Health Net Board of his view that the proposed business combination presented as few obstacles to completion as could be reasonably expected from a regulatory and antitrust perspective and that this transaction presented significant opportunities and appeared to be in the best interest of Health Net's stockholders. He also noted that based on a recent discussion with the Chief Executive Officer of Strategic Party A, there appeared to be no viable path to overcome the regulatory issues that caused that prior strategic review process to conclude without completion of a transaction.

The Health Net Board then discussed options for approaching Cognizant and potential synergies associated with a business combination with Centene.

Management and representatives of J.P. Morgan also presented management's forecasts of Health Net's business on a stand-alone basis and a discussion was held regarding the associated potential upside and risks. Representatives of J.P. Morgan advised that the business combination with Centene appeared to represent, based on the information provided to J.P. Morgan by Centene and Health Net and publicly available financial information, an attractive alternative financially to the current stand-alone prospects. The Health Net Board concluded that, in light of the positive forecast on a stand-alone basis, which may be negatively impacted by entering into a strategic transaction that fails to close, and the potential loss of certain existing stand-alone strategic opportunities if Health Net pursued the Centene transaction, certainty of completion of the transaction remained a key focus.

The Health Net Board further discussed the regulatory and Centene stockholder approval risks that were discussed at the previous meeting.

Mr. Gellert expressed his view that the two companies were strategically aligned, that the proposed merger consideration would afford a good premium to Health Net stockholders and that the proposed transaction would provide a significant growth opportunity for the combined company. He advised that the business combination was expected to permit migration of Health Net's model to Centene's existing geographical footprint, a strategic goal which he believed would be difficult and expensive to achieve on a stand-alone basis.

Representatives of J.P. Morgan also discussed recent publicly announced transactions and public speculation regarding potential transactions in the sector and the potential impact on the proposed transaction with Centene. Although such recent acquisition activity could make Centene a potential acquisition target for a third-party, the Health Net Board discussed that any such alternative transactions could potentially be confronted with significant regulatory and antitrust obstacles. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also presented materials previously provided to the Health Net Board in detail and answered questions from members of the Health Net Board who had reviewed the materials in advance of the meeting.

The Health Net Board also discussed the potential tax consequences of the proposed business combination, and the potential combined company board composition and management, including the importance of retaining key Health Net personnel to the operations of the combined company. Messrs. Gellert and Health Net's Chief Financial and

Operating Officer, James Woys, advised the Health Net Board that, while discussions with Centene had not included specific employment terms, they were each willing to remain with the combined company for a transition period to help ensure a successful combination.

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Mr. Woys provided the Health Net Board with detailed information regarding Centene and its business, including the results of the financial diligence review performed by management and Deloitte. Management advised the Health Net Board that the diligence results were satisfactory, and management indicated it was comfortable with Centene's estimates for fiscal 2015 and 2016.

Morgan Lewis discussed a memorandum previously provided to the Health Net Board with respect to its fiduciary duties in the context of the transaction process. In connection with these discussions, the Health Net Board noted that the merger agreement would provide for a post-signing market check and discussed the likelihood that any potential suitors for Health Net would surface during the first 45 days following the announcement of the execution of the merger agreement and that such suitors would likely not be deterred by the termination fee payable by Health Net to enter into an alternative transaction and that any such potential suitors would likely have sufficient cash on hand to consummate any such alternative transaction.

The Health Net Board discussed the proposed timing of the transaction. Mr. Gellert noted that, in his belief, the Health Net Board and management had had sufficient time to understand Centene's business and its projections for fiscal years 2015 and 2016. The Health Net Board agreed.

The Health Net Board further discussed material open items in the draft merger agreement, including provisions relating to the Cognizant Agreement, potential termination fees and non-solicitation provisions. The Health Net Board agreed that management should continue to seek the best price possible, but that an agreement within the current range would be acceptable when combined with other key terms.

On Monday, June 29, 2015, Skadden distributed to Morgan Lewis initial drafts of the voting agreements and the exhibits to the merger agreement.

On Monday, June 29, 2015, Health Net, through representatives of J.P. Morgan, requested that Centene increase its offer to aggregate cash and stock consideration valued at \$80.00 per share (an approximately 25% premium over Health Net's closing stock price on June 29, 2015) and presented proposals on key open issues concerning (i) certain termination fees in the event of a failure to complete the transaction under various circumstances; (ii) protection in the event of an inability to obtain antitrust approvals; (iii) financing commitments; and (iv) the Cognizant Agreement. Health Net also requested three board seats on the Centene Board.

Later in the day on Monday, June 29, 2015, Centene responded through its financial advisors, at Centene's request, with an offer of aggregate cash and stock consideration valued, as of such date, at \$78.25 per share (an approximately 23% premium over Health Net's closing stock price on June 29, 2015) and one board seat on the Centene Board. In addition, Centene's financial advisors discussed generally with Health Net's financial advisor other key open issues. At Centene's request, the financial advisors also discussed Centene's contemplated financing for the transaction and confirmed, on Centene's behalf, that there would be no financing contingency and that debt commitment letters would be delivered by Centene at the time of the execution of the merger agreement.

On Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the Health Net Board met twice telephonically, the first time in the morning. The Health Net Board discussed possible deal protections in the event the transaction were to be terminated as a result of the failure to obtain antitrust or other regulatory approvals.

Mr. Woys and Ms. Waters reported to the Health Net Board on their discussions with Cognizant and explained that Health Net was working towards an agreement that would extend the Pre-Commencement Termination Right until after the close of a potential transaction with Centene in consideration for extending other business relationships with Cognizant and potentially implementing select portions of the Cognizant Agreement.

Morgan Lewis reported to the Health Net Board on the negotiations with Centene on material terms of the merger agreement. They advised that the parties had reached tentative agreement on the termination fees payable

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by each of Centene and Health Net in certain circumstances, including that, in order to facilitate a post-signing market check, a lower termination fee would be payable by Health Net if Health Net were to terminate the transaction to enter into another transaction during the first 45 days post-signing. They also advised that the parties agreed that each company's chief executive officer would enter into a voting agreement and explained that the voting agreement with Mr. Neidorff would likely mitigate the risk that Centene's stockholders would not approve the Share Issuance proposal. Morgan Lewis also reported that negotiations were continuing with respect to certain antitrust and regulatory provisions.

After the board meeting, Health Net, through its financial advisors, requested that Centene offer aggregate cash and stock consideration valued at \$79.00 per share (an approximately 23% premium over Health Net's closing stock price on June 30, 2015). In addition, Health Net requested (i) two board seats; (ii) an additional day to consider the transaction such that the execution of a definitive agreement would occur on July 2, 2015; and (iii) additional protection with respect to antitrust and other regulatory approval requirements.

Later on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, Morgan Lewis distributed a revised draft of the merger agreement and comments to related exhibits. Also later that day, Centene, through its financial advisors, responded with a proposed aggregate price of \$78.45 per share (an approximately 22% premium over Health Net's closing stock price on June 30, 2015) and one seat on the Centene Board, and agreed to extend the negotiations by an additional day. The parties continued to negotiate the termination provisions for antitrust and other regulatory reasons.

In the evening of June 30, 2015, the Health Net Board reconvened. Mr. Gellert provided the Health Net Board with an update on the status of negotiations with Centene. Members of the Health Net Board discussed expected synergies, the need for existing management to remain engaged through a transition period, employee retention concerns and possible antitrust considerations. Mr. Gellert and Morgan Lewis advised the Health Net Board that Centene had agreed to extend the timing for execution of the merger agreement from July 1 to July 2, but would be unlikely to agree to the same transaction terms beyond such date.

The Health Net Board discussed the overall process and noted its prior discussions regarding the need to consider strategic alternatives in the near term and further noted the difficulty of pursuing other acceptable alternatives without taking on greater regulatory and antitrust risk. The Health Net Board concluded that, given the potential desire to engage in a strategic transaction in the near term, as well as the state of the market, if acceptable terms could be reached, including with respect to regulatory and antitrust matters, it would be in the best interests of Health Net's stockholders for this opportunity to be presented for their approval.

On Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the Centene Board had an in-person meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. During the course of the meeting, representatives of Skadden reviewed various process considerations for the Centene Board in evaluating a possible transaction with Health Net and reviewed various federal antitrust and state regulatory considerations.

Mr. Neidorff provided an update on the potential transaction with Health Net and discussions with Health Net, including a summary of meetings and communications with Mr. Gellert and other discussions between the two companies and their respective representatives. In addition, Mr. Neidorff and representatives of Skadden discussed the status of negotiations with Health Net on certain material terms of the potential transaction, including with respect to Centene's obligations to obtain requisite regulatory approvals, the circumstances and amount of potential termination fees and the status of the contemplated financing plans related to the potential transaction. The Centene Board also reviewed the strategic rationale for the potential transaction.

Members of Centene's management then discussed strategic considerations in proceeding with the potential transaction and reviewed the status of Centene's due diligence review. Centene's management further discussed

PricewaterhouseCoopers' review of Health Net's public financial statements, tax papers and quality of earnings analysis, as well as IT and HR related matters. The Centene Board and Centene's management, together with Centene's advisors, continued to discuss potential synergies arising from the potential transaction and the likelihood of Centene achieving such synergies.

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The Centene Board then reviewed the terms of the contemplated financing for the potential transaction and the terms of the current draft of Centene's commitment letter.

Mr. Neidorff noted that a request had been made by Health Net to add current members of the Health Net Board to the Centene Board following completion of a potential transaction with Health Net and that Centene had proposed one board seat to Health Net as part of the negotiations. The directors discussed the possibility of expanding the existing Centene Board. Following this discussion, representatives of Skadden reviewed with the Centene Board the fiduciary duties of the directors under Delaware law.

Representatives of Skadden then reviewed written materials describing the merger agreement. Among other things, Skadden discussed the potential tax-free treatment of the equity portion of the consideration payable to Health Net stockholders; the fact that Health Net stockholders would be entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the potential transaction; the contemplated treatment of existing Health Net equity awards; the conditions to closing; the nature of and obligations regarding financing; deal protection provisions, including, among others, limitations included in the merger agreement on the ability (subject to certain exceptions) of each of Centene and Health Net to solicit competing acquisition proposals or change its recommendation to their respective stockholders with respect to the potential transaction, the circumstances under which the merger agreement may be terminated by either party and the related termination fee amounts; and the obligations of each party to obtain required regulatory approvals; and the proposed voting agreements from the chief executive officer of each party.

Centene's financial advisors then reviewed with the Centene Board financial aspects of the potential transaction, including, without limitation, a summary of financial terms of the potential transaction and implied equity and enterprise values for Health Net based on the proposed purchase price, as well as implied purchase price multiples and premiums. During the course of these discussions, Centene's financial advisors also summarized Centene's and Health Net's historical relative stock price performance, provided an overview of selected companies and selected precedent transactions in the managed care industry, implied premiums paid in selected transactions and the discounted cash flows of Health Net and Centene based on the adjusted Health Net case and the Centene management forecast, respectively. The Centene Board additionally discussed with Centene's management and its financial advisors potential synergies related to the potential transaction. After further discussion, the Centene Board instructed Centene's management to continue negotiations of the proposed price and other terms of a transaction with Health Net.

On Wednesday, July 1, 2015, the Health Net Board met telephonically two times.

The first meeting occurred in the morning. Mr. Gellert reported that an agreement in principle with Cognizant had been reached consistent with the terms that were previously directed by the Health Net Board.

Morgan Lewis provided an update regarding the status of negotiations with Centene, including key transaction terms relating to termination, regulatory approval risk and non-solicitation, advising that such items had been resolved consistent with prior discussions with the Health Net Board.

The Health Net Board extensively discussed the antitrust review process and related provisions in the merger agreement. Morgan Lewis gave a detailed presentation on the timeline of antitrust review and discussed its view regarding antitrust concerns. Morgan Lewis then engaged in a detailed discussion of certain deal protections in the merger agreement. Mr. Gellert and Morgan Lewis also advised that other potential strategic partners for either party could likely present greater antitrust issues.

Mr. Gellert reported to the Health Net Board management's high degree of confidence in the expected synergies that could be achieved by the combined company. He also indicated that Centene was interested in retaining key Health

Net personnel, and confirmed his and Mr. Woys' willingness to remain with the combined company for a transition period, although no specific or definitive employment terms had been discussed.

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The Health Net Board discussed Centene's proposed timing for a deal announcement. Mr. Gellert and Morgan Lewis confirmed that Centene had made it clear that its offer would be withdrawn if the merger agreement was not executed prior to July 3, 2015, and the Health Net Board discussed Centene's position in light of other rumored transactions in the market.

Representatives of J.P. Morgan expressed J.P. Morgan's view that the premium represented by the implied value of the \$78.45 per share merger consideration based on Centene's closing stock price on July 1, 2015 over Health Net's closing stock price on July 1, 2015 was slightly more than 20%, which was in line with other recent similar transactions. Representatives of J.P. Morgan also presented materials previously provided to the Health Net Board in detail and answered questions from members of the Health Net Board who had reviewed the materials in advance of the meeting.

Negotiations continued during the day of July 1, 2015, with the parties focused on open key terms. Centene, through its financial advisors, proposed a final mix of cash and stock consideration that, based on the trading price of Centene's common stock as of such date, was valued in the aggregate at \$78.57 per share (an approximately 21% premium over Health Net's closing stock price on July 1, 2015).

During the evening of Wednesday, July 1, 2015, the Centene Board met via teleconference. At the invitation of Mr. Neidorff, representatives of Skadden provided a further review of the fiduciary duties of the Centene Board.

Representatives of Skadden then updated the Centene Board on negotiations with Health Net and reviewed the terms of the draft merger agreement, a copy of which previously had been provided to the Centene Board along with a summary of the material terms of the merger agreement, noting changes from the previously distributed merger agreement summary. Among other terms, they discussed the proposed price, termination fee payable by Centene in the event of a failure to receive antitrust clearance, deal protection measures, including the termination fees payable by or to Centene in the event of a competing transaction or a change in the recommendation of either the Centene Board or the Health Net Board with respect to the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, Health Net's request for the designation of a director to the Centene Board and the retention plan for Health Net employees, and certain other deal-related items. In addition, representatives of Skadden reviewed the financing commitment terms set forth in a draft commitment letter with Wells Fargo previously provided to the Centene Board and responded to questions.

Representatives of Evercore then reviewed Evercore's financial analysis presented at the meeting on the previous day and described Evercore's internal procedures for authorizing the fairness opinion and discussed in detail the provisions of, and bases for, the opinion. Evercore then reviewed with the Centene Board its financial analyses of the merger consideration and rendered an oral opinion, which was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated July 1, 2015, to the Centene Board to the effect that, as of that date and based upon and subject to the factors, procedures, assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in the opinion, the merger consideration payable by Centene pursuant to the merger agreement was fair, from a financial point of view, to Centene.

Also at this meeting, Allen & Company reviewed with the Centene Board its financial analysis of the merger consideration and rendered an oral opinion, which was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated July 1, 2015, to the Centene Board to the effect that, as of that date and based on and subject to the matters described in the opinion, the merger consideration payable by Centene pursuant to the merger agreement was fair, from a financial point of view, to Centene.

The Centene Board and its advisors engaged in an extended discussion of the transaction with Health Net and the merger agreement, considering a number of factors, including the comparative likelihood of consummation of the potential transaction, the agreement in principle between Cognizant and Health Net regarding revised terms of the

Cognizant Agreement, the opportunities presented by the potential transaction, the recent and historical market prices for Health Net common stock and Centene common stock and the fact that the stock portion of the merger consideration would be subject to a fixed exchange ratio, the Centene Board's belief

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that the potential transaction presented significant synergy opportunities and the current environment in the managed healthcare industry. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the merger, the merger agreement, and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the proposed financing of the potential transaction. The Centene Board then reviewed the resolutions authorizing the execution of the merger agreement. After carefully considering the merger agreement and the resolutions, it was the consensus of the Centene Board that the merger was in the best interests of Centene's stockholders and unanimously voted to approve and adopt the resolutions authorizing the transaction and related matters.

The Health Net Board reconvened in the evening of July 1, 2015.

Representatives of J.P. Morgan made a presentation to the Health Net Board regarding the proposed consideration to be received in the transaction by Health Net's stockholders, including a discussion of the synergies identified by Centene and the implied premium of the proposed merger consideration over the current trading price of Health Net common stock.

Ms. Waters reported that terms with Cognizant also had been finalized. Ms. Waters and Morgan Lewis reported on the final negotiations with Centene, including that, in accordance with the Health Net Board's directive to mitigate antitrust and regulatory risks, Centene had agreed to an antitrust termination fee of \$250 million in the event that antitrust approval was not obtained by the termination date for a potential transaction. Morgan Lewis confirmed to the Health Net Board that all of the other key terms upon which the Health Net Board had been focused had been resolved in accordance with the Health Net Board's direction. Morgan Lewis also reported that Centene had agreed to nominate one independent Health Net director to the Centene Board. The Health Net Board agreed that the individual to be so nominated could be identified at a later date.

The Health Net Board then reviewed the resolutions authorizing the execution of the merger agreement and J.P. Morgan delivered its opinion that the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of Health Net common stock in the merger, and if applicable the subsequent merger, was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders. After carefully considering the merger agreement and the resolutions, the Health Net Board unanimously voted to approve the resolutions authorizing the transaction.

On July 2, 2015, each of Health Net, Centene and the Merger Subs executed and delivered the merger agreement and the chief executive officers of each company also executed and delivered the voting agreements. On the morning of July 2, 2015, prior to market open, Health Net and Centene issued a joint press release announcing the proposed transaction.

Rationale for the Transaction

In the course of their discussions regarding a potential business combination, both Centene and Health Net recognized there were substantial potential strategic and financial benefits of the proposed transaction. This section summarizes the principal potential strategies and financial benefits that the parties expect to realize in the transaction and the other reasons that each party's board of directors approved the merger agreement and determined to recommend that their company's respective stockholders vote in favor of the transaction. For a discussion of various factors that could prevent or limit the parties from realizing some or all of these benefits, see **Risk Factors** beginning on page 44.

Each of Health Net and Centene believes the transaction will enhance stockholder value through, among other things, enabling Centene and Health Net to capitalize on the following strategic advantages and opportunities:

Strengthen Existing Businesses: The addition of Health Net's complementary business is expected to build on Centene's robust Medicaid business by bolstering Centene's presence in the California Medicaid program (Medi-Cal), which is the country's largest. The combined company expects to have approximately six million Medicaid members, making it one of the largest Medicaid managed care organizations in the country. The transaction will also strengthen Centene's presence with dual

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eligibles by providing access to dual eligibles who participate in Los Angeles and San Diego counties' dual eligible demonstration programs, as well as other dual eligibles in California who have enrolled in Health Net's Medicare Advantage plans or receive Medi-Cal managed care benefits from Health Net.

Increased Product Diversity Provides Ability to Create a More Comprehensive Portfolio: Centene and Health Net also believe the transaction would extend Centene's offerings in both government and government funded programs, including Medicare Advantage, the subsidized health insurance exchanges under the ACA, the DOD's TRICARE and MFLC programs and VA's PC3/Choice programs. The combined company is expected to be positioned to provide its members access to more solutions, with opportunities for integrated specialty services across the entire enterprise. In particular, both companies have demonstrated success focusing on the subsidized portion of the health insurance marketplace, including Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and the ACA exchanges, but in different geographies. As a result, Centene believes there are opportunities to scale Health Net's programs that reach underserved communities and extend its business lines for this constituency. The companies believe that focusing on these government programs will allow the combined company to use its innovative local provider networks to deliver high quality, affordable and culturally sensitive health care across the combined company's expanded business.

Establish a Leadership Position in the Ongoing Evolution of the Health Care System: Both companies have been market leaders in responding to the recent changes in the health care system. Together, they enhance that positioning by extending their geographic reach and product range, by merging their capabilities to be a leader in all elements of value-based payments, by focusing on the growing segments in the market and by state-of-the art technology solutions.

Significant Synergy Opportunities: The combined company is estimated to achieve approximately \$150 million of annual cost synergies by the second year following the closing of the merger with 50% achieved after one year following closing. The synergy estimates provided above are expected from, among others, efficiencies in core G&A and integration of a range of specialty services. Additional synergies may be achieved over time from leveraging capabilities in IT systems and process management. Collectively these synergies are referred to as the estimated synergies.

Strong Financial Profile and Significant Earnings Accretion: Combined, Centene and Health Net are estimated to have 2015 pro forma annual premium and service revenues of approximately \$37 billion. The transaction is estimated to generate diluted earnings per share accretion for Centene of 10% and adjusted diluted earnings per share accretion (that is, excluding the effect of the amortization of intangibles associated with the transaction and any transaction costs) for Centene of 20% in the first year following closing.

The actual synergies derived from the transaction and costs of integration could be different from the foregoing estimates and these differences could be material. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that any of the potential benefits described above or included in the factors considered by the Centene Board described under "The Merger - Centene Board of Directors' Recommendations and Its Reasons for the Transaction" beginning on page 65 or by the Health Net Board described under "The Merger - Health Net Board of Directors' Recommendation and Its Reasons for the Transaction" beginning on page 68 will be realized. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 44 and "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" on page 42.

Centene Board of Directors' Recommendations and Its Reasons for the Transaction

At a meeting on July 1, 2015, the Centene Board unanimously (i) determined that it is in the best interest of Centene and its stockholders, and declared it advisable, to enter into the merger agreement, (ii) approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, and (iii) approved and declared the advisability of the Share Issuance, directed that the Share Issuance proposal be submitted to a vote at a meeting of Centene stockholders and unanimously recommended that Centene stockholders vote **FOR** the Share Issuance proposal.

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In evaluating the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Share Issuance, the Centene Board consulted with Centene's management and legal and financial advisors and, in reaching its determinations, the Centene Board considered a variety of factors with respect to the transaction and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including the specific reasons described above under "Rationale for the Transaction" and the factors listed below.

The review of Centene's and Health Net's business, strategy, current and projected financial condition, current earnings and earnings prospects, and the current and prospective regulatory environment;

The current environment in the managed health care industry, including the trend of consolidation and increased competition, and the likely effect of these factors on Centene in the absence of, the transaction;

The prospect of significant competition in the future for partners for strategic business transactions;

The opportunities presented by the transaction, including the opportunity to create a leading diversified health care enterprise, serving over 10 million individuals in 23 states, an enhanced presence in the Western United States and the opportunity to allow Centene to offer a more comprehensive and scalable portfolio of innovative solutions focusing on uninsured and under-insured individuals, including participation in Medicare Advantage, programs with the DoD (TRICARE and MFLC) and VA PC3/Choice;

The combination of Health Net and Centene would expand the potential product offerings and geographic reach of the combined company with materially improved financial performance and operations in comparison to each company on a stand-alone basis thereby creating a compelling opportunity by leveraging Health Net's market share over Centene's geographic scope;

The combination of Health Net and Centene would maintain and enhance Health Net's strong commercial business in California, which could also serve as a model for other states in which similar opportunities can be identified;

Centene has strong specialty care management functions that, in combination with Health Net's provider management capabilities, including capitation and product diversity expertise, would offer strong growth potential;

Both Centene and Health Net were leading companies in responding to the ACA and building low cost, high quality solutions for the future and, although they have common business lines and focus on the ACA, there is little overlap in their service areas, allowing for the opportunity to expand the reach of their low cost, high quality solutions by geography and product line;

Recent and historical market prices for Health Net common stock and Centene common stock and the fact that the stock portion of the merger consideration is subject to a fixed exchange ratio;

The fact that Centene stockholders immediately prior to the merger will own approximately 71% of Centene's outstanding stock immediately following the transaction;

A review of the potential strategic and financial benefits associated with the transaction, including:

The addition of incremental scale in the western United States, including through Health Net's complementary network, which Centene believes will provide it with a stronger presence to compete more effectively in the Medi-Cal market and other Medicaid and Medicare markets, including in Arizona, Oregon and Washington;

The earnings accretion that Centene believes will result from the transaction, including the fact that the transaction is expected to be accretive to Centene's diluted earnings per share in the first year following the closing of the transaction; and

Centene's belief that the transaction presents significant synergy opportunities;

Centene's belief that the addition of Health Net's Medicare platform to Centene's Medicaid programs provides an opportunity for additional growth across the combined company's markets;

Greater participation in California's dual eligible demonstration program given Health Net's leading share in this market;

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The fact that Centene's management team and legal and financial advisors were involved throughout the negotiations and updated the Centene Board which provided additional perspectives on the negotiations;

The fact that the issuance of common stock in the transaction will be subject to the approval of Centene's stockholders and that, in this regard, Centene's directors and executive officers do not own a significant enough interest in Centene common stock, in the aggregate, to influence substantially the outcome of such stockholder vote;

The respective opinions of Allen & Company and Evercore, each dated July 1, 2015, to the Centene Board as to the fairness, from a financial point of view and as of the date of the opinion, to Centene of the merger consideration payable by Centene pursuant to the merger agreement, which opinions were subject to certain procedures followed, matters considered, assumptions made and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken as more fully described in the sections entitled "Opinions of Centene's Financial Advisors - Allen & Company" and "Opinions of Centene's Financial Advisors - Evercore"; and

The Centene Board also specifically considered the terms of the merger agreement, including the following:

That if Centene were to receive a takeover proposal from a third party that provided superior value to Centene and its stockholders, Centene and its board of directors would be able to consider such superior value and the Centene Board may change its recommendation that Centene stockholders vote in favor of Centene's issuance of common stock in the merger and/or terminate the merger agreement;

Centene's ability, under circumstances described in the merger agreement, to provide information to and engage in discussions or negotiations with a third party that makes an unsolicited bona fide written takeover proposal;

The ability of the Centene Board, subject to certain conditions, to change its recommendation supporting the merger in response to an intervening event, if the Centene Board determines that failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to be inconsistent with its fiduciary duties;

The customary nature of Centene's other representations, warranties and covenants in the merger agreement; and

The fact that the merger agreement provides for reasonable restrictions on operations of Health Net's business between the signing of the merger agreement and completion of the merger.

The Centene Board also considered potential risks and other negative factors concerning the transaction in connection with its deliberations of the transaction, including the following:

The fact that completion of the transaction, and the lower percentage of the outstanding capital stock of the combined Centene-Health Net business represented by Centene stockholders as a result of the merger, will provide Centene stockholders with less of an opportunity to participate in Centene's future earnings growth than would be anticipated if Centene were to remain a stand-alone entity and its strategic plan were successfully implemented;

Certain risks inherent in Health Net's business and operations, including those identified in Health Net's SEC filings;

The potential risk of diverting management attention and resources from the operation of Centene's business, including other strategic opportunities and operational matters, while working toward the completion of the transaction;

The potential negative effect of the pendency of the transaction on Centene's and Health Net's business and relationships with employees, customers, providers, vendors, governmental entities, including regulators and the communities in which they operate, including the risk that certain key members of senior management might choose not to remain employed with Health Net prior to completion of the transaction;

The general risks of market conditions that could affect the price of Centene and Health Net common stock, as well as the other risks and uncertainties discussed in Health Net's public filings with the SEC;

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The potential risks associated with achieving anticipated cost synergies and savings and successfully integrating Health Net's business, operations and workforce with those of Centene;

The risk that the transaction may not be completed despite the parties' efforts or that completion of the merger may be unduly delayed, even if the requisite approval is obtained from each party's stockholders, including the possibility that conditions to the parties' obligations to complete the transaction may not be satisfied, and the potential resulting disruptions to Centene's business;

The fact that various regulatory approvals are required to complete the transaction, which present a risk that the applicable governmental authorities may condition their grant of required approvals or consents on the imposition of unfavorable terms or conditions or that such approvals and consents will not be able to be obtained at all;

The fact that the closing of the merger is not conditioned on Centene's ability to find suitable financing for the cash consideration;

The fact that if Health Net receives a superior proposal, the Health Net Board can modify or withdraw its recommendation that the Health Net stockholders vote in favor of the merger and/or terminate the merger agreement, if failure to take such action would be inconsistent with the director's duties under applicable law and after compliance with the applicable requirements set forth in the merger agreement (including payment of a termination fee);

The fact that upon termination of the merger agreement under specified circumstances, Centene may be required to pay Health Net a termination fee;

The fact that the parties have incurred and will continue to incur significant transaction costs and expenses in connection with the transaction, regardless of whether the transaction is completed;

The need to obtain approvals from Centene stockholders and Health Net stockholders in order to complete the transaction;

The fact that the provisions of the merger agreement impose certain restrictions on the operations of Centene until completion of the merger;

The fact that certain senior executives of Health Net would receive substantial payments in connection with the merger, and that Health Net may also be obligated to make gross-up payments to those executives for the amount of certain taxes resulting from some of these payments; and

The Centene Board also considered the type and nature of the risks described under the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 44, and the matters described under "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" beginning on page 42.

In view of the wide variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the transaction and the complexity of these matters, the Centene Board did not consider it practical, nor did it attempt, to quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to the different factors it considered in reaching its decision.

The Centene Board did not undertake to make any specific determination as to whether any particular factor, or any aspect of any particular factor, was favorable or unfavorable to its ultimate determination, but rather the Centene Board conducted an overall review of the factors described above, including discussions with Centene's senior management team and outside legal and financial advisors. In considering the factors described above, individual members of the Centene Board may have given different weight to different factors.

Health Net Board of Directors' Recommendations and Its Reasons for the Transaction

At a meeting on July 1, 2015, the Health Net Board unanimously (i) determined that it is in the best interest of Health Net and its stockholders, and declared it advisable, to enter into the merger agreement, (ii) approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, and (iii) directed that the Merger proposal be submitted to a vote at a meeting of Health Net stockholders and unanimously recommended that Health Net stockholders vote **FOR** the Merger proposal.

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In evaluating the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, the Health Net Board consulted with Health Net's management and legal and financial advisors and, in reaching its determinations, the Health Net Board considered a variety of factors with respect to the transaction and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including the specific reasons described above under "Rationale for the Transaction" and the factors listed below.

Centene has national strength in a key growth segment and Health Net has deep strength in the California market with a broad range of business lines including commercial and government business, such that a combination of Health Net and Centene would be well positioned nationally and internationally for growth, margin improvement and technology improvement;

The combination of Health Net and Centene would expand the potential product offerings and geographic reach of the combined company with materially improved financial performance and operations in comparison to each company on a stand-alone basis thereby creating a compelling opportunity by leveraging Health Net's market share over Centene's geographic scope;

The combination of Health Net and Centene would maintain and enhance Health Net's strong commercial business in California, which could also serve as a model for other states in which similar opportunities can be identified;

Centene has strong specialty care management functions that, in combination with Health Net's provider management capabilities, including capitation and product diversity expertise, would offer strong growth potential;

The combination of the Health Net and Centene businesses would bring greater scale to the surviving corporation thus better positioning the surviving corporation to more effectively compete in the evolving managed care organization sector;

Both Centene and Health Net are leading companies in responding to the ACA and building low cost, high quality solutions for the future and, although they have common business lines and focus on the ACA, there is little overlap in their service areas, allowing for opportunity to expand the reach of their low cost, high quality solutions by geography and product line;

The expectation that the surviving corporation would achieve approximately \$150 million in cost savings and synergies from, among other things, reductions in corporate overhead, specialty company integration, reductions in medical costs and technology platform combinations in comparison to the two companies on a stand-alone basis;

The expectation that the surviving corporation would have increased resources to invest in future organic and acquisition growth opportunities in comparison to either company on a stand-alone basis;

The fact that the merger consideration consists of cash, providing Health Net stockholders with certainty of value and liquidity upon completion of the merger, along with a significant stock component, which would result in Health Net stockholders immediately prior to the transactions holding approximately 29% of the common stock of Centene immediately following completion of the merger, thus providing Health Net stockholders with meaningful participation in the upside potential of a larger, more diversified company; and

The oral opinion of J.P. Morgan delivered to the Health Net Board on July 1, 2015, which was subsequently confirmed in writing on the same day, that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors, assumptions, limitations and qualifications set forth in its opinion, the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of Health Net common stock in the merger and, if applicable, the subsequent merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders, as more fully described below under the caption "Opinion of Health Net's Financial Advisor" beginning on page 89. The full text of the written opinion of J.P. Morgan, dated July 1, 2015, which sets forth, among other things, the assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken in rendering its opinion, is attached as Annex F to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

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The Health Net Board's knowledge of Health Net's business, operations, financial condition, earnings and prospects and its knowledge of Centene's business, operations, financial condition, earnings and prospects, taking into account Centene's publicly-filed information and the results of Health Net's due diligence review of Centene;

The long-term and recent historical trading prices with respect to shares of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock and the amount of the merger consideration;

The premium of the merger consideration over the recent trading prices of Health Net common stock;

The fact that the exchange ratio is fixed and will not fluctuate based upon changes in the market price of Health Net or Centene common stock between the date of the merger agreement and the date of the completion of the merger and therefore the value of the merger consideration payable to Health Net stockholders will increase in the event that the share price of Centene increases prior to completion of the merger;

The expectation that the surviving corporation will benefit from the experienced management teams of Health Net and Centene;

The fact that other potential strategic partners were known to be engaged in other transactions based on public information and that a transaction with other such potential strategic partners presented certain significant regulatory challenges;

The lengthy sale process previously pursued by Health Net that was not completed because of concerns over the ability to obtain regulatory approval in a timely manner and on satisfactory terms;

The commitments by both Health Net and Centene to complete the merger, as set forth in the merger agreement, and the belief of the Health Net Board that the transaction did not present significant apparent regulatory concerns that would impact the ability to complete the merger;

The risks and uncertainties associated with maintaining Health Net's existence as an independent company;

The hurdles associated with the potential expansion of Health Net on its own into other geographic areas and the greater opportunity of the combined company for expansion;

The possibility that the transaction may qualify as a tax-free reorganization;

The Health Net Board's review of Health Net's and Centene's business, strategy, current and projected financial condition, current earnings and earnings prospects, and the current and prospective regulatory environment;

The current environment in the managed health care industry, including the trend of consolidation and increased competition, and the likely effect of these factors on Health Net in the absence of the transaction;

The fact that the merger will be subject to the approval of Health Net's stockholders and that, in this regard, Health Net's directors and executive officers do not own a significant enough interest in Health Net common stock, in the aggregate, to influence substantially the outcome of such stockholder vote; and

The fact that Health Net stockholders who do not vote to adopt the merger agreement and approve the merger and who follow certain prescribed procedures are entitled to appraisal rights under Delaware law.

The Health Net Board also specifically considered the terms of the merger agreement, including the following:

The lack of a financing contingency to Centene's obligation to complete the merger;

The ability of Health Net to negotiate an amendment to its agreement with Cognizant regarding the outsourcing transaction described under "Background of the Merger" that allowed Health Net to extend the pre-commencement termination date of such agreement thereby providing Health Net with an opportunity to pursue the Cognizant technology solution should the merger not be completed;

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The significant termination fees payable by Centene to Health Net if Centene terminates the merger agreement to pursue a competing transaction with a third party or otherwise;

That if Health Net were to receive a takeover proposal from a third party that provided superior value to Health Net and its stockholders, Health Net and its board of directors would be able to consider such superior value and the Health Net Board may change its recommendation that Health Net stockholders vote in favor of the Merger proposal and/or terminate the merger agreement;

Health Net's ability, under circumstances described in the merger agreement, to provide information to and engage in discussions or negotiations with a third party that makes an unsolicited bona fide written takeover proposal;

The ability of the Health Net Board, subject to certain conditions, to change its recommendation supporting the merger in response to an intervening event, if the Health Net Board determines that failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to be inconsistent with its fiduciary duties; and

The customary nature of Health Net's other representations, warranties and covenants in the merger agreement.

The Health Net Board weighed the foregoing against a number of potentially negative factors, including:

The fact that the exchange ratio is fixed and will not fluctuate based upon changes in the market price of Health Net or Centene common stock between the date of the merger agreement and the date of the completion of the merger and therefore the value of the merger consideration payable to Health Net stockholders will decrease in the event that the share price of Centene decreases prior to completion of the merger;

The possibility that the merger may not qualify as a tax-free reorganization;

The restrictions on the conduct of Health Net's business during the period between the execution of the merger agreement and the completion of the merger;

The costs associated with the completion of the merger and the realization of the benefits expected to be obtained in connection with the merger, including management's time and energy and potential opportunity cost;

The suspension of the outsourcing arrangement with Cognizant, including the transition of employees, and the foregoing of other potential opportunities that would be incompatible with completion of the merger;

The costs and risks associated with not pursuing the Cognizant arrangement at this time;

The challenges in absorbing the effect of any failure to complete the merger, including stockholder and market reactions, as well as the diversion of management's attention from ongoing business concerns;

The risk that regulatory agencies may not approve the merger or may impose terms and conditions on their approvals that adversely affect the business and financial results of the surviving corporation as more fully described under "The Merger - Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger" beginning on page 122;

The fact that the merger agreement does not preclude a third party from making an unsolicited proposal for a competing transaction with Centene and that, under certain circumstances more fully described in the sections "The Merger Agreement - Covenants and Agreements - No Solicitation" beginning on page 145 and "The Merger Agreement - Covenants and Agreements - Adverse Recommendation Change and Termination" beginning on page 147, Centene may furnish non-public information to and enter into discussions with such third party regarding the competing transaction and the Centene Board may withdraw or modify its recommendations to Centene stockholders regarding the merger and may terminate the merger agreement to enter into a competing transaction under certain circumstances;

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The challenges inherent in the combination of two businesses of the size and complexity of Health Net and Centene, especially in light of Centene's lack of experience in consummating a business combination of this size;

The risk of not being able to realize all of the anticipated cost savings and operational synergies between Health Net and Centene and the risk that other anticipated benefits might not be realized; and

The risks of the type and nature described under Risk Factors, beginning on page 44 and the matters described under Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements beginning on page 42.

This discussion of the information and factors considered by the Health Net Board in reaching its conclusions and recommendation includes the principal factors considered by the Health Net Board, but is not intended to be exhaustive and may not include all of the factors considered by the Health Net Board. In view of the wide variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and the complexity of these matters, the Health Net Board did not find it useful and did not attempt to quantify, rank or assign any relative or specific weights to the various factors that it considered in reaching its determination to approve the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and to make its recommendation to Health Net stockholders. Rather, the Health Net Board viewed its decisions as being based on the totality of the information presented to it and the factors it considered, including its discussions with, and questioning of, members of Health Net's management and Health Net's advisors, as well as its experience and history. In addition, individual members of the Health Net Board may have assigned different weights to different factors.

Certain of Health Net's directors and executive officers have financial interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of Health Net's stockholders generally. The Health Net Board was aware of and considered these potential interests, among other matters, in evaluating the merger and in making its recommendation to Health Net stockholders. For a discussion of these interests, see Interests of Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger.

The Health Net Board unanimously determined that the merger agreement and the transaction contemplated by the merger agreement were advisable and in the best interests of Health Net and its stockholders and approved the merger agreement. Accordingly, the Health Net Board unanimously recommends that Health Net stockholders vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement at the Health Net special meeting.

Opinions of Centene's Financial Advisors

Allen & Company LLC

Centene has engaged Allen & Company as a financial advisor to Centene in connection with the proposed merger. In connection with this engagement, Centene requested that Allen & Company evaluate and render an opinion to the Centene Board regarding the fairness, from a financial point of view, to Centene of the merger consideration payable by Centene pursuant to the merger agreement. On July 1, 2015, at a meeting of the Centene Board held to evaluate the merger, Allen & Company rendered an oral opinion, which was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated July 1, 2015, to the Centene Board to the effect that, as of that date and based on and subject to the matters described in its opinion, the merger consideration payable by Centene pursuant to the merger agreement was fair, from a financial point of view, to Centene.

The full text of Allen & Company's written opinion, dated July 1, 2015, which describes the procedures followed, matters considered, assumptions made and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken, is

attached to this document as Annex D and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You are encouraged to read Allen & Company's opinion carefully and in its entirety. Allen & Company's opinion was intended for the benefit and use of the Centene Board (in its capacity as such) in connection with its evaluation of the merger consideration

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from a financial point of view to Centene and does not address any other aspect of the merger. Allen & Company's opinion did not constitute a recommendation as to the course of action that the Centene Board should pursue in connection with the merger, or otherwise address the merits of the underlying decision by Centene to engage in the merger, including in comparison to other strategies or transactions that might be available to Centene or in which Centene might engage. The opinion does not constitute advice or a recommendation to any stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote or act on any matter relating to the merger or otherwise.

Allen & Company was not requested to, and it did not, recommend the specific consideration payable in the merger or that any given consideration constituted the only appropriate consideration in the merger. The type and amount of consideration payable in the merger were determined through negotiations between Centene and Health Net, and the decision to enter into the merger was solely that of the Centene Board. Allen & Company's opinion and financial analyses were only one of many factors considered by the Centene Board in its evaluation of the merger and should not be viewed as determinative of the views of the Centene Board or management with respect to the merger or the consideration payable in the merger. Allen & Company's opinion as expressed in its opinion letter reflected and gave effect to Allen & Company's general familiarity with Centene as well as information which it received during the course of its engagement, including information provided by the managements of Centene and Health Net in the course of discussions relating to the merger as more fully described below. In arriving at its opinion, Allen & Company neither conducted a physical inspection of the properties or facilities of Centene, Health Net or any other entity, nor made or obtained any evaluations or appraisals of the assets or liabilities (contingent, off-balance sheet or otherwise) of Centene, Health Net or any other entity or conducted any analysis concerning the solvency or fair value of Centene, Health Net or any other entity. Allen & Company is not an actuary and its services did not include any actuarial determination or evaluation, any attempt to evaluate actuarial assumptions or allowances for losses with respect thereto or any analysis of the adequacy of reserves for losses or other matters and, accordingly, Allen & Company assumed that each of Centene and Health Net has, and the pro forma combined company will have, adequate reserves for losses and other matters.

In arriving at its opinion, Allen & Company, among other things:

reviewed the financial terms and conditions of the merger as reflected in a draft, dated July 1, 2015, of the merger agreement;

reviewed certain publicly available historical business and financial information relating to Centene and Health Net, including public filings of Centene and Health Net, and historical market prices and trading volumes for Centene common stock and Health Net common stock;

reviewed certain financial information relating to Centene and Health Net, including certain internal financial forecasts, estimates and other financial and operating data of Centene and Health Net provided to or discussed with Allen & Company by the respective managements of Centene and Health Net (as adjusted, in the case of the Health Net forecasts, estimates and other financial and operating data, by the management of Centene);

held discussions with the managements of Centene and Health Net relating to the past and current operations and financial condition and prospects of Centene and Health Net;

held discussions with the management of Centene as to the strategic rationale for, and potential cost savings expected by the management of Centene to result from, the merger;

reviewed and analyzed certain publicly available information, including certain stock market data and financial information, relating to selected companies with businesses that Allen & Company deemed generally relevant in evaluating Centene and Health Net;

reviewed certain publicly available financial information relating to selected transactions that Allen & Company deemed generally relevant in evaluating the merger;

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reviewed the relative contributions of Centene and Health Net to certain financial metrics of the pro forma combined company based on the internal financial forecasts, estimates and other financial and operating data of Centene and Health Net referred to above;

reviewed the potential pro forma financial impact of the merger on the estimated earnings per share of Centene based on the internal financial forecasts, estimates and other financial and operating data of Centene and Health Net and the potential cost savings referred to above; and

conducted such other financial analyses and investigations as Allen & Company deemed necessary or appropriate for purposes of its opinion.

In rendering its opinion, Allen & Company relied on and assumed, with Centene's consent and without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial, legal, regulatory, tax, accounting and other information available to Allen & Company from public sources, provided to or discussed with Allen & Company by Centene and Health Net or their respective representatives or otherwise reviewed by Allen & Company. With respect to the financial forecasts, estimates and other financial information and data relating to Centene and the potential cost savings anticipated by the management of Centene to result from the merger that Allen & Company was directed to utilize in its analyses, Allen & Company was advised by the management of Centene and assumed, with Centene's consent, that such forecasts, estimates and other financial and operating data were reasonably prepared in good faith reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of such management as to the future financial and operating performance of Centene, such cost savings and the other matters covered thereby. With respect to the financial forecasts, estimates and other information and data (as adjusted by the management of Centene) relating to Health Net that Allen & Company was directed to utilize in its analyses, Allen & Company was advised by the managements of Health Net and Centene and assumed, with Centene's consent, that such forecasts, estimates and other financial and operating data were reasonably prepared in good faith reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of such managements, as the case may be, as to the future financial and operating performance of Health Net and the other matters covered thereby. Allen & Company assumed no responsibility for and expressed no view or opinion as to any such financial forecasts, estimates and other financial and operating data or the assumptions on which they were based. Allen & Company relied, at Centene's direction, upon the assessments of the managements of Centene and Health Net as to, among other things, (i) the potential impact on Centene and Health Net of certain market and other trends in and prospects for, and governmental, regulatory and legislative policies and matters relating to or affecting, the managed care and specialty services sectors of the health care industry, including with respect to government subsidized health care programs and reimbursement, (ii) existing and future relationships, agreements and arrangements with, and the ability to attract and retain, key employees and commercial relationships with hospitals, physicians and other health care providers, (iii) the technology and intellectual property of Centene and Health Net and (iv) the ability to integrate the businesses of Centene and Health Net. Allen & Company assumed, with Centene's consent, that there would be no developments with respect to any such matters that would have an adverse effect on Centene, Health Net or the merger (including the contemplated benefits thereof) or that otherwise would be meaningful in any respect to its analyses or opinion.

Further, Allen & Company's opinion was necessarily based on economic, monetary, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to Allen & Company as of, the date of its opinion. As the Centene Board was aware, the credit, financial and stock markets have experienced volatility and Allen & Company expressed no opinion or view as to any potential effects of such volatility on Centene, Health Net or the merger (including the contemplated benefits thereof). It should be understood that subsequent developments may affect the conclusion expressed in Allen & Company's opinion and that Allen & Company assumed no responsibility for advising any person of any change in any matter affecting its opinion or for updating or revising its opinion based on circumstances

or events occurring after the date of its opinion.

Allen & Company did not express any opinion as to the fairness, financial or otherwise, of the amount, nature or any other aspect of any compensation or consideration payable to any officers, directors or employees of any party to the merger, or any class of such persons or any other party, relative to the merger consideration or

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otherwise. Allen & Company also did not express any opinion as to the actual value of Centene common stock when issued in the merger or the prices at which Centene common stock (or any other securities of Centene) or Health Net common stock would trade or otherwise be transferable at any time.

In addition, Allen & Company did not express any opinion as to any tax or other consequences that might result from the merger, nor did Allen & Company's opinion address any legal, regulatory, tax or accounting matters, as to which Allen & Company understood that Centene obtained such advice as it deemed necessary from qualified professionals. Allen & Company assumed, with Centene's consent, that the merger would be consummated in accordance with its terms and all applicable laws, documents and other requirements, without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement, and that all governmental, regulatory or other consents, approvals, releases and waivers necessary for the consummation of the merger would be obtained without delay, limitation, restriction or condition, including any divestiture or other requirements, that would have an adverse effect on Centene, Health Net or the merger (including the contemplated benefits thereof) or that otherwise would be meaningful in any respect to its analyses or opinion. Allen & Company also assumed, with Centene's consent, that, if the subsequent merger occurs, the mergers would qualify for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. Allen & Company also assumed, with Centene's consent, that the final executed merger agreement would not differ in any material respect from the draft reviewed by Allen & Company.

Allen & Company's opinion was limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view and as of the date of its opinion, to Centene of the merger consideration (to the extent expressly specified therein) to be paid by Centene pursuant to the merger agreement. Allen & Company's opinion did not address any other term, aspect or implication of the merger, including, without limitation, the form or structure of the merger, any consent solicitation undertaken in connection with the merger or any voting or other agreement, arrangement or understanding entered into in connection with the merger or otherwise.

This summary is not a complete description of Allen & Company's opinion or the financial analyses performed and factors considered by Allen & Company in connection with its opinion. The preparation of a financial opinion is a complex analytical process involving various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances and, therefore, a financial opinion is not readily susceptible to summary description. Allen & Company arrived at its ultimate opinion based on the results of all analyses undertaken by it and assessed as a whole, and it did not draw, in isolation, conclusions from or with regard to any one factor or method of analysis for purposes of its opinion. Accordingly, Allen & Company believes that its financial analyses and this summary must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and factors or focusing on information presented in tabular format, without considering all analyses and factors or the narrative description of such analyses or factors, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the processes underlying Allen & Company's analyses and opinion.

In performing its financial analyses, Allen & Company considered industry performance, general business, economic, market and financial conditions and other matters existing as of the date of its opinion, many of which are beyond Centene's and Health Net's control. No company, business or transaction used in the financial analyses is identical to Centene, Health Net, their respective businesses or the merger, and an evaluation of the results of those analyses is not entirely mathematical. Rather, the financial analyses involve complex considerations and judgments concerning financial and operating characteristics and other factors that could affect the public trading, acquisition or other values of the companies or businesses analyzed.

The assumptions and estimates contained in Allen & Company's financial analyses and the ranges of valuations resulting from any particular analysis are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those suggested by its analyses. In addition, financial analyses relating to the

value of businesses or securities do not purport to be appraisals or to reflect the prices at which businesses or securities actually may be sold. Accordingly, the assumptions and estimates used in, and the results derived from, Allen & Company's financial analyses are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty.

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The following is a summary of the material financial analyses reviewed with the Centene Board in connection with Allen & Company's opinion dated July 1, 2015. **The financial analyses summarized below include information presented in tabular format. In order to fully understand Allen & Company's financial analyses, the tables must be read together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses. Considering the data in the tables below without considering the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of Allen & Company's analyses.** For purposes of the financial analyses described below, references to (i) implied per share merger consideration means an implied per share value in the amount of \$78.57 based on the per share cash consideration of \$28.25 utilizing, for the stock consideration, the merger exchange ratio of 0.622x and the closing price of Centene common stock on July 1, 2015 of \$80.90 per share and (ii) estimated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or EBITDA, means EBITDA, including investment income, as adjusted for one-time, non-recurring items and before stock-based compensation (treated as a non-cash expense).

Health Net Financial Analyses

Selected Public Companies Analysis. In performing a selected public companies analysis of Health Net, Allen & Company reviewed publicly available financial and stock market information of the following eight selected companies that Allen & Company in its professional judgment considered generally relevant for comparative purposes as publicly traded companies with operations in the managed care sector of the health care industry, consisting of four diversified managed care companies and four government-focused managed care companies, collectively referred to as the Health Net selected companies:

<u>Diversified</u>	<u>Government-Focused</u>
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	Humana Inc.
Anthem, Inc.	Centene
Aetna Inc.	WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
Cigna Corporation	Molina Healthcare, Inc.

Allen & Company reviewed, among other things, firm values, calculated as fully diluted equity values based on closing stock prices on July 1, 2015 plus total debt and minority interests (as applicable) less unrestricted cash and cash equivalents and unconsolidated assets (as applicable), as a multiple of calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EBITDA. Allen & Company also reviewed fully diluted equity values, based on closing stock prices on July 1, 2015, as a multiple of calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EPS. Estimated financial data of the Health Net selected companies were based on public filings, publicly available research analysts' consensus estimates and other publicly available information. Estimated financial data of Health Net were based both on publicly available research analysts' consensus estimates for Health Net and internal forecasts and other estimates of Health Net management as adjusted by the management of Centene. The overall low to high calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EBITDA multiples observed for the Health Net selected companies were 9.2x to 14.1x (with a mean of 11.0x and a median of 10.5x) and 6.8x to 12.2x (with a mean of 9.6x and a median of 9.9x), respectively. The overall low to high calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EPS multiples observed for the Health Net selected companies were 16.5x to 29.1x (with a mean of 22.0x and a median of 21.0x) and 15.0x to 25.2x (with a mean of 18.4x and a median of 17.5x), respectively. Allen & Company noted that Health Net's implied calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EBITDA and calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EPS multiples were (i) 10.1x, 8.3x, 19.7x and 16.5x, respectively, based on publicly available research analysts' consensus for Health Net, and (ii) 9.0x, 8.0x, 19.4x and 16.1x, respectively, based on internal forecasts and other estimates of Health Net management as adjusted by Centene management. Allen & Company then applied a selected range of

calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EBITDA multiples derived from the Health Net selected companies of 9.0x to 11.0x and 8.0x to 10.0x, respectively, and applied a selected range of calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EPS multiples derived from the Health Net selected companies of 18.0x to 22.0x and 16.0x to 20.0x, respectively, to corresponding data of Health Net based on publicly available research analysts

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consensus estimates for Health Net. This analysis indicated the following approximate implied equity value per share reference ranges for Health Net, as compared to the implied per share merger consideration:

Implied Equity Value Per Share

Calendar Year 2015E EBITDA	Reference Ranges Based on: Calendar Year			Implied Per Share Merger Consideration
	2016E EBITDA	Calendar Year 2015E EPS	Calendar Year 2016E EPS	
	\$57.06 - \$71.31	\$62.31 - \$79.65	\$59.40 - \$72.60	

Selected Precedent Transactions Analysis. In performing a selected precedent transactions analysis of Health Net, Allen & Company reviewed, to the extent publicly available, financial information relating to 10 selected transactions that Allen & Company in its professional judgment considered generally relevant for comparative purposes as transactions involving target companies with operations in the managed care sector of the health care industry, collectively referred to as the selected transactions:

Announcement Date	Acquiror	Target
August 20, 2012	Aetna Inc.	Coventry Health Care, Inc.
July 9, 2012	Wellpoint, Inc.	AMERIGROUP Corporation
October 24, 2011	Cigna Corporation	HealthSpring Inc.
March 12, 2007	UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	Sierra Health Services, Inc.
September 27, 2005	WellPoint, Inc.	WellChoice, Inc.
July 6, 2005	UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc.
April 26, 2004	UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	Oxford Health Plans, Inc.
October 27, 2003	Anthem Inc.	WellPoint Health Networks Inc.
October 27, 2003	UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	Mid-Atlantic Medical Services, Inc.
June 3, 2003	WellPoint Health Networks Inc.	Cobalt Corporation

Allen & Company reviewed firm values, calculated as the purchase prices paid for the target companies in the selected transactions plus total debt and minority interests (as applicable) less unrestricted cash and cash equivalents and unconsolidated assets (as applicable), as a multiple of such target companies' latest 12 months EBITDA and one-year forward estimated EBITDA and latest 12 months EPS and one-year forward estimated EPS. Financial data of the selected transactions were based on publicly available research analysts' consensus estimates, public filings and other publicly available information. Financial data of Health Net were based on internal forecasts and other estimates of Health Net's management as adjusted by the management of Centene. The overall low to high latest 12 months EBITDA and one-year forward estimated EBITDA multiples observed for the selected transactions were 6.1x to 16.3x (with a mean of 11.2x and a median of 12.1x) and 6.3x to 13.7x (with a mean of 10.2x and median of 10.4x), respectively. The overall low to high latest 12 months EPS and one-year forward estimated EPS multiples observed for the selected transactions were 12.7x to 31.6x (with a mean of 18.6x and a median of 17.2x) and 12.5x to 20.1x (with a mean of 16.2x and median of 16.7x), respectively. Allen & Company then applied a selected range of latest 12 months EBITDA and one-year forward estimated EBITDA multiples of 10.0x to 12.0x and 9.0x to 11.0x, respectively, derived from the selected transactions to the latest 12 months (calendar year 2015) and one-year forward (calendar year 2016) estimated EBITDA of Health Net and applied a selected range of latest 12 months EPS and one-year forward estimated EPS multiples of 22.0x to 26.0x and 18.0x to 22.0x, respectively, derived from the selected transactions to the latest 12 months (calendar year 2015) and one-year forward (calendar year 2016) estimated

EPS of Health Net. This analysis indicated the following approximate implied equity value per share reference ranges for Health Net, as compared to the implied per share merger consideration:

Implied Equity Value Per Share				Implied Per Share Merger Consideration
Reference Ranges Based on:				
Latest 12 Months EBITDA	One-Year Forward EBITDA	Latest 12 Months EPS	One-Year Forward EPS	
\$73.54 - \$89.66	\$74.31 - \$92.39	\$73.68 - \$87.08	\$72.58 - \$88.71	\$78.57

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Discounted Cash Flow Analysis. Allen & Company performed a discounted cash flow analysis of Health Net to calculate the estimated present value of the standalone unlevered, after-tax free cash flows that Health Net was forecasted to generate during the second half of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015 through the full fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 based on internal forecasts and other estimates of Health Net's management as adjusted by the management of Centene. The implied terminal value of Health Net at the end of the forecast period was calculated by applying to Health Net's estimated unlevered, after-tax free cash flows a selected range of perpetuity growth rates of 3.75% to 4.25%. The cash flows and terminal values were then discounted to present value (as of June 30, 2015) using discount rates ranging from 8.0% to 9.0%. This analysis indicated the following approximate implied equity value per share reference range for Health Net, as compared to the implied per share merger consideration:

Implied Equity Value Per Share Reference Range	Implied Per Share Merger Consideration
\$62.52 - \$89.94	\$78.57

Centene Financial Analyses

Selected Public Companies Analysis. In performing a selected public companies analysis of Centene, Allen & Company reviewed publicly available financial and stock market information of the following eight selected companies that Allen & Company in its professional judgment considered generally relevant for comparative purposes as publicly traded companies with operations in the managed care sector of the health care industry, consisting of five diversified managed care companies and three government-focused managed care companies, collectively referred to as the Centene selected companies:

<u>Diversified</u>	<u>Government-Focused</u>
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	Humana Inc.
Anthem, Inc.	WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
Aetna Inc.	Molina Healthcare, Inc.
Cigna Corporation	
Health Net	

Allen & Company reviewed, among other things, firm values, calculated as fully diluted equity values based on closing stock prices on July 1, 2015 plus total debt and minority interests (as applicable) less unrestricted cash and cash equivalents and unconsolidated assets (as applicable), as a multiple of calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EBITDA. Allen & Company also reviewed fully diluted equity values, based on closing stock prices on July 1, 2015, as a multiple of calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EPS. Estimated financial data of the Centene selected companies were based on public filings, publicly available research analysts' estimates and other publicly available information. Estimated financial data of Centene were based both on publicly available research analysts' estimates for Centene and internal forecasts and other estimates of Centene's management. The overall low to high calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EBITDA multiples observed for the Centene selected companies were 9.2x to 12.0x (with a mean of 10.5x and a median of 10.3x) and 6.8x to 11.3x (with a mean of 9.1x and a median of 9.5x), respectively. The overall low to high calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EPS multiples observed for the Centene selected companies were 16.5x to 26.7x (with a mean of 20.9x and a median of 19.7x) and 15.0x to 19.5x (with a mean of 17.3x and a median of 17.2x), respectively. Allen & Company noted that Centene's implied calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EBITDA and calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EPS multiples were (i) 14.1x, 12.2x, 29.1x and 25.2x, respectively, based on publicly available research analysts' consensus estimates for Centene, and (ii) 12.5x, 10.3x, 29.2x and 24.9x, respectively, based on

internal forecasts and other estimates of Centene's management. Allen & Company then applied a selected range of calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EBITDA multiples derived from the Centene selected companies of 11.0x to 13.0x and 9.0x to 11.0x, respectively, and applied a selected range of calendar year 2015 and calendar year 2016 estimated EPS multiples derived from the Centene selected companies of 18.0x to 22.0x and 16.0x to

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20.0x, respectively, to corresponding data of Centene based on publicly available research analysts' consensus estimates for Centene. This analysis indicated the following approximate implied equity value per share reference ranges for Centene, as compared to the per share closing price of Centene common stock on July 1, 2015:

Implied Equity Value Per Share				Centene Per Share Closing Price on July 1, 2015
Calendar Year 2015E EBITDA	Reference Ranges Based on:		Calendar Year 2016E EPS	
	Calendar Year 2016E EBITDA	Calendar Year 2015E EPS		
\$60.79 - \$73.57	\$57.37 - \$72.24	\$50.04 - \$61.16	\$51.44 - \$64.30	\$80.90

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis. Allen & Company performed a discounted cash flow analysis of Centene to calculate the estimated present value of the standalone unlevered, after-tax free cash flows that Centene was forecasted to generate during the second half of the calendar year ending December 31, 2015 through the full calendar year ending December 31, 2018 based on internal forecasts and other estimates of Centene's management. The terminal value of Centene at the end of the forecast period was estimated by applying a selected range of perpetuity growth rates of 3.75% to 4.25%. The cash flows and terminal values were then discounted to present value (as of June 30, 2015) using discount rates ranging from 8.0% to 9.0%. This analysis indicated the following approximate implied equity value per share reference range for Centene, as compared to the per share closing price of Centene common stock on July 1, 2015:

Implied Equity Value Per Share Reference Range	Centene Per Share Closing Price on July 1, 2015
\$71.82 - \$103.74	\$80.90

Additional Information. Allen & Company observed certain additional information that was not considered part of Allen & Company's financial analyses with respect to its opinion but was referenced for informational purposes, including, among other things, the following:

the historical trading performance of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock during the 52-week period ended July 1, 2015 (the last trading day prior to public announcement of the merger), which reflected low to high intraday prices during such period for Health Net common stock of approximately \$40.84 to \$65.33 per share and for Centene common stock of \$35.49 to \$82.18 per share, respectively;

publicly available one-year forward research analysts' stock price targets for Health Net common stock and Centene common stock, which reflected low to high stock price targets for Health Net of \$50.00 to \$75.00 per share (with a mean of \$64.30 per share and a median of \$65.50 per share) and for Centene of \$73.00 to \$89.00 per share (with a mean of \$82.08 per share and a median of \$84.00 per share);

implied premiums in selected precedent transactions (i) announced or consummated from January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015 involving North American target companies with pre-transaction market capitalizations of \$4.0 billion to \$10.0 billion and (ii) announced or consummated from January 1, 2003 to June 30, 2015

involving companies in the managed care sector of the health care industry, which, after applying a selected range of one-trading day premiums of 15% to 30% and 30-trading day premiums of 20% to 30% to the closing prices of Health Net common stock of \$65.06 per share on July 1, 2015 and \$62.39 per share on June 1, 2015, respectively, indicated approximate implied equity value per share reference ranges for Health Net of \$74.82 to \$84.58 per share and \$74.87 to \$81.11 per share, respectively, as compared to the implied per share merger consideration of \$78.57 per share;

historical exchange ratios of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock over various periods, which indicated an implied exchange ratio for Health Net common stock and Centene common stock on July 1, 2015 of 0.804x, average implied exchange ratios during the one-month, three-month, six-month and one-year periods prior to July 1, 2015 of 0.813x, 0.833x, 0.886x and 0.997x, respectively, and an average implied exchange ratio from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2015 of 1.029x;

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relative contributions of Centene and Health Net to the calendar year 2016 and calendar year 2017 estimated revenue, EBITDA and net income, and implied equity and implied enterprise values (based on the merger exchange ratio of 0.622x and the closing price of Centene common stock on July 1, 2015 of \$80.90 per share), of the pro forma combined company, which indicated approximate implied exchange ratios based on such contributions of 1.059x and 0.972x (in the case of calendar year 2016 and calendar year 2017 estimated revenue, respectively), 1.069x and 1.038x (in the case of calendar year 2016 and calendar year 2017 estimated EBITDA, respectively), 1.182x and 1.187x (in the case of calendar year 2016 and calendar year 2017 estimated net income, respectively) and 0.804x (in the case of implied equity and enterprise values), as compared to an implied exchange ratio of 0.804x based on the closing prices of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock on July 1, 2015 of \$65.06 per share and \$80.90 per share, respectively, and 0.971x assuming, for illustrative purposes, 100% stock consideration in the merger; and

the potential pro forma financial impact of the merger on Centene's calendar year 2016 and calendar year 2017 estimated EPS, utilizing internal forecasts and other estimates of Centene management and internal forecasts and other estimates of Health Net management as adjusted by Centene management both before and after taking into account potential cost savings expected by the management of Centene to result from the merger, which indicated, based on the implied per share merger consideration, that the merger could be accretive to Centene's calendar year 2016 estimated EPS by approximately 11.9% (including potential cost savings) and approximately 5.3% (excluding potential cost savings) and accretive to Centene's calendar year 2017 estimated EPS by approximately 14.7% (including potential cost savings) and approximately 3.7% (excluding potential cost savings).

Miscellaneous

In connection with Allen & Company's financial advisory services with respect to the merger, Centene has agreed to pay Allen & Company an aggregate cash fee of \$25 million, of which \$2.5 million was payable upon delivery of Allen & Company's opinion to the Centene Board in connection with the merger (regardless of the conclusion expressed in such opinion or successful consummation of the merger) and \$22.5 million is contingent upon consummation of the merger. Centene also has agreed to reimburse Allen & Company for its reasonable expenses and to indemnify Allen & Company and related parties against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities laws, arising out of its engagement. Allen & Company in the past has provided, currently is providing and/or in the future may provide investment banking services to Centene unrelated to the merger, for which services Allen & Company has received and/or may receive compensation including, during the two-year period prior to the date of Allen & Company's opinion, having acted or acting as a financial advisor to Centene in connection with certain potential merger and acquisition transactions and as a co-manager and underwriter in connection with certain senior notes offerings of Centene. Although Allen & Company during the two-year period prior to or as of the date of Allen & Company's opinion had not provided investment banking services to Health Net for which Allen & Company received compensation, Allen & Company may provide such services to Health Net and/or its affiliates in the future, for which services Allen & Company would expect to receive compensation.

Centene selected Allen & Company to act as its financial advisor in connection with the merger based on Allen & Company's reputation, experience and familiarity with Centene and its business. Allen & Company, as part of its investment banking business, is regularly engaged in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, private placements and related financings, bankruptcy reorganizations and similar recapitalizations, negotiated underwritings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, and valuations for corporate and other purposes. In the ordinary course of business, Allen & Company as a broker-dealer and market maker and certain of its affiliates may invest or have long or short positions, either on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis, for their own account or for those of Allen & Company's clients, in the debt and equity

securities (or related derivative securities) of Centene, Health Net or their respective affiliates. The issuance of Allen & Company's opinion was approved by Allen & Company's fairness opinion committee.

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Evercore Group L.L.C.

In connection with the merger, Centene retained Evercore to act as a financial advisor to Centene in connection with the proposed merger. On July 1, 2015, at a meeting of the Centene Board, Evercore rendered its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed by delivery of a written opinion that, based upon and subject to the factors, procedures, assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth in its opinion, as of July 1, 2015, the merger consideration was fair, from a financial point of view, to Centene.

The full text of the written opinion of Evercore, dated as of July 1, 2015, which sets forth, among other things, the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations on the scope of review undertaken in rendering its opinion, is attached as Annex E to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You are urged to read Evercore's opinion carefully and in its entirety. Evercore's opinion was addressed to, and provided for the information and benefit of, the Centene Board (in its capacity as such) in connection with its evaluation of the merger consideration from a financial point of view and did not address any other aspects or implications of the merger. The opinion does not constitute a recommendation to the Centene Board or to any other persons in respect of the merger, including as to how any holder of shares of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock should vote or act in respect of the Centene share issuance or the merger. Evercore's opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to other business or financial strategies that might be available to Centene, nor does it address the underlying business decision of Centene to engage in the merger.

In connection with rendering its opinion and performing its related financial analysis, Evercore, among other things:

reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information relating to each of Centene and Health Net that Evercore deemed to be relevant, including publicly available research analysts' estimates;

reviewed the Centene management forecast, the Health Net management forecast, the adjusted Health Net case and the pro forma combined company forecast (each as described hereinafter);

discussed the past and current operations, financial projections and current financial condition of each of Centene and Health Net with their respective managements;

reviewed the reported prices and the historical trading activity of each of the Centene common stock and the Health Net common stock;

compared the financial performance of each of Centene and Health Net and their respective stock market trading multiples with those of certain other publicly traded companies that Evercore deemed relevant;

compared the proposed financial terms of the merger with publicly available financial terms of certain transactions that Evercore deemed reasonably comparable to the merger;

reviewed the amount and timing of the estimated synergies as well as the transaction expenses and one-time cash costs arising from the proposed transaction, as estimated by the management of Centene;

considered the potential pro forma impact of the merger on Centene, based on inputs and analysis provided by Centene management;

reviewed a substantially final draft of the merger agreement; and

performed such other analyses and examinations and considered such other factors that Evercore deemed appropriate.

For purposes of its analysis and opinion, Evercore assumed and relied upon, without undertaking any independent verification of, the accuracy and completeness of all of the information publicly available, and all of

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the information supplied or otherwise made available to, discussed with, or reviewed by Evercore, and Evercore has not assumed any liability therefor. With respect to the projected financial data relating to Centene and Health Net referred to above, Evercore assumed that they had been reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and good faith judgments of the respective managements of Centene and Health Net as to the future financial performance of the companies under the assumptions reflected therein. Evercore expressed no view as to any projected financial data relating to Centene or Health Net or the assumptions on which they were based. Evercore relied, at Centene's direction, without independent verification, upon the assessments of the management of Centene as to the estimated synergies.

For purposes of rendering its opinion, Evercore assumed, in all respects material to its analysis, that the representations and warranties of each party contained in the merger agreement were true and correct, that each party will perform all of the covenants and agreements required to be performed by it under the merger agreement and that all conditions to the consummation of the merger will be satisfied without material waiver or modification thereof. Evercore further assumed that all governmental, regulatory or other consents, approvals or releases necessary for the consummation of the merger will be obtained without any material delay, limitation, restriction or condition that would have a material and adverse effect on Centene or Health Net or the consummation of the merger or materially reduce the benefits to Centene of the merger.

Evercore did not make nor assume any responsibility for making any independent valuation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities of Centene or Health Net, nor was Evercore furnished with any such appraisals, nor did Evercore evaluate the solvency or fair value of Centene or Health Net under any state or federal laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or similar matters. Evercore's opinion was necessarily based upon information made available to it as of the date of the opinion and financial, economic, market and other conditions as they existed and as could be evaluated on the date of the opinion. It is understood that subsequent developments may affect Evercore's opinion and that Evercore does not have any obligation to update, revise or reaffirm its opinion.

Evercore was not asked to pass upon, and expressed no opinion with respect to, any matter other than the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to Centene. Evercore did not express any view on, and its opinion did not address, the fairness of the merger to, or any consideration received in connection therewith by, the holders of Centene common stock, Health Net common stock or any other securities, creditors or other constituencies of Centene or Health Net, nor as to the fairness of the amount or nature of any compensation to be paid or payable to any of the officers, directors or employees of Centene or Health Net, or any class of such persons, whether relative to the merger consideration or otherwise.

Evercore assumed that any modification to the structure of the transaction will not vary in any respect material to its analysis. Evercore's opinion did not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to other business or financial strategies that might be available to Centene, nor did it address the underlying business decision of Centene to engage in the merger. Evercore's opinion did not constitute a recommendation to the Centene Board or to any other persons in respect of the merger, including as to how any holder of shares of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock should vote or act in respect of the Centene share issuance or the merger. Evercore expressed no opinion as to the price at which shares of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock will trade at any time. Evercore is not a legal, regulatory, accounting or tax expert and assumed the accuracy and completeness of assessments by Centene and its advisors with respect to legal, regulatory, accounting and tax matters.

Set forth below is a summary of the material financial and other analyses performed by Evercore and reviewed with the Centene Board on July 1, 2015, in connection with rendering its opinion. The following summary, however, does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Evercore. The order of the analyses described and the results of these analyses do not represent relative importance or weight given to these analyses by Evercore.

Except as otherwise noted, the following quantitative information, to the extent that it is based on market data, is based on market data that existed on or before July 1, 2015, and is not necessarily indicative of current market conditions.

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The following summary of financial analyses includes information presented in tabular format. These tables must be read together with the text of each summary in order to understand fully the financial analyses. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses. Considering the tables below without considering the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of Evercore's financial analyses.

Selected Peer Group Trading Analysis

Evercore reviewed and compared certain financial and operating information relating to Health Net and Centene to corresponding information of two separate groups of selected publicly traded companies in the managed health care industry. Although none of the selected publicly traded companies is directly comparable to Health Net or Centene, the companies were chosen because they have certain characteristics that are similar to those of Health Net and Centene. The two groups of selected companies were as follows:

Diversified Payors	Government-Focused Payors
UnitedHealth Group Inc.	Humana Inc.
Anthem, Inc.	Molina Healthcare, Inc.
Aetna Inc.	WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
Cigna Corp.	

Evercore calculated and analyzed various financial multiples and ratios of Health Net, Centene and the selected companies as follows:

Ratios of the applicable closing prices of the companies' common stock, respectively, to earnings per share, or EPS, which is commonly referred to as a price / earnings multiple, estimated for each of calendar years 2015 and 2016; and

Ratios of total enterprise value, or TEV (which represents market capitalization plus the total outstanding debt, preferred stock and minority interest, less cash and cash equivalents balances), to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, or EBITDA, which is commonly referred to as a TEV / EBITDA multiple, estimated for each of calendar years 2015 and 2016.

The multiples for each of the selected companies were calculated using the closing prices of the selected companies' common stock on July 1, 2015, and were based on, and derived from, the selected companies' publicly available filings and financial data provided by FactSet Research Systems Inc. The multiples for Health Net and Centene were calculated using the closing prices of their respective common stock on July 1, 2015, and were based on, and derived from, publicly available information, consensus estimates of the Institutional Brokers Estimate System, or IBES, the Centene management forecast and the adjusted Health Net case for each of Health Net and Centene.

Health Net		Diversified Payors		Centene		Government-Focused Payors	
IBES	Management	Mean	Median	IBES	Management	Mean	Median

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Price / Earnings 2015E	19.5x	19.4x	18.1x	18.2x	29.1x	28.5x	25.1x	25.3x
Price / Earnings 2016E	16.1x	16.1x	16.3x	16.4x	24.8x	24.4x	19.2x	19.7x
TEV / EBITDA 2015E	10.0x	9.0x	11.4x	11.5x	14.2x	12.5x	9.5x	9.4x
TEV / EBITDA 2016E	8.3x	8.0x	10.4x	10.1x	12.1x	10.3x	7.8x	7.2x

Applying representative ranges of multiples derived from the peer group trading analysis, Evercore calculated a range of implied equity values per share of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock with respect to the following metrics based on their respective projected financial results:

Price / earnings multiples for each of estimated calendar years 2015 and 2016; and

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TEV / EBITDA multiples for each of estimated calendar years 2015 and 2016.

Evercore used the resulting per share equity value reference ranges to calculate the implied exchange ratio by dividing the lowest per share equity value for Health Net common stock by the highest per share equity value for Centene common stock for the low end of the exchange ratio range and dividing the highest per share equity value for Health Net common stock by the lowest per share equity value for Centene common stock for the high end of the exchange ratio range, in each case multiplying such low or high end of the exchange ratio range by 64%, the percentage of the merger consideration represented by Centene common stock (as of July 1, 2015).

	Health Net		Centene		Implied Exchange Ratio
	Multiples	\$ / Share	Multiples	\$ / Share	
Price / Earnings 2015E	17.0x - 20.0x	\$ 56.94 - \$66.98	22.5x - 29.0x	\$ 62.33 - \$80.34	0.454x - 0.688x
Price / Earnings 2016E	15.0x - 18.0x	\$ 60.48 - \$72.58	18.0x - 24.5x	\$ 58.48 - \$79.60	0.487x - 0.795x
TEV / EBITDA 2015E	10.0x - 12.0x	\$ 73.52 - \$89.64	9.0x - 14.0x	\$ 55.76 - \$92.03	0.512x - 1.030x
TEV / EBITDA 2016E	8.0x - 10.5x	\$ 65.25 - \$87.85	7.5x - 12.0x	\$ 56.24 - \$95.71	0.437x - 1.000x

No company utilized in the peer group trading analysis is identical to Health Net or Centene. Accordingly, an analysis of the results of the foregoing necessarily involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of Health Net and Centene and other factors that could affect the public trading value of the companies to which they are being compared. In evaluating the companies in the two peer groups, Evercore made judgments and assumptions with regard to industry performance, general business, economic, market and financial conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of Health Net and Centene, such as the impact of competition on Health Net or Centene and the industry generally, industry growth and the absence of any adverse material change in the financial conditions and prospects of Health Net, Centene, the industry or the financial markets in general. Mathematical analysis, such as determining the mean, median or average, is not in itself a meaningful method of using peer group trading data.

Discounted Cash Flow Analyses

Evercore performed discounted cash flow analyses for each of Health Net and Centene in order to derive implied per share equity reference ranges for Health Net common stock and Centene common stock based on the free cash flows that Health Net and Centene are expected to generate during the calendar years 2015 through 2017 using each of (1) the Centene management forecast, (2) the adjusted Health Net case and (3) IBES consensus estimates, Wall Street research and Evercore estimates for each of Health Net and Centene, which is referred to as the street case.

In its discounted cash flow analyses of Health Net, Evercore utilized a range of perpetuity growth rates of 3.5% to 4.5% to estimate Health Net's free cash flows after 2017 and discounted all cash flows to present value using a discount rate of 8.5%. In its discounted cash flow analyses of Centene, Evercore utilized a range of perpetuity growth rates of 4.0% to 5.0% to estimate Centene's free cash flows after 2017 and discounted all cash flows to present value using a discount rate of 8.5%. The perpetuity growth rates and discount rate utilized in these analyses were chosen by Evercore based on its expertise and experience within the managed health care industry and, in the case of the discount rate, an analysis of the weighted average cost of capital of Health Net, Centene and other comparable companies, which was calculated by Evercore as 8.5%.

The analyses described above indicated the per share equity value reference ranges for each of Health Net and Centene indicated below. Based on these per share equity value reference ranges, Evercore calculated implied exchange ratios for each of the Centene management forecast, the adjusted Health Net case and the street case by dividing the lowest per share equity value for Health Net by the highest per share equity value for Centene for the low

end of the exchange ratio range and dividing the highest per share equity value for Health Net by the lowest per share equity value for Centene for the high end of the exchange ratio range, in each case multiplying such low or high end of the exchange ratio range by 64%, the percentage of the merger consideration represented by Centene common stock (as of July 1, 2015).

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	Low	High
Health Net Implied Per Share Equity Value Health Net adjusted case	\$ 73.37	\$ 91.95
Health Net Implied Per Share Equity Value Street Case	\$ 61.52	\$ 76.64
Centene Implied Per Share Equity Value Centene management forecast	\$ 95.49	\$ 123.52
Centene Implied Per Share Equity Value Street Case	\$ 74.55	\$ 96.92
Implied Exchange Ratio Centene management forecast and Health Net adjusted case	0.380x	0.617x
Implied Exchange Ratio Street Case	0.407x	0.658x

Selected Precedent Transaction Analysis

Evercore performed an analysis of selected precedent transactions to compare multiples paid in other transactions to the multiples implied in the merger. Evercore analyzed 10 merger and acquisition transactions that were announced between 2003 and 2012 involving acquisitions of companies in the managed health care industry. The selected precedent transactions and the multiples related thereto are set forth below:

Date Announced	Acquiror	Target
August 20, 2012	Aetna Inc.	Coventry Health Care, Inc.
July 9, 2012	WellPoint Inc.	AMERIGROUP Corporation
October 24, 2011	Cigna Corporation	HealthSpring, Inc.
March 12, 2007	UnitedHealth Group Inc.	Sierra Health Services Inc.
September 27, 2005	WellPoint Inc.	WellChoice Inc.
July 6, 2005	UnitedHealth Group Inc.	PacifiCare Health Systems
April 26, 2004	UnitedHealth Group Inc.	Oxford Health Plans Inc.
October 27, 2003	UnitedHealth Group Inc.	Mid-Atlantic Medical Services, Inc.
October 27, 2003	Anthem, Inc.	WellPoint Health Networks Inc.
June 3, 2003	WellPoint Health Networks Inc.	Cobalt Corp.

While none of the companies that participated in the selected precedent transactions is directly comparable to Health Net and none of the transactions in the selected precedent transactions analysis is directly comparable to the merger, Evercore selected these transactions because each of the target companies was involved in the managed health care industry and had operating characteristics and products that for purposes of analysis may be considered similar to certain of Health Net's operating characteristics and products.

For each of the selected transactions, Evercore calculated and compared the following metrics:

Ratios of the target's TEV (based on the implied transaction price) to the target's last twelve months EBITDA prior to the announcement of the transaction; and

LTM price / earnings multiples.

This analysis produced the following low, mean, median, and high values for those metrics:

Low	Mean	Median	High
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TEV / LTM EBITDA	6.0x	11.1x	12.0x	15.9x
LTM Price / Earnings	12.7x	18.6x	17.2x	31.6x

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Based on this selected precedent transaction analysis and its professional judgment and experience, Evercore derived a representative TEV / 2015E EBITDA range of 7.0x to 16.0x and a representative 2015E price / earnings range of 13.0x to 32.0x and applied these ranges to Health Net to calculate the following ranges of implied equity values per share of Health Net common stock:

	Low	High
TEV / 2015E EBITDA	\$ 49.34	\$ 121.88
2015E Price / Earnings	\$ 43.54	\$ 107.18

Premiums Paid Analysis

Evercore performed an analysis of selected transactions to compare premiums paid in such transactions to the premium implied in the merger. While none of the companies that participated in the selected transactions is directly comparable to Centene or Health Net and none of the transactions in the selected transactions analysis is directly comparable to the merger, the selected transactions do share certain characteristics as set forth below.

Evercore selected the following 19 worldwide business combinations announced and completed since January 1, 2012, and involving greater than 50% stock consideration and transaction enterprise values in the range of \$2.5 billion to \$7.5 billion:

Date Announced	Acquiror	Target
May 11, 2015	Noble Energy, Inc.	Rosetta Resources, Inc.
May 6, 2015	Crestwood Equity Partners LP	Crestwood Midstream Partners LP
October 13, 2014	Targa Resources Partners LP	Atlas Pipeline Partners, L.P.
August 10, 2014	Kinder Morgan, Inc.	El Paso Pipeline Partners, L.P.
July 23, 2014	BCE Inc.	Bell Aliant Inc.
June 16, 2014	Level 3 Communications, Inc.	tw telecom inc.
April 7, 2014	Mallinckrodt plc	Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
April 7, 2014	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited	Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.
February 24, 2014	Carphone Warehouse	Dixons Retail
October 16, 2013	Liberty Global plc	Ziggo N.V.
October 10, 2013	Regency Energy Partners LP	PVR Partners, L.P.
February 21, 2013	Linn Co, LLC	Berry Petroleum Company, LLC
January 29, 2013	Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.	Copano Energy, L.L.C.
January 9, 2013	Atlantia SpA	Gemina SpA
December 5, 2012	Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.	Plains Exploration & Production Company
October 17, 2012	ASML Holding NV	Cymer, Inc.
April 30, 2012	Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.	Sunoco, Inc.
April 18, 2012	SXC Health Solutions Corp.	Catalyst Health Solutions, Inc.
January 16, 2012	Pembina Pipeline Corporation	Provident Energy Ltd.

For each of the selected transactions, Evercore analyzed the premium paid to the target stock price one day, one week and four weeks prior to the announcement of the transaction. This analysis indicated the following implied mean, median, high and low premiums for the selected transactions:

	Implied Premium			
	Mean	Median	High	Low
One Day Prior	24.8%	22.9%	51.2%	(0.4)%
One Week Prior	25.9%	25.3%	53.3%	7.8%
Four Weeks Prior	28.7%	24.7%	97.4%	6.9%

Based on this analysis, Evercore used a premium range of 15%-35%, the market closing prices of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock on July 1, 2015, and the 30-day volume-weighted average price,

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or VWAP, of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock on July 1, 2015, to calculate implied per share equity values for Centene common stock and implied exchange ratios. The implied exchange ratios were calculated by dividing each of the lowest and highest implied per share equity values for Health Net common stock by the actual market closing price or 30-day VWAP, as applicable, for Centene common stock, in each case multiplying such low or high end of the exchange ratio range by 64%, the percentage of the merger consideration represented by Centene common stock (as of July 1, 2015).

	Premium	Health Net Implied \$ / Share	Centene Actual \$ / Share	Implied Exchange Ratio
Closing Prices as of July 1, 2015	15% - 35%	\$ 74.82 - \$87.83	\$ 80.90	0.592x - 0.695x
30-Day VWAP as of July 1, 2015	15% - 35%	\$ 72.11 - \$84.65	\$ 76.21	0.606x - 0.711x

Research Analyst Price Targets

Evercore analyzed research analyst estimates of potential future value of shares of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock, or price targets, based on publicly available equity research published with respect to Health Net and Centene. Based on the research analyst price target reference ranges, Evercore calculated the implied exchange ratio by dividing the lowest price target for Health Net common stock by the highest price target for Centene common stock for the low end of the range and dividing the highest price target for Health Net common stock by the lowest price target for Centene common stock for the high end of the range, in each case multiplying such low or high end of the exchange ratio range by 64%, the percentage of the merger consideration represented by Centene common stock (as of July 1, 2015).

As of July 1, 2015, the observed research analyst price targets and resulting implied exchange ratio range for Health Net common stock and Centene common stock calculated as described above were as follows:

	Health Net	Centene
Target Range	\$ 50.00 - \$75.00	\$ 73.00 - 89.00
Implied Exchange Ratio Range	0.360x - 0.658x	

52-Week High / Low Trading Prices

Evercore reviewed the range of trading prices of shares of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock for the 52 weeks ended on July 1, 2015. Based on such historical share price ranges, Evercore calculated the implied exchange ratio by dividing the lowest trading price for Health Net common stock by the highest trading price for Centene common stock for the low end of the range and dividing the highest trading price for Health Net common stock by the lowest trading price for Centene common stock for the high end of the range, in each case multiplying such low or high end of the exchange ratio range by 64%, the percentage of the merger consideration represented by Centene common stock (as of July 1, 2015).

As of July 1, 2015, the 52-week trading price ranges and resulting implied exchange ratio range for Health Net common stock and Centene common stock calculated as described above were as follows:

	Health Net	Centene
52-Week Trading Range	\$ 40.84 - \$65.33	\$ 35.49 - \$82.18
Implied Exchange Ratio Range (52-Week Range)	0.318x - 1.179x	

Miscellaneous

The foregoing summary of certain material financial analyses does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses or data presented by Evercore. In connection with the review of the merger by the Centene Board, Evercore performed a variety of financial and comparative analyses for purposes of rendering its opinion. The

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preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Selecting portions of the analyses or of the summary described above, without considering the analyses as a whole, could create an incomplete view of the processes underlying Evercore's opinion. In arriving at its fairness determination, Evercore considered the results of all the analyses and did not draw, in isolation, conclusions from or with regard to any one analysis or factor considered by it for purposes of its opinion. Rather, Evercore made its determination as to fairness on the basis of its experience and professional judgment after considering the results of all the analyses. In addition, Evercore may have given various analyses and factors more or less weight than other analyses and factors, and may have deemed various assumptions more or less probable than other assumptions. As a result, the ranges of valuations resulting from any particular analysis or combination of analyses described above should not be taken to be the view of Evercore with respect to the actual value of Centene common stock or Health Net common stock. No company used in the above analyses as a comparison is directly comparable to Health Net or Centene, and no transaction used is directly comparable to the merger. Further, Evercore's analyses involve complex considerations and judgments concerning financial and operating characteristics and other factors that could affect the acquisition, public trading or other values of the companies or transactions used, including judgments and assumptions with regard to industry performance, general business, economic, market and financial conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of Centene, Health Net and their respective advisors. Rounding may result in total sums set forth in this section not equaling 100%.

Evercore prepared these analyses for the purpose of providing an opinion to the Centene Board as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to Centene. These analyses do not purport to be appraisals or to necessarily reflect the prices at which the business or securities actually may be sold. Any estimates contained in these analyses are not necessarily indicative of actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those suggested by such estimates. Accordingly, estimates used in, and the results derived from, Evercore's analyses are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty, and Evercore assumes no responsibility if future results are materially different from those forecasted in such estimates.

The issuance of the fairness opinion was approved by an opinion committee of Evercore.

Pursuant to the terms of Evercore's engagement letter with Centene, an aggregate fee of \$25 million is payable to Evercore for its services as financial advisor to the Centene Board. Of the aggregate fee, \$2.5 million is non-contingent and was payable upon the delivery of Evercore's fairness opinion to the Centene Board, while the remaining \$22.5 million will become payable upon consummation of the merger. In addition, Centene has agreed to reimburse Evercore for its reasonable and documented out-of-pocket expenses (including reasonable legal fees, expenses and disbursements) incurred in connection with, and to indemnify Evercore for certain liabilities arising out of, its engagement.

During the two-year prior to the delivery of its opinion, no material relationship existed between Evercore and its affiliates and Centene or Health Net pursuant to which compensation was received by Evercore or its affiliates as a result of such a relationship. Evercore may provide financial or other services to Centene or Health Net in the future and in connection with any such services Evercore may receive compensation.

In the ordinary course of business, Evercore or its affiliates may actively trade the securities, or related derivative securities, or financial instruments of Centene, Health Net and their respective affiliates, for its own account and for the accounts of its customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities or instruments.

The Centene Board engaged Evercore to act as a financial advisor based on its qualifications, experience and reputation. Evercore is an internationally recognized investment banking firm and is regularly engaged in the

valuation of businesses in connection with mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, competitive biddings, private placements and valuations for corporate and other purposes.

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Opinion of Health Net's Financial Advisor

Opinion of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC

Pursuant to an engagement letter dated September 9, 2013 in connection with the prior sale process described under Background of the Merger and amended on June 30, 2015, Health Net retained J.P. Morgan as its financial advisor in connection with the mergers. At the meeting of the Health Net Board on July 1, 2015, J.P. Morgan rendered its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing on the same day, to the Health Net Board that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the factors, assumptions, limitations and qualifications set forth in its opinion, the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of Health Net common stock in the merger and, if applicable, the subsequent merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders.

The full text of the written opinion of J.P. Morgan dated July 1, 2015, which sets forth the assumptions made, matters considered, qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken, is attached as Annex F to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated herein by reference. Stockholders are urged to read J.P. Morgan's opinion in its entirety. J.P. Morgan's opinion is addressed to the Health Net Board, addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of Health Net common stock of the merger consideration to be paid to such holders in the merger and, if applicable, the subsequent merger, and does not constitute a recommendation to any of Health Net's stockholders as to how such stockholder should vote with respect to the mergers or any other matter. The summary of J.P. Morgan's opinion set forth in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such opinion.

In arriving at its opinion, J.P. Morgan, among other things:

reviewed a draft dated July 1, 2015 of the merger agreement;

reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information concerning Health Net and Centene and the industries in which they operate;

compared the proposed financial terms of the mergers with the publicly available financial terms of certain transactions involving companies J.P. Morgan deemed relevant and the consideration paid for such companies;

compared the financial and operating performance of Health Net and Centene with publicly available information concerning certain other companies J.P. Morgan deemed relevant and reviewed the current and historical market prices of Health Net common stock and Centene common stock and certain publicly traded securities of such other companies;

reviewed the Health Net management forecast, which included certain internal financial analyses, forecasts and extrapolated forecasts prepared by or at the direction of the management of Health Net relating to its business, as well as the estimated amount and timing of the cost savings and related expenses and synergies expected to result from the mergers provided to J.P. Morgan by the management of Health Net, which are

referred to as Synergies;

reviewed the Centene management forecast, which included certain internal financial analyses and forecasts prepared by or at the direction of the management of Centene relating to its business, and reviewed certain extrapolated forecasts prepared by or at the direction of the management of Health Net relating to the business of Centene; and

performed such other financial studies and analyses and considered such other information as J.P. Morgan deemed appropriate for the purposes of its opinion.

J.P. Morgan also held discussions with certain members of the management of Health Net and Centene with respect to certain aspects of the mergers, and the past and current business operations of Health Net and Centene, the financial condition and future prospects and operations of Health Net and Centene, the effects of the mergers on the financial condition and future prospects of Health Net and Centene, and certain other matters J.P. Morgan believed necessary or appropriate to its inquiry.

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In giving its opinion, J.P. Morgan relied upon and assumed the accuracy and completeness of all information that was publicly available or was furnished to or discussed with J.P. Morgan by Health Net and Centene or otherwise reviewed by or for J.P. Morgan, and J.P. Morgan did not independently verify (nor did it assume responsibility or liability for independently verifying) any such information or its accuracy or completeness. J.P. Morgan did not conduct and was not provided with any valuation or appraisal of any assets or liabilities, nor did J.P. Morgan evaluate the solvency of Health Net or Centene under any state or federal laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or similar matters. In relying on financial analyses and forecasts provided to J.P. Morgan or derived therefrom, including the Synergies, J.P. Morgan assumed that they were reasonably prepared based on assumptions reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments by management as to the expected future results of operations and financial condition of Health Net and Centene to which such analyses or forecasts relate. J.P. Morgan expressed no view as to such analyses or forecasts (including the Synergies) or the assumptions on which they were based. J.P. Morgan also assumed that the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement will have the tax consequences described in discussions with, and materials provided to it by, representatives of Health Net, and will be consummated as described in the merger agreement, and that the definitive merger agreement would not differ in any material respects from the draft thereof furnished to J.P. Morgan. J.P. Morgan also assumed that the representations and warranties made by Health Net and Centene in the merger agreement and the related agreements were and will be true and correct in all respects material to its analysis. J.P. Morgan is not a legal, regulatory or tax expert and relied on the assessments made by advisors to Health Net with respect to such issues. J.P. Morgan further assumed that all material governmental, regulatory or other consents and approvals necessary for the consummation of the mergers will be obtained without any adverse effect on Health Net or Centene or on the contemplated benefits of the mergers.

The Health Net management forecast furnished to J.P. Morgan by Health Net was prepared by management of Health Net (see [Certain Financial Projections](#) [Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor](#) [Financial Projections Related to Health Net](#) beginning on page 99 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus for more information). The Centene management forecast furnished to J.P. Morgan by Centene was prepared by management of Centene (see [Certain Financial Projections](#) [Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor](#) [Financial Projections Related to Centene](#) beginning on page 104 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus for more information). Neither Health Net nor Centene publicly discloses internal management projections of the type provided to J.P. Morgan in connection with J.P. Morgan's analysis of the mergers, and such projections were not prepared with a view toward public disclosure. These projections were based on numerous variables and assumptions that are inherently uncertain and may be beyond the control of management, including, without limitation, factors related to general economic and competitive conditions and prevailing interest rates. Accordingly, actual results could vary significantly from those set forth in such projections. For more information regarding the use of projections, please refer to the sections entitled [Certain Financial Projections](#) [Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor](#) beginning on page 102 in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

J.P. Morgan's opinion is necessarily based on economic, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to J.P. Morgan as of, the date of such opinion. Subsequent developments may affect J.P. Morgan's opinion and J.P. Morgan does not have any obligation to update, revise, or reaffirm its opinion. J.P. Morgan's opinion is limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of Health Net common stock in the merger and, if applicable, the subsequent merger, and J.P. Morgan has expressed no opinion as to the fairness of any consideration paid in connection with the mergers to the holders of any other class of securities, creditors or other constituencies of Health Net or as to the underlying decision by Health Net to engage in the mergers. Furthermore, J.P. Morgan has expressed no opinion with respect to the amount or nature of any compensation to any officers, directors, or employees of any party to the mergers, or any class of such persons relative to the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of Health Net common stock in the mergers or with respect to the fairness of any such compensation. J.P. Morgan has also expressed no opinion as to the price at which Health Net

common stock or Centene common stock will trade at any future time.

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Since June 28, 2014, the date on which the original engagement letter of J.P. Morgan with Health Net was terminated by Health Net, J.P. Morgan was not authorized to and did not solicit any expressions of interest from any other parties with respect to the sale of all or any part of Health Net or any other alternative transaction.

In accordance with customary investment banking practice, J.P. Morgan employed generally accepted valuation methods in reaching its opinion. The following is a summary of the material financial analyses utilized by J.P. Morgan in connection with providing its opinion.

Analysis of Health Net

Public Trading Multiples Analysis

Using publicly available information, J.P. Morgan compared selected financial data of Health Net with similar data for publicly traded companies engaged in businesses which J.P. Morgan judged to be similar in certain respects to Health Net's business or aspects thereof. The companies selected by J.P. Morgan were as follows:

Commercial Managed Care Organizations

UnitedHealth Group Incorporated

Anthem, Inc.

Aetna Inc.

Cigna Corporation

Humana Inc.

Government Managed Care Organizations

Centene

Molina Healthcare, Inc.

WellCare Health Plans, Inc.

None of the selected companies reviewed is identical to Health Net and certain of these companies may have characteristics that are materially different from those of Health Net. These companies were selected, among other reasons, because they are publicly traded companies with operations and businesses that, for purposes of J.P. Morgan's analysis, may be considered similar in certain respects to those of Health Net based on business sector participation,

financial metrics and form of operations. The analyses necessarily involve complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operational characteristics of the companies involved and other factors that could affect the companies differently than would affect Health Net.

For each company listed above, J.P. Morgan calculated and compared various financial multiples and ratios based on publicly available financial data and closing share prices as of July 1, 2015 and, in the case of the companies identified under the heading Commercial Managed Care Organizations above, based on financial data and closing share prices as of May 28, 2015. Among other calculations, the information J.P. Morgan calculated for each of the selected companies included:

the multiple of firm value, which is referred to as FV (calculated as the market value of equity plus total debt and other adjustments, including minority interests, net of cash and cash equivalents) to estimated EBITDA (calculated as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) for calendar years 2015 and 2016, which is referred to as FV/EBITDA; and

the multiple of stock price of its common equity divided by earnings per share for calendar years 2015 and 2016, which is referred to as P/E.

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Results of the analysis were presented for the selected companies, as indicated in the following table:

	<i>Trading Multiples</i>			
	Low	High	Mean	Median
FV/EBITDA 2015E	9.4x	13.6x	10.7x	10.5x
FV/EBITDA 2016E	7.2x	12.4x	9.5x	9.6x
P/E 2015E	15.7x	28.9x	21.2x	19.7x
P/E 2016E	14.2x	25.5x	17.6x	16.7x

Based on the results of this analysis and J.P. Morgan's professional judgment, J.P. Morgan selected a multiple reference range of 9.0x-10.0x for FV/EBITDA for calendar year 2015, a multiple reference range of 7.5x-9.0x for FV/EBITDA for calendar year 2016, a multiple reference range of 16.0x-20.0x for P/E for calendar year 2015 and a multiple reference range of 15.0x-17.0x for P/E for calendar year 2016. After applying such ranges to the appropriate metrics for Health Net as set forth in the Health Net Projections (as defined under Certain Financial Projections Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor Financial Projections Related to Health Net beginning on page 99 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus), the analysis indicated the following range of implied equity value per share for Health Net common stock, rounded to the nearest \$0.25:

	<i>Health Net Implied Equity Value Per Share</i>	
	Low	High
FV/EBITDA 2015E	\$ 61.25	\$ 68.75
FV/EBITDA 2016E	\$ 58.00	\$ 70.75
P/E 2015E	\$ 53.00	\$ 66.25
P/E 2016E	\$ 60.75	\$ 68.75

The ranges of implied equity value per share for Health Net common stock were compared to (1) the closing price per share of Health Net common stock of \$65.06 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers, and (2) the implied value of the merger consideration of \$78.57 per share (valuing the stock portion of the merger consideration based on the exchange ratio of 0.6220 and the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015).

Selected Transaction Multiples Analysis

Using publicly available information, J.P. Morgan examined selected transactions involving businesses which J.P. Morgan judged to be similar in certain respects to Health Net's business or aspects thereof based on J.P. Morgan's experience and familiarity with Health Net's industry. The transactions considered and the month and year each transaction was announced are as follows:

Announcement Date	Acquiror	Target
June 2015	Anthem, Inc.	Cigna Corporation, which is referred to as the Anthem/Cigna Transaction (1)
August 2012	Aetna Inc.	Coventry Health Care, Inc.
July 2012	WellPoint, Inc.	Amerigroup Corporation

October 2011	Cigna Corporation	HealthSpring, Inc.
November 2007	Cigna Corporation	Great-West Healthcare
March 2007	UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	Sierra Health Services Inc.

(1) Proposed transaction was publicly announced by Anthem but declined by Cigna as of July 1, 2015, the date as of which J.P. Morgan calculated the Transaction Value to LTM EBITDA multiple.
For each of the selected transactions, J.P. Morgan calculated the multiple of the consideration paid in such transaction (rounded to the nearest \$100 million), which is referred to as the Transaction Value, to the target

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company's EBITDA for the twelve-month period prior to the announcement date of the applicable transaction, which is referred to as LTM EBITDA. J.P. Morgan's analysis resulted in a range of Transaction Value to LTM EBITDA multiples of 5.3x to 17.0x for the selected transactions, a mean Transaction Value to LTM EBITDA multiple of 9.8x for the selected transactions and a median Transaction Value to LTM EBITDA multiple of 8.0x for the selected transactions.

Based on the results of this analysis and J.P. Morgan's professional judgment, J.P. Morgan selected a multiple reference range of 7.5x-11.5x for Transaction Value to LTM EBITDA for Health Net. After applying such range to the appropriate metrics for Health Net as set forth in the Health Net Projections (see Certain Financial Projections Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor Financial Projections Related to Health Net beginning on page 99 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus for more information), the analysis indicated the following range of implied equity value per share for Health Net common stock, rounded to the nearest \$0.25.

Health Net Implied Equity Value Per Share

	Low	High
Transaction Value / LTM EBITDA	\$ 50.00	\$ 80.25(1)

- (1) This same analysis, when using the Transaction Value to LTM EBITDA multiple for the Anthem/Cigna Transaction on a standalone basis, results in an implied equity value per share for Health Net common stock of \$96.75.

The range of implied equity values per share for Health Net common stock was compared to (1) the closing price per share of Health Net common stock of \$65.06 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers, and (2) the implied value of the merger consideration of \$78.57 per share (valuing the stock portion of the merger consideration based on the exchange ratio of 0.6220 and the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015).

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

J.P. Morgan conducted a discounted cash flow analysis for the purpose of determining an implied fully diluted equity value per share for Health Net. A discounted cash flow analysis is a method of evaluating an asset using estimates of the future unlevered free cash flows generated by the asset, and taking into consideration the time value of money with respect to those future cash flows by calculating their present value. The unlevered free cash flows refers to a calculation of the future cash flows generated by an asset without including in such calculation any debt servicing costs. Specifically, unlevered free cash flow represents unlevered net operating profit after tax, adjusted for depreciation, capital expenditures, changes in net working capital, and certain other one-time cash expenses as applicable. Present value refers to the current value of the future cash flows generated by the asset, and is obtained by discounting those cash flows back to the present using a discount rate that takes into account macro-economic assumptions and estimates of risk, the opportunity cost of capital and other appropriate factors. Terminal value refers to the present value of all future cash flows generated by the asset for periods beyond the projections period.

J.P. Morgan calculated the present value of unlevered free cash flows for Health Net (1) for the calendar years 2016 through 2018 based upon the financial projections provided by the management of Health Net and (2) for the calendar years 2019 through 2025 based upon extrapolations from the financial projections provided by the management of Health Net that were reviewed and approved by the management of Health Net for J.P. Morgan's use in connection

with its financial analyses and rendering its fairness opinion. J.P. Morgan also calculated a range of terminal values for Health Net at December 31, 2025 by applying a terminal growth rate ranging from 2.0% to 3.0% to the unlevered free cash flows of Health Net for calendar year 2025. The unlevered free cash flows and the range of terminal values were then discounted to present values using a range of discount rates from 8.0% to 9.0%. This discount rate range was based upon J.P. Morgan's analysis of the capital structures and costs of equity and debt of Health Net and the selected publicly traded companies identified above.

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This analysis indicated the following range of implied equity value per share for Health Net common stock, rounded to the nearest \$0.25.

<i>Health Net Implied Equity Value Per Share</i>	
Low	High
\$61.00	\$ 80.50

The range of implied equity values per share for Health Net common stock was compared to (1) the closing price per share of Health Net common stock of \$65.06 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers, and (2) the implied value of the merger consideration of \$78.57 per share (valuing the stock portion of the merger consideration based on the exchange ratio of 0.6220 and the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015).

Other Information***Historical Trading Range***

For reference only and not as a component of its fairness analysis, J.P. Morgan reviewed the trading range of Health Net common stock for the 52-week period ending July 1, 2015, which was \$40.84 per share to \$65.33 per share, and compared that to (1) the closing price per share of Health Net common stock of \$65.06 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers, and (2) the implied value of the merger consideration of \$78.57 per share (valuing the stock portion of the merger consideration based on the exchange ratio of 0.6220 and the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015).

Analyst Price Targets

For reference only and not as a component of its fairness analysis, J.P. Morgan also reviewed certain publicly available equity research analyst share price targets for Health Net common stock and noted that the range of such price targets (excluding the high and low estimates) was \$58.00 per share to \$72.00 per share, and compared that to (1) the closing price per share of Health Net common stock of \$65.06 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers, and (2) the implied value of the merger consideration of \$78.57 per share (valuing the stock portion of the merger consideration based on the exchange ratio of 0.6220 and the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015).

Analysis of Centene***Public Trading Multiples Analysis***

Using publicly available information, J.P. Morgan compared selected financial data of Centene with similar data for publicly traded companies engaged in businesses which J.P. Morgan judged to be similar in certain respects to Centene's business or aspects thereof. The companies selected by J.P. Morgan were the same companies listed under Analysis of Health Net Public Trading Multiples Analysis above.

None of the selected companies reviewed is identical to Centene and certain of these companies may have characteristics that are materially different from those of Centene. These companies were selected, among other reasons, because they are publicly traded companies with operations and businesses that, for purposes of J.P. Morgan's analysis, may be considered similar in certain respects to those of Centene based on business sector participation,

financial metrics and form of operations. The analyses necessarily involve complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operational characteristics of the companies involved and other factors that could affect the companies differently than would affect Centene.

Based on the results of the analysis under Analysis of Health Net Public Trading Multiples Analysis and J.P. Morgan's professional judgment, J.P. Morgan selected a multiple reference range of 10.0x-13.75x for

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FV/EBITDA for calendar year 2015, a multiple reference range of 9.5x-12.5x for FV/EBITDA for calendar year 2016, a multiple reference range of 26.0x-29.5x for P/E for calendar year 2015 and a multiple reference range of 18.0x-25.5x for P/E for calendar year 2016. After applying such ranges to the appropriate metrics for Centene as set forth in the Centene Projections (as defined under Certain Financial Projections Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor Financial Projections Related to Centene beginning on page 98 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus), the analysis indicated the following range of implied equity value per share for Centene's common stock, rounded to the nearest \$0.25:

Centene Implied Equity Value Per Share

	Low	High
FV/EBITDA 2015E	\$ 57.25	\$ 82.50
FV/EBITDA 2016E	\$ 67.25	\$ 91.75
P/E 2015E	\$ 72.00	\$ 81.75
P/E 2016E	\$ 58.50	\$ 82.75

The ranges of implied equity value per share for Centene common stock were compared to the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

J.P. Morgan conducted a discounted cash flow analysis for the purpose of determining an implied fully diluted equity value per share for Centene.

J.P. Morgan calculated the present value of unlevered free cash flows for Centene (1) for the calendar years 2016 through 2017 based upon the Centene Projections and (2) for the calendar years 2018 through 2025 based upon extrapolations from the Centene Projections that were reviewed and approved by the management of Health Net for J.P. Morgan's use in connection with its financial analyses and rendering its fairness opinion. J.P. Morgan also calculated a range of terminal values for Centene at December 31, 2025 by applying a terminal growth rate ranging from 2.0% to 3.0% to the unlevered free cash flows of Centene for calendar year 2025. The unlevered free cash flows and the range of terminal values were then discounted to present values using a range of discount rates from 8.0% to 9.0%. This discount rate range was based upon J.P. Morgan's analysis of the capital structures and costs of equity and debt of Centene and the selected publicly traded companies identified above.

This analysis indicated the following range of implied equity value per share for Centene common stock, rounded to the nearest \$0.25.

Centene Implied Equity Value Per Share

Low	High
\$65.75	\$92.00

The range of implied equity values per share for Centene common stock was compared to the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers.

Table of Contents***Other Information******Historical Trading Range***

For reference only and not as a component of its fairness analysis, J.P. Morgan reviewed the trading range of Centene common stock for the 52-week period ending July 1, 2015, which was \$35.49 per share to \$82.18 per share, and compared that to the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers.

Analyst Price Targets

For reference only and not as a component of its fairness analysis, J.P. Morgan also reviewed certain publicly available equity research analyst share price targets for Centene common stock and noted that the range of such price targets was \$73.00 per share to \$89.00 per share, and compared that to the closing price per share of Centene common stock of \$80.90 on July 1, 2015, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the mergers.

Other Analysis***Relative Implied Exchange Ratio Analysis***

Based upon the implied equity values per share for Health Net and Centene calculated in the Public Trading Multiples Analysis and Discounted Cash Flow Analysis sections for Health Net and Centene described above, J.P. Morgan calculated a range of implied exchange ratios based on a comparison of a share of Health Net common stock (after an adjustment for the cash consideration portion of the merger consideration of \$28.25 per share of Health Net common stock) to a share of Centene common stock, as shown in the table below. For each comparison, J.P. Morgan divided the highest equity value per share for Health Net, after adjusting for \$28.25 per share of cash consideration, by the lowest equity value per share for Centene to derive the highest exchange ratio implied by each set of reference ranges. J.P. Morgan also divided the lowest equity value per share for Health Net, after adjusting for \$28.25 per share of cash consideration, by the highest equity value per share for Centene to derive the lowest exchange ratio implied by each set of reference ranges. The implied exchange ratios resulting from J.P. Morgan's analysis were:

	<i>Range of Implied Exchange Ratios</i>	
	Low	High
Public Trading Multiples Analysis		
FV/EBITDA 2015E	0.4016x	0.7104x
FV/EBITDA 2016E	0.3242x	0.6334x
P/E 2015E	0.3021x	0.5265x
P/E 2016E	0.3924x	0.6945x
Discounted Cash Flow Analysis	0.3573x	0.7955x

The implied exchange ratios for Health Net and Centene were compared to (1) the exchange ratio of a share of Health Net common stock for a share of Centene common stock of 0.4550x, based on the respective closing prices per share on July 1, 2015, after adjustment for the cash consideration of \$28.25 per share of Health Net common stock and (2) the proposed exchange ratio of a share of Health Net common stock for a share of Centene common stock in the mergers of 0.6220x.

Miscellaneous

The foregoing summary of certain material financial analyses does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses or data presented by J.P. Morgan. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. J.P. Morgan believes that the foregoing

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summary and its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of the foregoing summary and these analyses, without considering all of its analyses as a whole, could create an incomplete view of the processes underlying the analyses and its opinion. In arriving at its opinion, J.P. Morgan did not attribute any particular weight to any analyses or factors considered by it and did not form an opinion as to whether any individual analysis or factor (positive or negative), considered in isolation, supported or failed to support its opinion. Rather, J.P. Morgan considered the totality of the factors and analyses performed in determining its opinion. Rounding may result in total sums set forth in this section not equaling 100%.

Analyses based upon forecasts of future results are inherently uncertain, as they are subject to numerous factors or events beyond the control of the parties and their advisors. Accordingly, forecasts and analyses used or made by J.P. Morgan are not necessarily indicative of actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by those analyses. Moreover, J.P. Morgan's analyses are not and do not purport to be appraisals or otherwise reflective of the prices at which businesses actually could be bought or sold. None of the selected companies reviewed as described in the above summary is identical to Health Net, and none of the selected transactions reviewed was identical to the mergers. However, the companies selected were chosen because they are publicly traded companies with operations and businesses that, for purposes of J.P. Morgan's analysis, may be considered similar to those of Health Net. The transactions selected were similarly chosen because their participants, size and other factors, for purposes of J.P. Morgan's analysis, may be considered similar to the mergers. The analyses necessarily involve complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operational characteristics of the companies involved and other factors that could affect differently the companies compared with Health Net and the transactions compared with the mergers.

As a part of its investment banking business, J.P. Morgan and its affiliates are continually engaged in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, investments for passive and control purposes, negotiated underwritings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements, and valuations for estate, corporate and other purposes. J.P. Morgan was selected to advise Health Net with respect to the mergers on the basis of such experience and its familiarity with Health Net.

For services rendered in connection with the mergers (including the delivery of its opinion), Health Net agreed to pay J.P. Morgan \$1 million upon delivery of its opinion. Health Net has agreed to pay J.P. Morgan an additional fee of approximately \$20 million, which we refer to as the Base Fee, upon the consummation of the merger. The Base Fee was calculated as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus based on the latest closing share price of Centene on August 13, 2015 (provided that the final actual fee will be based on the latest closing share price of Centene on the date of the consummation of the merger). Also, upon the consummation of the merger, Health Net, at its sole and absolute discretion, may pay J.P. Morgan a discretionary fee ranging from \$0 to a maximum of approximately 142% of the Base Fee based on, among other things, Health Net's evaluation of J.P. Morgan's performance under the engagement letter. In the event the mergers are not consummated and Health Net receives any payment in connection with the termination, abandonment or failure to occur of the proposed mergers, Health Net will pay J.P. Morgan a fee equal to the lesser of 10% of any such payment (less any of the above fees already paid by Health Net and net of Health Net's expenses) and \$10 million, but in no event will the payment to J.P. Morgan exceed the fee that would have been paid to J.P. Morgan if the transaction had been consummated. In addition, Health Net has agreed to pay or reimburse J.P. Morgan for its reasonable expenses incurred in connection with its services, including the fees and disbursements of counsel, and will indemnify J.P. Morgan against certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Federal securities laws.

During the two years preceding the delivery of J.P. Morgan's opinion, neither J.P. Morgan nor its affiliates have had any other material financial advisory or other material commercial or investment banking relationships with Health Net or Centene. As of the date of delivery of J.P. Morgan's opinion, J.P. Morgan and its affiliates held on a proprietary

basis approximately 0.15% of Health Net's outstanding common stock and approximately 0.05% of Centene's outstanding common stock. In the ordinary course of J.P. Morgan's businesses, J.P. Morgan and its affiliates may actively trade the debt and equity securities of Health Net or Centene for its own account or for the accounts of customers and, accordingly, J.P. Morgan may at any time hold long or short positions in such securities.

Table of Contents**Certain Financial Projections*****Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Centene Board of Directors and Centene's Financial Advisors******Financial Projections Related to Centene***

Centene does not, as a matter of course, publicly disclose long-term forecasts or internal projections as to future performance, earnings or other results given, among other reasons, the uncertainty of the underlying assumptions and estimates. In connection with the Centene Board's consideration of the merger, Centene's management prepared or approved certain unaudited financial projections regarding Centene's future performance for the years 2015 through 2018 on a standalone basis without giving effect to the merger, which is referred to as the Centene management forecast, and provided the Centene management forecast to the Centene Board and to Centene's financial advisors for their use and reliance in connection with their respective financial analyses and opinions and the years 2015 through 2017 of the Centene management forecast to Health Net and to Health Net's financial advisor for its use and reliance in connection with its financial analyses and opinion (see the sections described above in this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled "The Merger Opinions of Centene's Financial Advisors" beginning on page 72 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and "The Merger Opinion of Health Net's Financial Advisor" beginning on page 89 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus).

The summaries of these projections are being included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to give Centene's stockholders access to non-public information that was provided to Health Net and Centene's financial advisors in the course of evaluating the proposed merger, and are not intended to influence your decision whether to vote in favor of the Share Issuance proposal or any other proposal at the Centene special meeting.

Centene uses a variety of financial measures that are not in accordance with GAAP as supplemental measures to evaluate its operational performance. While Centene believes that these non-GAAP financial measures provide useful supplemental information, there are limitations associated with the use of these non-GAAP financial measures. These non-GAAP financial measures are not prepared in accordance with GAAP, are not reported by all of Centene's competitors and may not be directly comparable to similarly titled measures of Centene's competitors due to potential differences in the exact method of calculation.

The following table summarizes the Centene management forecast as of June 2015 for the fiscal years 2015 through 2018 (in millions, except Diluted EPS):

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Revenue (1)	\$ 22,443	\$ 26,479	\$ 30,418	\$ 34,160
Adjusted EBITDA (2)	\$ 902	\$ 1,091	\$ 1,303	\$ 1,486
Net Income	\$ 342	\$ 408	\$ 479	\$ 554
Diluted EPS	\$ 2.77	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.75	\$ 4.32

- (1) Revenue excludes investment income.
- (2) Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net earnings from continuing operations attributable to Centene before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization, adjusted to exclude non-cash stock-based compensation expense from continuing operations.

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In addition, the following table shows the estimated amount of unlevered free cash flow of Centene calculated by Centene's financial advisors for purposes of their respective illustrative discounted cash flow analyses, which estimates were derived from the Centene management forecast described under the section entitled "The Merger" Opinions of Centene's Financial Advisors beginning on page 72 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. These calculations were not included in the projections provided to Health Net or J.P. Morgan.

	2015E	2016E	2017E	2018E
Adjusted EBITDA (1)	\$ 902	\$ 1,091	\$ 1,303	\$ 1,486
Depreciation & Amortization	(113)	(127)	(140)	(156)
Stock-Based Compensation	(69)	(83)	(100)	(112)
Taxable EBIT	\$ 720	\$ 880	\$ 1,063	\$ 1,219
Applicable Taxes (2)	(353)	(445)	(553)	(634)
Net Operating Profit After Taxes	\$ 367	\$ 435	\$ 510	\$ 585
Plus: Depreciation & Amortization	113	127	140	156
Plus: Stock-Based Compensation	69	83	100	112
Less: Increase in Working Capital	469	405	417	360
Less: Capital Expenditures	(121)	(143)	(164)	(184)
Less: Statutory Capital Contributions	(668)	(472)	(487)	(432)
Unlevered Free Cash Flow	\$ 229	\$ 436	\$ 516	\$ 596

(1) Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net earnings from continuing operations attributable to Centene before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization, adjusted to exclude non-cash stock-based compensation expense from continuing operations.

(2) Tax rate provided by Centene management for the projected period ranged from 49.0% to 52.0%.

Financial Projections Related to Health Net

In connection with the discussions regarding the proposed merger, Health Net provided to Centene certain unaudited financial projections regarding Health Net's combined Western Region Operations and Government Contracts segments' forecasted operating results on a standalone basis for fiscal years 2015 through 2017 as described in the section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled "Certain Financial Projections" Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor beginning on page 102. In order to assist the Centene Board in its evaluation of the merger, Centene management provided the Health Net management forecast (as described hereinafter) to the Centene Board, with certain adjustments as set forth below reflecting, among other differences, adjustments to anticipated revenues, profitability, membership growth rates and general and administrative expenses. In addition, Centene management extrapolated projections for fiscal year 2018 based on the information provided by Health Net management for the 2015-2017 fiscal years. The Health Net unaudited financial projections, as modified by Centene management, are referred to as the adjusted Health Net case. Centene provided the adjusted Health Net case to the Centene Board and to Centene's financial advisors for their use and reliance in connection with their respective financial analyses and opinions (see the section described above in this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled "The Merger" Opinions of Centene's Financial Advisors). The adjusted Health Net case was not provided to Health Net or J.P. Morgan.

Health Net uses a variety of financial measures that are not in accordance with GAAP as supplemental measures to evaluate its operational performance. While Health Net believes that these non-GAAP financial measures provide useful supplemental information, there are limitations associated with the use of these non-GAAP financial measures. These non-GAAP financial measures are not prepared in accordance with GAAP, are not reported by all of Health Net's competitors and may not be directly comparable to similarly titled measures of Health Net's competitors due to potential differences in the exact method of calculation.

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The following table summarizes the adjusted Health Net case derived or prepared by Centene management as described above:

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Revenue (1)	\$ 16,372	\$ 17,381	\$ 18,480	\$ 19,650
Adjusted EBITDA (2)	\$ 643	\$ 722	\$ 840	\$ 929
Net Income	\$ 260	\$ 310	\$ 365	\$ 407
Diluted EPS	\$ 3.35	\$ 4.03	\$ 4.75	\$ 5.30

- (1) Revenue excludes investment income.
(2) Health Net Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net earnings attributable to Health Net before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization, and the Health Net management forecast was adjusted by Centene's management to exclude non-cash stock-based compensation expense.

In addition, the following table shows the estimated amount of unlevered free cash flow of Health Net calculated by Centene's financial advisors for purposes of their respective illustrative discounted cash flow analyses, which estimates were derived from the adjusted Health Net case, including revised working capital assumptions following receipt of additional information provided by Health Net's financial advisors and approved by Centene's management for use in such illustrative discounted analyses described under the section entitled "The Merger" Opinions of Centene's Financial Advisors. These calculations were not included in the projections provided to Health Net or J.P. Morgan.

	2015E	2016E	2017E	2018E
Adjusted EBITDA (1)	\$ 643	\$ 722	\$ 840	\$ 929
Depreciation & Amortization	(17)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Stock-Based Compensation	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
Taxable EBIT	\$ 597	\$ 677	\$ 794	\$ 881
Applicable Taxes (2)	(321)	(351)	(413)	(458)
Net Operating Profit After Taxes	\$ 276	\$ 326	\$ 381	\$ 423
Plus: Depreciation & Amortization	17	14	15	16
Plus: Stock-Based Compensation	29	30	31	32
Less: Increase in Working Capital				
Less: Capital Expenditures	(30)	(20)	(25)	(25)
Less: Statutory Capital Contributions	(236)	(104)	(108)	(117)
Unlevered Free Cash Flow	\$ 57	\$ 247	\$ 294	\$ 328

- (1) Health Net Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net earnings attributable to Health Net before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization, and the Health Net management forecast was adjusted by Centene's management to exclude non-cash stock-based compensation expense.
(2) Tax rate provided by Health Net management for the projected period ranged from 51.8% to 53.8%.

Pro Forma Financial Projections Related to the Combined Company

In connection with the discussions regarding the proposed merger, Centene management prepared unaudited financial projections regarding the pro forma financial performance of the combined company on the basis of the adjusted Health Net case and the Centene management forecast, which are referred to as the pro forma combined company forecast. In order to assist the Centene Board in its evaluation of the merger, Centene management provided the pro forma combined company forecast to the Centene Board and Centene's financial advisors. The pro forma combined company forecast was not provided to Health Net or J.P. Morgan.

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The following tables summarizes the pro forma combined company forecast derived or prepared by Centene management as described above:

	Without Synergies	
	Fiscal Year Ending December 31,	
	2016E	2017E
<i>Centene</i>		
Standalone EBIT (1)	\$ 847	\$ 1,020
Pro forma interest expense, net (2)	(83)	(72)
New amortization of financing fees	(9)	(9)
Amortization of debt premium (3)	12	12
<i>Health Net</i>		
Standalone EBITA (4)	\$ 607	\$ 718
Combined company synergies (SG&A)		
New amortization of intangibles	(154)	(154)
Pro forma pre-tax income	\$ 1,219	\$ 1,514
Pro forma taxes	(616)	(788)
Pro forma non-controlling interest	(6)	(7)
Net income	\$ 597	\$ 719
162(m)(6) compensation limitation cost		(35)
Adjusted net income	\$ 597	\$ 684
Pro forma Centene fully diluted shares outstanding	174.3	175.8

Note: Assumes merger consideration of \$78.57 / share. Also assumes January 1, 2016 transaction closing.

- (1) EBIT is defined as net earnings from continuing operations before interest expense and taxes and excludes investment income.
- (2) Pro forma interest expense, net, includes investment income and existing Centene interest expense.
- (3) Adjustment includes new debt issued plus \$400 million of existing Health Net senior notes.
- (4) EBITA is defined as net earnings from continuing operations before interest expense, taxes and amortization, and excludes investment income.

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In addition, Centene management prepared forecasts reflecting the pro forma combined company forecast after giving effect to Centene's views of the estimated synergies, which, for these purposes, assumed estimated cost synergies for each of 2016E and 2017E of approximately \$75 million and \$150 million, respectively (estimated cost synergies for 2018E were approximately \$200 million).

	With Synergies	
	Fiscal Year Ending December 31,	
	2016E	2017E
Centene		
Standalone EBIT (1)	\$ 847	\$ 1,020
Pro forma interest expense, net (2)	(83)	(71)
New amortization of financing fees	(9)	(9)
Amortization of debt premium (3)	12	12
Health Net		
Standalone EBITA (4)	\$ 607	\$ 718
Combined company synergies (SG&A)	75	150
New amortization of intangibles	(154)	(154)
Pro forma pre-tax income	\$ 1,294	\$ 1,665
Pro forma taxes	(654)	(866)
Pro forma non-controlling interest	(6)	(7)
Net income	\$ 634	\$ 792
162(m)(6) compensation limitation cost		(35)
Adjusted net income	\$ 634	\$ 757
Pro forma Centene fully diluted shares outstanding	174.3	175.8

Note: Assumes merger consideration of \$78.57 / share. Also assumes January 1, 2016 transaction closing.

- (1) EBIT is defined as net earnings from continuing operations before interest expense and taxes and excludes investment income.
- (2) Pro forma interest expense, net, includes investment income and existing Centene interest expense.
- (3) Adjustment includes new debt issued plus \$400 million of existing Health Net senior notes.
- (4) EBITA is defined as net earnings from continuing operations before interest expense, taxes and amortization, and excludes investment income.

Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor

Health Net does not, as a matter of course, make projections as to future performance available to the public other than generally providing, on a quarterly basis, estimated ranges of certain expected financial results and operational metrics for the current or impending fiscal year in its regular earnings releases and other investor materials. Health Net avoids

making public projections for extended periods due to, among other reasons, the unpredictability of the underlying assumptions and estimates. However, in connection with its evaluation of the proposed merger, Health Net's management prepared certain non-public, unaudited financial projections regarding Health Net's combined Western Region Operations and Government Contracts segments' anticipated operations were prepared by Health Net's management for fiscal years 2015 through 2017. Such projections were provided to Health Net's financial advisor, J.P. Morgan, and to Centene. Health Net also prepared and provided projections for fiscal year 2018 to J.P. Morgan. Such projections for fiscal years 2015 through 2018 are referred to as the Health Net management forecast. The Health Net management forecast was prepared on a standalone basis, including contemplating the implementation of the Cognizant transaction, without giving effect to the mergers and as if the mergers had not been contemplated by Health Net. J.P. Morgan calculated the extrapolations for the calendar years 2019 through 2025 based upon the Health Net management forecast, which extrapolations were reviewed and approved by the management of Health Net. J.P. Morgan also calculated the present value of unlevered free cash flows for Health Net. In addition, the Health Net Board received and

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reviewed certain non-public, unaudited financial projections regarding Centene's anticipated future operations for the fiscal years 2015 through 2017, which were prepared by Centene's management as described in the section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled "Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Centene Board of Directors and Centene's Financial Advisors" beginning on page 98. Health Net's management reviewed and performed due diligence regarding such projections. Such projections were also provided to J.P. Morgan.

The summaries of these projections are being included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to give Health Net's stockholders access to non-public information that was provided to J.P. Morgan and to Centene in the course of evaluating the proposed merger, and are not intended to influence your decision whether to vote for adoption of the merger agreement or any other proposal at the Health Net special meeting.

Financial Projections Related to Health Net

The following table summarizes the combined Western Region and Government Contracts financial projections regarding Health Net's anticipated future operations that were prepared by Health Net's management and exclude Corporate/ Other segments that are not managed within reportable segments (in millions, except EPS):

	2015 (1)	Adjusted 2015 (2)	2016	2017	2018
Revenue (3)	\$ 16,673	\$ 16,438	\$ 17,451	\$ 18,576	\$ 19,668
Net Income	\$ 257	\$ 260	\$ 311	\$ 373	\$ 445
EBITDA (4)	\$ 609	\$ 614	\$ 694	\$ 825	\$ 952
EPS Consolidated	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.35	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.86	\$ 5.79

- (1) These projections for fiscal year 2015 were prepared in April 2015 prior to the first quarter earnings release and, together with the projections for fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018, are referred to as the Health Net Projections.
- (2) These projections for fiscal year 2015 include adjustments made in June 2015 to reflect certain changes in management's expectations primarily due to a change in the timing of redeterminations for the Medicaid and individual exchange business and a delay in membership for the duals demonstration program.
- (3) Revenue includes investment income.
- (4) EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, including investment income and after stock-based compensation.

The following table summarizes the extrapolations for the calendar years 2019 through 2025 calculated by J.P. Morgan based upon the financial projections provided by the management of Health Net, which extrapolations were reviewed and approved by the management of Health Net (in millions):

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue (1)	\$ 20,907	\$ 22,225	\$ 23,456	\$ 24,577	\$ 25,565	\$ 26,398	\$ 27,058
EBITDA (2)	\$ 983	\$ 1,045	\$ 1,079	\$ 1,124	\$ 1,163	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,218

- (1) Revenue includes investment income.
- (2)

EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, including investment income and after stock-based compensation.

The following table presents the present value of unlevered free cash flows for Health Net calculated by J.P. Morgan based upon the financial projections provided by the management of Health Net, which values were reviewed and approved by the management of Health Net (in millions):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Unlevered Free Cash Flow	\$ 232	\$ 273	\$ 343	\$ 339	\$ 357	\$ 374	\$ 401	\$ 426	\$ 451	\$ 473

Table of Contents*Financial Projections Related to Centene*

In connection with the discussions regarding the proposed mergers, Centene provided to Health Net and its financial advisor financial projections regarding Centene's anticipated future operations for the fiscal years 2015 through 2017, which projections were used by J.P. Morgan in connection with its financial analyses. J.P. Morgan calculated the extrapolations for the calendar years 2018 through 2025 based upon the financial projections provided by the management of Centene, which extrapolations were reviewed and approved by the management of Health Net. J.P. Morgan also calculated the present value of unlevered free cash flows for Centene based upon the above described financial projections and extrapolations.

The following table summarizes the financial projections, which are referred to as the Centene Projections, regarding Centene's anticipated future operations that were prepared by Centene's management (in millions, except EPS):

	2015	2016	2017
Revenue (1)	\$ 22,477	\$ 26,519	\$ 30,468
Net Income	\$ 342	\$ 408	\$ 479
EBITDA (2)	\$ 837	\$ 1,014	\$ 1,211
EPS Consolidated	\$ 2.77	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.75

(1) Revenue includes investment income.

(2) EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, including investment income and after stock-based compensation.

The following table summarizes the extrapolations for the calendar years 2018 through 2025 calculated by J.P. Morgan based upon the financial projections provided by the management of Centene, which extrapolations were reviewed and approved by the management of Health Net (in millions):

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue (1)	\$ 34,588	\$ 38,739	\$ 42,788	\$ 46,590	\$ 49,991	\$ 52,844	\$ 55,014	\$ 56,389
EBITDA (2)	\$ 1,375	\$ 1,666	\$ 1,883	\$ 2,050	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,325	\$ 2,421	\$ 2,481

(1) Revenue includes investment income.

(2) EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, including investment income and after stock-based compensation.

The following table presents the present value of unlevered free cash flows for Centene calculated by J.P. Morgan based upon the financial projections provided by the management of Centene, which values were reviewed and approved by the management of Health Net (in millions):

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Unlevered Free Cash Flow	\$ 60	\$ 123	\$ 181	\$ 328	\$ 445	\$ 548	\$ 659	\$ 774	\$ 890	\$ 1,000

EBITDA is a non-GAAP operating financial measure that Health Net and Centene define as earnings (loss) before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization.

EBITDA is meant to reflect the ongoing operating performance of Health Net's Western Region and Government Contracts segments and Centene's business operations; consequently, it excludes the impact of items that could be considered non-operating in nature. Because Health Net's and Centene's management use these measures to evaluate overall performance, Health Net and Centene believe they provide useful information.

As noted above, Health Net uses a variety of financial measures that are not in accordance with GAAP as supplemental measures to evaluate its operational performance. While Health Net believes that these non-GAAP

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financial measures provide useful supplemental information, there are limitations associated with the use of these non-GAAP financial measures. These non-GAAP financial measures are not prepared in accordance with GAAP, are not reported by all of Health Net's competitors and may not be directly comparable to similarly titled measures of Health Net's competitors due to potential differences in the exact method of calculation.

Important Information About Certain Financial Projections

While the unaudited financial projections summarized above in the sections of this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled "Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Centene Board of Directors and Centene's Financial Advisors" beginning on page 98 and "Certain Financial Projections Utilized by the Health Net Board of Directors and Health Net's Financial Advisor" beginning on page 102 were prepared by the respective managements of Centene and Health Net in good faith and based on information available at the time of preparation, they constitute forward-looking information and no assurance can be made regarding actual future events. The estimates and assumptions underlying the unaudited financial projections involve judgments with respect to, among other things, future economic, competitive, regulatory and financial market conditions and future business decisions that may not be realized and that are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies, including, among others, risks and uncertainties described in the sections of this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 44 and "Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" beginning on page 42, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond the control of Centene and Health Net, respectively. There can be no assurance that the underlying assumptions or projected results will be realized, and actual results will likely differ, and may differ materially, from those reflected in the unaudited financial projections, whether or not the merger is completed. As a result, the unaudited financial projections cannot necessarily be considered predictive of actual future operating results, and this information should not be relied on as such. Furthermore, rounding may result in total sums set forth in this section not equaling 100%.

The unaudited financial projections were prepared solely for internal use by Centene or Health Net, as the case may be, or their respective financial advisors, and not with a view toward public disclosure or with a view toward complying with the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for preparation and presentation of prospective financial data, published guidelines of the SEC regarding forward-looking statements and the use of non-GAAP measures or GAAP. In the view of Centene's management and Health Net's management, the respective forecasts prepared by them were prepared on a reasonable basis based on the information available to Centene's management and Health Net's management, respectively, at the time of their preparation. The unaudited financial projections, however, are not facts and should not be relied upon as being necessarily indicative of actual future results, and readers of this joint proxy statement/prospectus are cautioned not to place undue, or any, reliance on this information. The inclusion of the unaudited financial projections in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is not an admission or representation by Centene or Health Net that such information is material. None of the unaudited financial projections reflect any impact of the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, except as noted herein. As a reminder, actual results may differ materially from those contained in these unaudited financial projections.

The unaudited financial projections summarized in this section were prepared by and are the responsibility of the management of Centene or Health Net, as the case may be. No independent registered public accounting firm has examined, compiled or otherwise performed any procedures with respect to the prospective financial information contained in these financial forecasts and, accordingly, no independent registered public accounting firm has expressed any opinion or given any other form of assurance with respect thereto and no independent registered public accounting firm assumes any responsibility for the prospective financial information. The reports of the independent registered public accounting firms incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus relate to the historical financial information of Centene and Health Net, respectively. Such reports do not extend to the unaudited

financial projections and should not be read to do so. Each of these independent registered public accounting firms disclaims any association with the prospective financial information.

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By including in this joint proxy statement/prospectus a summary of certain of the unaudited financial projections regarding the operating results of Centene and Health Net, neither Centene, Health Net nor any of their respective advisors or other representatives has made or makes any representation to any person regarding the ultimate performance of Centene or Health Net compared to the information contained in the financial projections whether in the merger agreement or otherwise. The unaudited financial projections cover multiple years and such information by its nature becomes less predictive with each succeeding year.

Summaries of the unaudited financial projections are not included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus in order to induce any Health Net stockholder to vote in favor of the Health Net merger proposal or any of the other proposals to be voted on at the Health Net special meeting or any Centene stockholder to vote in favor of the Centene share issuance proposal or any other proposal to be voted on at the Centene special meeting.

EXCEPT AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS, NEITHER CENTENE NOR HEALTH NET INTENDS TO UPDATE, AND EACH EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY RESPONSIBILITY TO UPDATE, OR OTHERWISE REVISE THE ABOVE PROJECTIONS TO REFLECT CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTING SINCE THEIR RESPECTIVE PREPARATION OR TO REFLECT THE OCCURRENCE OF UNANTICIPATED EVENTS, EVEN IN THE EVENT THAT ANY OR ALL OF THE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS ARE SHOWN TO BE IN ERROR OR NO LONGER APPROPRIATE (EVEN IN THE SHORT TERM) OR TO REFLECT CHANGES IN GENERAL ECONOMIC OR INDUSTRY CONDITIONS.

In light of the foregoing and the uncertainties inherent in the unaudited financial projections summarized in this section, stockholders of Centene and Health Net are cautioned not to place undue, if any, reliance on such unaudited financial projections. Since the date the unaudited financial projections summarized in this section were prepared, each of Centene and Health Net has made publicly available its actual results of operations for the quarter ended June 30, 2015. You should review Centene's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2015, filed on July 28, 2015 and Health Net's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2015, filed on August 4, 2015, to obtain this information. See the section entitled **Where You Can Find More Information beginning on page 220.**

Governance of Centene Following Completion of the Merger

Board of Directors The merger agreement provides that the parties will take all actions so that immediately following the completion of the merger, the Centene Board will include one director to be designated by the Health Net Board from those directors serving on the Health Net Board as of July 2, 2015, who qualifies as an independent director as defined by Section 303A.02 of the NYSE Listed Company Manual and is reasonably acceptable to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of Centene. Other than such additional director, no changes to the Centene Board or Centene senior management are expected in connection with the consummation of the mergers.

For discussion of the material interests of directors of Centene and Health Net in the merger that may be in addition to, or different from, their interests as stockholders, see **Interests of Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger** beginning on page 107.

Headquarters

Upon completion of the merger, Centene's headquarters will remain in St. Louis, Missouri, with operations throughout the country.

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Interests of Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger

Interests of Directors and Executive Officers of Centene in the Merger

In considering the recommendations of the Centene Board with respect to its approval of the merger agreement, Centene stockholders should be aware that Centene's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of the Centene stockholders generally. The Centene Board was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in approving the merger agreement and making its recommendation that the Centene stockholders vote **FOR** the Share Issuance proposal, the Centene Adjournment proposal and the Charter Amendment proposal. See *The Merger Rationale for the Transaction* and *The Merger Centene Board of Directors' Recommendations and Its Reasons for the Transaction*.

These interests include the following:

all nine members of the Centene Board, including Mr. Neidorff, will remain on the Centene Board; and

Mr. Neidorff, the Chairman of the Centene Board and Centene's President and Chief Executive Officer, will remain as the Chairman of the Centene Board and Centene's President and Chief Executive Officer.

None of Centene's directors or executive officers are party to or participates in any plan, program or arrangement that provides such director or executive officer with any kind of compensation that is based on or otherwise related to the completion of the merger.

The information set forth above in this section is intended to comply with Item 402(t) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which is referred to as the Securities Act, as it relates to the disclosure of certain information about compensation for Centene's named executive officers that is based on or otherwise relates to the completion of the merger.

Interests of Directors and Executive Officers of Health Net in the Merger

In considering the recommendation of the Health Net Board that Health Net stockholders vote **FOR** the Merger proposal, Health Net stockholders should be aware that Health Net's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger that may be different from, or in addition to, those of Health Net stockholders generally. The Health Net Board was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in approving the merger agreement and recommending that the Health Net stockholders adopt the merger agreement.

The following discussion sets forth certain of these interests in the merger of each person who has served as a non-executive director or executive officer of Health Net since January 1, 2014. The amounts presented in the following discussion do not reflect the impact of applicable withholding or other taxes.

Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits

Stock Options

As described below under *The Merger Treatment of Health Net Stock Options and Other Stock-Based Awards* *Stock Options*, each option to acquire shares of Health Net common stock that is outstanding immediately prior to the

effective time of the merger, whether or not then vested or exercisable, will be converted into the right to receive the Health Net stock option consideration. All of the stock options held by Health Net's non-executive directors and executive officers are fully vested in accordance with their terms.

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The following table provides information for each of the non-executive directors and executive officers of Health Net, regarding the aggregate number of shares of Health Net common stock underlying outstanding options as of September 14, 2015, the exercise price of such options and the value of the options.

Name	Number of Shares Underlying Outstanding Options	Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options	Value of Outstanding Options (1)	Value of Outstanding Options in Accordance with Merger Agreement (2)
Non-Executive Directors				
Mary Anne Citrino	18,959	\$ 22.31	\$ 948,615	\$ 843,770
Theodore F. Craver, Jr.	61,559	\$ 27.25	\$ 2,776,458	\$ 2,430,622
Vicki B. Escarra	13,213	\$ 49.23	\$ 305,530	\$ 225,564
Gale S. Fitzgerald	43,059	\$ 28.24	\$ 1,899,537	\$ 1,657,359
Patrick Foley (3)	61,559	\$ 27.25	\$ 2,776,458	\$ 2,430,622
Roger F. Greaves	61,559	\$ 27.25	\$ 2,776,458	\$ 2,430,622
Douglas M. Mancino		\$	\$	\$
George Miller (4)		\$	\$	\$
Bruce G. Willison	61,559	\$ 27.25	\$ 2,776,458	\$ 2,430,622
Frederick C. Yeager	7,500	\$ 55.72	\$ 124,724	\$ 79,333
Named Executive Officers				
Jay M. Gellert	679,750	\$ 33.38	\$ 26,486,634	\$ 22,540,928
James E. Woys	273,200	\$ 29.70	\$ 11,650,669	\$ 10,085,485
Juanell Hefner		\$	\$	\$
Steven J. Sell		\$	\$	\$
Steven D. Tough	68,400	\$ 27.08	\$ 3,096,274	\$ 2,707,201
Joseph C. Capezza, CPA (5)		\$	\$	\$
Other Executive Officers				
Angelee F. Bouchard (6)		\$	\$	\$
Patricia T. Clarey (7)		\$	\$	\$
Scott D. Law		\$	\$	\$
Karin D. Mayhew (8)		\$	\$	\$
Andrew R. Ortiz (9)		\$	\$	\$
Kathleen A. Waters (10)		\$	\$	\$

- (1) As determined in accordance with Instruction 1 to Item 402(t)(2) of Regulation S-K, the value of each stock option is based upon the difference between (i) the per share value of the merger consideration of \$72.35, consisting of 0.622 of a share of Centene common stock, based upon the average closing price of Centene common stock over the five trading days beginning on July 6, 2015, the trading day immediately following the public announcement of the merger, and \$28.25 of cash per share, minus (ii) the per share exercise price of such stock option.
- (2) As described below under **The Merger Treatment of Health Net Stock Options and Other Stock-Based Awards** **Stock Options**, non-executive directors and executive officers will receive in respect of each Health Net stock option outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, an amount of cash equal to the

product of (i) the number of shares of Health Net common stock subject to the Health Net stock option and (ii) \$28.25, less any applicable withholding taxes, and a number of shares of Centene common stock equal to (i) the product of (x) the number of shares of Health Net common stock subject to the Health Net stock option and (y) 0.622, less (ii) a number of shares of Centene common stock with a Centene stock value that is equal to the aggregate exercise price of the Health Net stock option, provided that, any fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth in The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders. The value of each stock option is calculated in accordance with such formula, assuming the closing of the merger occurred on September 14, 2015, with the value of (i) Centene common stock equal to the closing price of Centene common stock on

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- September 14, 2015 and (ii) the Centene stock value equal to the volume weighted average price per share of Centene common stock on the NYSE on each of the ten consecutive trading days ending with the third complete trading day immediately prior to the closing date, weighted by the total volume of trading in Centene common stock on each such trading day, assuming the closing of the merger occurred on September 14, 2015.
- (3) Mr. Foley retired from the Health Net Board immediately prior to Health Net's Annual Meeting of Stockholders on May 7, 2015 but continues to serve on the board of directors of a subsidiary of Health Net.
 - (4) Mr. Miller was designated and appointed to serve as a member of the Health Net Board effective as of March 12, 2015.
 - (5) Effective as of September 2, 2014, Mr. Capezza stepped down from his role as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Health Net and entered into a consulting agreement with Health Net as of September 3, 2014 to assist with the transition of his responsibilities and duties until December 31, 2014. See *Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger*.
 - (6) Ms. Bouchard stepped down from her role as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary on March 31, 2015, and ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on such date. Ms. Bouchard assumed the role of Special Counsel until May 26, 2015, the effective date of her retirement from Health Net. See *Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger*.
 - (7) Ms. Clarey ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on February 21, 2014.
 - (8) Effective as of July 1, 2015, Ms. Mayhew stepped down from her role as Senior Vice President, Organization Effectiveness and ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on such date. Ms. Mayhew continued serving as an employee until August 15, 2015, the effective date of her retirement, and began serving as a consultant to Health Net on August 16, 2015 pursuant to the terms of a consulting agreement. See *Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger*.
 - (9) Mr. Ortiz was named Senior Vice President, Organization Effectiveness and Chief People Officer of Health Net effective June 29, 2015.
 - (10) Ms. Waters became Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Health Net on April 27, 2015.
- Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards*

As described below under *The Merger Treatment of Health Net Stock Options and Other Stock-Based Awards Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards*, the vesting of each unvested time-based restricted stock unit and performance share award granted under a Health Net equity plan whose vesting is accelerated solely as a result of the merger under the terms of a non-discretionary vesting acceleration provision contained in such award as of July 2, 2015 will be accelerated and such award will be cancelled and converted into the right to receive the merger consideration.

Prior to May 7, 2015, Health Net's time-based restricted stock units granted to non-executive directors provided for single-trigger accelerated vesting upon a change in control. In addition, prior to 2014, Health Net's performance share awards provided for single-trigger accelerated vesting upon a change in control. Although the performance criteria for all outstanding performance share awards granted prior to 2014 have previously been satisfied, such awards remain subject to time-vesting conditions. The unvested portions of these single-trigger restricted stock units and performance share awards will become vested as of the effective time of the merger. In addition, because all of Health Net's non-executive directors will cease serving on the Health Net Board as of the effective time of the merger, all unvested time-based restricted stock units granted to Health Net's non-executive directors on or after May 7, 2015, which contain double-trigger vesting provisions, will also become vested as of the effective time of the merger, with the exception of unvested time-based restricted stock units granted on or after May 7, 2015 to one independent director who will be appointed to the Centene Board.

All unvested time-based restricted stock units and performance share awards that are not vested as of the effective time of the merger and do not become vested solely as a result of the merger under the terms of a non-discretionary

vesting acceleration provision contained in such award as of July 2, 2015 will be converted into time-based restricted stock units with respect to shares of Centene common stock as described below under Conversion of Certain Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards.

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The following table provides information for each of the non-executive directors and executive officers of Health Net as of September 14, 2015, regarding the aggregate number of shares of Health Net common stock underlying outstanding unvested time-based restricted stock units and performance share awards containing single-trigger vesting provisions requiring the accelerated vesting of such awards solely as a result of the merger and time-based restricted stock units granted to non-executive directors which contain double-trigger vesting provisions, and which, other than with respect to the independent director who will continue on the Centene Board, will also become vested as of the effective time of the merger.

Name	Number of Shares Underlying		Value of Unvested
	Unvested Restricted Stock Units	Performance Share Awards	Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards (2)
Non-Executive Directors (1)			
Mary Anne Citrino	5,790		\$ 418,907
Theodore F. Craver, Jr.	5,790		\$ 418,907
Vicki B. Escarra	5,790		\$ 418,907
Gale S. Fitzgerald	5,790		\$ 418,907
Patrick Foley (3)	3,526		\$ 255,106
Roger F. Greaves	5,790		\$ 418,907
Douglas M. Mancino	7,075		\$ 511,876
George Miller (4)	2,609		\$ 188,761
Bruce G. Willison	5,790		\$ 418,907
Frederick C. Yeager	5,790		\$ 418,907
Named Executive Officers			
Jay M. Gellert		45,000	\$ 3,255,750
James E. Woys		21,250	\$ 1,537,438
Juanell Hefner		10,000	\$ 723,500
Steven J. Sell		8,750	\$ 633,063
Steven D. Tough		10,000	\$ 723,500
Joseph C. Capezza, CPA (5)			\$
Other Executive Officers			
Angelee F. Bouchard (6)			\$
Patricia T. Clarey (7)		3,750	\$ 271,313
Scott D. Law		20,416	\$ 1,477,098
Karin D. Mayhew (8)			\$
Andrew R. Ortiz (9)			\$
Kathleen A. Waters (10)			\$

- (1) As described above, the unvested time-based restricted stock units granted on or after May 7, 2015 to the independent director who will be appointed to the Centene Board will not become vested as of the effective time of the merger and will be adjusted and converted into time-based restricted stock units with respect to Centene common stock. See Conversion of Certain Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards. Because that director has not yet been identified, all unvested restricted stock units held by all non-executive directors have

been listed in this table.

- (2) The value of each restricted stock unit or performance share award is based upon the per share value of the merger consideration of \$72.35, consisting of 0.622 of a share of Centene Common stock, based upon the average closing price of Centene common stock over the five trading days beginning on July 6, 2015, the trading day immediately following the public announcement of the merger, and \$28.25 of cash per share.
- (3) Mr. Foley retired from the Health Net Board immediately prior to Health Net's Annual Meeting of Stockholders on May 7, 2015 but continues to serve on the board of directors of a subsidiary of Health Net.
- (4) Mr. Miller was designated and appointed to serve as a member of the Health Net Board effective as of March 12, 2015.
- (5) Effective as of September 2, 2014, Mr. Capezza stepped down from his role as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Health Net and entered into a consulting agreement with Health

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- Net as of September 3, 2014 to assist with the transition of his responsibilities and duties until December 31, 2014. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
- (6) Ms. Bouchard stepped down from her role as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary on March 31, 2015, and ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on such date. Ms. Bouchard assumed the role of Special Counsel until May 26, 2015, the effective date of her retirement from Health Net. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
- (7) Ms. Clarey ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on February 21, 2014.
- (8) Effective as of July 1, 2015, Ms. Mayhew stepped down from her role as Senior Vice President, Organization Effectiveness and ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on such date. Ms. Mayhew continued serving as an employee until August 15, 2015, the effective date of her retirement, and began serving as a consultant to Health Net on August 16, 2015 pursuant to the terms of a consulting agreement. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
- (9) Mr. Ortiz was named Senior Vice President, Organization Effectiveness and Chief People Officer of Health Net effective June 29, 2015.
- (10) Ms. Waters became Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Health Net on April 27, 2015.
- Conversion of Certain Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards*

As described below under The Merger Treatment of Health Net Stock Options and Other Stock-Based Awards Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards, each restricted stock unit and performance share award that is not vested as of the effective time of the merger and does not become vested solely as a result of the merger under the terms of a non-discretionary vesting acceleration provision contained in such award as of July 2, 2015 will be adjusted and converted into a time-based restricted stock unit with respect to that number of shares of Centene common stock (rounded down to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of the number of shares of Health Net common stock subject to such award multiplied by the rollover award exchange ratio. The rollover award exchange ratio is the sum of (1) 0.622 and (2) the quotient of (x) \$28.25 in cash divided by (y) the Centene stock value. Any outstanding performance criteria applicable to such awards shall be deemed to have been satisfied at the target level.

Because the compensation committee of the Health Net Board determined to eliminate single-trigger acceleration for performance share awards, beginning with the 2014 performance share awards, performance share awards granted in 2014 and 2015 which remain unvested as of the effective time of the merger will not vest as a result of the merger and will be converted into rollover awards. In addition, all restricted stock units previously granted to executive officers which remain unvested as of the effective time of the merger and restricted stock units granted on or after May 7, 2015 to the independent director of Health Net who will be appointed to the Centene Board which remain unvested as of the effective time of the merger will be converted into rollover awards.

For rollover awards in respect of performance shares, if achievement of the applicable performance criteria has occurred in accordance with the terms of the applicable award prior to the effective time of the merger, then determinations regarding the satisfaction of the performance criteria will be made in accordance with the terms of the award agreement, and if achievement of the applicable performance criteria has not occurred in accordance with the applicable award prior to the effective time of the merger, outstanding performance criteria will be deemed to have been achieved at target. Rollover awards shall otherwise remain subject to the same terms and conditions in effect prior to the merger. The equity awards that will become rollover awards generally provide for accelerated vesting upon the occurrence of both a change in control and involuntary termination of service or employment without Cause (as defined below) or, with respect to awards granted to executive officers, by the executive under the applicable definition of Good Reason (as defined below), in either case within two years of the change in control. However, most performance share awards which will be converted to rollover awards provide for accelerated vesting upon the occurrence of both a change in control and involuntary termination of employment without Cause or by the executive

for Good Reason at any time following a change in control. The merger will constitute a change in control pursuant to the restricted stock units and performance share awards that will be converted to rollover awards.

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Pursuant to the applicable terms of the applicable plans and award agreements, Cause generally means: a felony conviction for fraud, misappropriation or embezzlement. However, with respect to certain restricted stock units granted to executive officers, if termination of employment occurs more than 12 months following consummation of the merger, Cause generally has the meaning ascribed in any employment agreement to which the executive officer is a party or, in the absence of such agreement, shall include but not be limited to, insubordination, dishonesty, incompetence, moral turpitude, other misconduct of any kind and the refusal to perform duties and responsibilities for any reason other than illness or incapacity. In addition, with respect to most performance share awards, Cause has the meaning ascribed in any employment agreement to which the executive officer is a party, or if there is no such definition, the meaning ascribed in Health Net's severance policy. For each executive, the applicable definition of Good Reason is the definition contained in the employment agreement or severance plan applicable to the executive. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.

The following table provides information for each of the non-executive directors and executive officers of Health Net as of September 14, 2015 regarding (i) the aggregate number of shares of Health Net common stock underlying outstanding performance share awards, assuming the outstanding performance criteria are satisfied at the target level, which shall be converted into rollover awards, (ii) the aggregate number of shares of Health Net common stock underlying outstanding restricted stock units, which shall be converted into rollover awards, and (iii) the value of such rollover awards.

Name	Number of Shares Underlying Unvested Performance Share Awards (2)	Value of Unvested Performance Share Awards (3)	Number of Shares Underlying Unvested Restricted Stock Units (2)	Value of Unvested Restricted Stock Units (3)
Non-Executive Directors (1)				
Mary Anne Citrino		\$		\$
Theodore F. Craver, Jr.		\$		\$
Vicki B. Escarra		\$		\$
Gale S. Fitzgerald		\$		\$
Patrick Foley (4)		\$		\$
Roger F. Greaves		\$		\$
Douglas M. Mancino		\$		\$
George Miller (5)		\$		\$
Bruce G. Willison		\$		\$
Frederick C. Yeager		\$		\$
Named Executive Officers				
Jay M. Gellert	178,650	\$ 13,730,210	74,550	\$ 5,729,571
James E. Woys	75,525	\$ 5,804,512	32,257	\$ 2,479,019
Juanell Hefner	56,657	\$ 4,354,394	35,219	\$ 2,706,678
Steven J. Sell	34,000	\$ 2,613,090	14,250	\$ 1,095,121
Steven D. Tough	40,500	\$ 3,112,652	16,832	\$ 1,293,571
Joseph C. Capezza, CPA (6)		\$		\$
Other Executive Officers				
Angelee F. Bouchard (7)		\$		\$
Patricia T. Clarey (8)	18,475	\$ 1,419,843	7,409	\$ 569,327

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Scott D. Law	28,775	\$ 2,211,513	12,508	\$ 961,191
Karin D. Mayhew (9)		\$		\$
Andrew R. Ortiz (10)		\$	10,000	\$ 768,556
Kathleen A. Waters (11)	15,000	\$ 1,152,834	5,000	\$ 384,278

- (1) As described above, the unvested time-based restricted stock units granted on or after May 7, 2015 to the independent director who will be appointed to the Centene Board will not become vested as of the effective

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- time of the merger and will be adjusted and converted into time-based restricted stock units with respect to Centene common stock. Because that director has not yet been identified, all unvested restricted stock units held by all non-executive directors have been listed as becoming vested as of the effective time of the merger in the table under Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards and have not been listed in this table.
- (2) These performance share awards and restricted stock units provide for accelerated vesting upon the occurrence of both the merger and involuntary termination of employment or service without Cause by the surviving corporation or, with respect to awards granted to executive officers, by the executive under the applicable definition of Good Reason, in either case within two years of the merger (or, pursuant to most performance share awards, at any time following the merger).
 - (3) The value of each restricted stock unit or performance share award is based on the number of shares of Centene common stock that will be subject to a rollover award and the average closing price of Centene common stock over the five trading days beginning on July 6, 2015, the trading day immediately following the public announcement of the merger. The number of shares of Centene common stock that will be subject to a rollover award is determined by multiplying the number of shares of Health Net common stock subject to the applicable award by the rollover award exchange ratio, which is the sum of (1) 0.622 and (2) the quotient of (x) \$28.25 in cash divided by (y) the Centene stock value, rounded down to the nearest whole share. See Conversion of Certain Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards. Each share subject to a rollover award is then multiplied by the average closing price of Centene common stock over the five trading days beginning on July 6, 2015.
 - (4) Mr. Foley retired from the Health Net Board immediately prior to Health Net's Annual Meeting of Stockholders on May 7, 2015 but continues to serve on the board of directors of a subsidiary of Health Net.
 - (5) Mr. Miller was designated and appointed to serve as a member of the Health Net Board effective as of March 12, 2015.
 - (6) Effective as of September 2, 2014, Mr. Capezza stepped down from his role as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Health Net and entered into a consulting agreement as of September 3, 2014 with Health Net to assist with the transition of his responsibilities and duties until December 31, 2014. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
 - (7) Ms. Bouchard stepped down from her role as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary on March 31, 2015, and ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on such date. Ms. Bouchard assumed the role of Special Counsel until May 26, 2015, the effective date of her retirement from Health Net. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
 - (8) Ms. Clarey ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on February 21, 2014.
 - (9) Effective as of July 1, 2015, Ms. Mayhew stepped down from her role as Senior Vice President, Organization Effectiveness and ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on such date. Ms. Mayhew continued serving as an employee until August 15, 2015, the effective date of her retirement, and began serving as a consultant to Health Net on August 16, 2015 pursuant to the terms of a consulting agreement. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
 - (10) Mr. Ortiz was named Senior Vice President, Organization Effectiveness and Chief People Officer of Health Net effective June 29, 2015.
 - (11) Ms. Waters became Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Health Net on April 27, 2015.

2015 Annual Bonus Payments

Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, Health Net's 2015 Management Incentive Plan, which is referred to as the MIP, which is a cash incentive plan pursuant to which certain employees, including the executive officers, are eligible to receive bonus payments, will be funded at \$35,000,000. If the closing of the merger occurs prior to the time that annual bonuses have been paid under the MIP, then annual bonus payments will be made to each employee on or as soon as practicable after the closing of the merger in an amount determined by Health Net based on each employee's performance and the terms and conditions of the MIP. The amount of any such payments to be made to Health Net's

executive officers has not yet been determined.

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Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger

Health Net has entered into employment agreements with Jay Gellert, James Woys, Juanell Hefner, Steven Sell, Steven Tough, Patricia Clarey, Scott Law, Andrew Ortiz, and Kathleen Waters. Although these agreements provide that an executive's employment with Health Net may be terminated by either the executive or by Health Net at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, they do provide for certain payments and benefits in the event of the executive's termination of employment without Cause (as defined below) or for Good Reason (as defined below) in connection with or for a period of time following a change in control. In general, these benefits include lump-sum payments equal to a multiple of base salary and continued employer paid health and welfare benefit coverage for a certain defined term. Generally, the severance and change in control provisions of Health Net's executive employment agreements are very similar. However, the terms of Mr. Gellert's employment agreement vary somewhat, and therefore are discussed separately below.

Under the terms of each executive officer's employment agreement, in order to receive severance benefits, a terminated executive (or his or her beneficiaries or estate, as applicable) must execute a waiver and release of claims substantially in the form prescribed by their agreement.

The merger will constitute a change in control under each employment agreement.

The current employment agreements for Mr. Gellert, Mr. Woys, Ms. Clarey, Mr. Ortiz and Ms. Waters became effective on December 3, 2008, December 3, 2008, April 12, 2014, May 8, 2015, and March 18, 2015, respectively. In February 2015, Health Net, Inc. and each of Ms. Hefner, Mr. Law, Mr. Sell and Mr. Tough entered into an amended and restated employment agreement. The terms of each of these amended and restated employment agreements became effective as of October 2014.

Severance Terms of Employment Agreements with Health Net's Executive Officers (other than Mr. Gellert)

If, at any time within two years after the merger, the surviving corporation terminates the employment of Mr. Woys or Ms. Clarey without Cause or Mr. Woys or Ms. Clarey voluntarily terminates his or her employment for Good Reason (as defined below), he or she will be entitled to receive:

a one-time lump sum payment equivalent to 36 months of his or her then-current annual base salary;

benefit continuation for the executive and his or her dependents for an initial period of 18 months; and

payment of COBRA premiums for an additional 18-month period provided he or she properly elects to continue those benefits under COBRA.

If, at any time within two years after the merger, the surviving corporation terminates the employment of Ms. Hefner, Mr. Law, Mr. Sell, Mr. Ortiz, or Ms. Waters without Cause or Ms. Hefner, Mr. Law, Mr. Sell, Mr. Ortiz, or Ms. Waters voluntarily terminates his or her employment for Good Reason (as defined below), he or she will be entitled to receive:

a one-time lump sum payment equivalent to 24 months of his or her then-current annual base salary;

benefit continuation for the executive and his or her dependents for an initial period of six months; and

payment of COBRA premiums for an additional 18-month period provided he or she properly elects to continue those benefits under COBRA.

If, at any time within two years after the merger, the surviving corporation terminates Mr. Tough's employment without Cause or Mr. Tough voluntarily terminates his employment for Good Reason (as defined below), he will be entitled to receive:

a one-time lump sum payment equivalent to 24 months of his then-current annual base salary; and

continued grandfathered lifetime medical, dental and vision health benefits for himself and his dependents.

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The change in control severance payments and benefits for Mr. Woys, Ms. Hefner, Mr. Sell, Ms. Clarey, Mr. Law, Mr. Ortiz, and Ms. Waters will be forfeited in the case of a voluntary termination by the executive for Good Reason if the surviving corporation requests in writing, prior to his or her resignation, that he or she continue in its employ for up to 90 days following the change in control, and he or she voluntarily leaves its employ prior to the expiration of the extended period. The agreement with Mr. Tough has a substantially similar provision, except that Mr. Tough would continue to receive the grandfathered lifetime medical, dental and vision health benefits for himself and his dependents.

In the event that Mr. Woys, Ms. Hefner, Mr. Sell, Mr. Tough, Ms. Clarey, Mr. Law, Mr. Ortiz, or Ms. Waters voluntarily terminate their employment at any time (other than for Good Reason within two years after the merger), or the surviving corporation terminates the executive for Cause, the executive would not be eligible to receive any of the severance benefits provided under his or her employment agreement, except that Mr. Tough would continue to receive the grandfathered lifetime medical, dental and vision health benefits for himself and his dependents.

With respect to Mr. Woys, if the severance and change in control payments and benefits provided under his employment agreement or otherwise constitute parachute payments under Section 280G of the Code, and if at least \$50,000 of such payments are subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code, he is entitled to receive (i) a payment sufficient to pay those excise taxes and (ii) an additional payment sufficient to pay the taxes arising as a result of that payment (to which we refer to together as a Gross-Up Payment). If the amount of such parachute payments subject to excise taxes does not exceed \$50,000, no Gross-Up Payment will be paid and the severance payments will be reduced (if necessary, to zero) so that no portion of the severance payments is subject to the imposition of excise taxes.

With respect to Ms. Hefner, Mr. Tough, Mr. Sell, Mr. Law, Mr. Ortiz, or Ms. Waters, to the extent that any severance and change in control payments and benefits provided under his or her employment agreement or otherwise constitute parachute payments then such payments and benefits shall be cut-back or reduced to the extent necessary such that no portion of the payments and benefits is subject to the imposition of excise taxes, but only if the net amount of such payment and benefits, as so reduced (and after subtracting any additional taxes due on such reduced payments and benefits) is greater than or equal to the net amount of such payments and benefits without such reduction (but after subtracting the net amount of excise taxes and all additional taxes due on such unreduced payments and benefits).

With respect to Mr. Woys, Ms. Hefner, Mr. Tough, Mr. Sell, Ms. Clarey, Mr. Law, Mr. Ortiz, and Ms. Waters, Good Reason under the applicable employment agreement generally means (i) a substantial reduction in the scope of the executive's authority, duties or responsibilities with the surviving corporation, other than in connection with a termination due to disability, normal retirement, for Cause or by the executive voluntarily other than for Good Reason; (ii) a material reduction in compensation (i.e., base salary and/or annual target bonus); (iii) a relocation of more than 50 miles (provided that such proposed relocation results in a materially greater commute for the executive); or (iv) Health Net's failure to provide for the surviving corporation to assume Health Net's obligations under the executive's employment agreement; provided, however, that the executive must provide Health Net or the surviving corporation notice of the existence of the condition described above within 90 days of the initial existence of the condition, upon the notice of which Health Net or the surviving corporation will have 30 days during which it may remedy the condition, and the executive's date of termination must occur no later than 75 days after the initial occurrence of the event constituting Good Reason.

With respect to Mr. Woys, Ms. Hefner, Mr. Tough, Mr. Sell, Ms. Clarey, Mr. Law, Mr. Ortiz, and Ms. Waters, Cause is generally defined under the applicable employment agreement as (i) an act of dishonesty causing harm to the surviving corporation or any of its affiliates; (ii) the material breach of the Code of Conduct or ethics and compliance procedures; (iii) habitual drunkenness or narcotic drug addiction; (iv) conviction of a felony or a misdemeanor

involving moral turpitude; (v) willful refusal to perform or gross neglect of duties; (vi) the willful breach of any law that, directly or indirectly, affects the surviving corporation or its affiliates; (vii) a material

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breach by the executive following a change in control of those duties and responsibilities that do not differ in any material respect from the executive's duties and responsibilities during the 90-day period immediately prior to such change in control (other than as a result of incapacity due to physical or mental illness) which is demonstrably willful and deliberate on the executive's part, committed in bad faith or without reasonable belief that such breach is in the surviving corporation's best interests and which is not remedied in a reasonable period of time after receipt of written notice from the surviving corporation specifying such breach, or (viii) breach of the executive's obligations under his employment agreement (or under any other policy) to protect the surviving corporation's proprietary and confidential information.

Severance Terms of Mr. Gellert's Employment Agreement

If, during a two-year period following the merger, the surviving corporation terminates Mr. Gellert without cause or he voluntarily resigns for Good Reason, as defined below (and gives the surviving corporation at least 14 days' prior written notice of such resignation and otherwise complies with the timing requirements noted below), he will be entitled to a lump sum payment of \$6,000,000, and any stock options which vested prior to his termination will continue to remain exercisable for two years following his date of termination or until the options' general termination date, whichever is shorter.

If the severance and change in control payments and benefits provided under Mr. Gellert's agreement or otherwise constitute parachute payments under Section 280G of the Code, and at least \$50,000 of such payments are subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code, Mr. Gellert will receive a Gross-Up Payment. If the amount of such parachute payments subject to excise taxes does not exceed \$50,000, no Gross-Up Payment will be paid and Mr. Gellert's severance payments will be reduced (if necessary, to zero) so that no portion of the severance payments is subject to the imposition of excise taxes.

For purposes of Mr. Gellert's agreement only, the term "Good Reason" means that any of the following occurs, without Mr. Gellert's consent, within two years following the effective date of the merger, (i) a material reduction in Mr. Gellert's duties, responsibilities, salary or status; or (ii) his relocation outside California; provided, however, that Mr. Gellert must provide the surviving corporation notice of the existence of the condition described above within 90 days of the initial existence of the condition, upon the notice of which the surviving corporation will have 30 days during which it may remedy the condition.

Change in Control Severance Plan

In connection with entering into the merger agreement, the compensation committee of the Health Net Board adopted the Health Net, Inc. Change in Control Severance Plan (which we refer to as the Change in Control Severance Plan). The Change in Control Severance Plan becomes effective upon the consummation of a change in control. The merger will constitute a change in control under the Change in Control Severance Plan.

If an individual who is otherwise eligible to participate in the Change in Control Severance Plan, including an executive officer, has an employment agreement that provides for severance, the individual will only receive payments and benefits under the Change in Control Severance Plan if they are better than those provided under the applicable employment agreement. All executive officers currently employed by Health Net will only receive severance payments and benefits under the Change in Control Severance Plan during the two year period following the merger if the executive officer's employment terminates and such termination does not constitute an involuntary termination without Cause or resignation for Good Reason pursuant to the terms of the executive officer's employment agreement but does constitute an involuntary termination without Cause or due to a Reduction in Force or a resignation for Good Reason pursuant to the terms of the Change in Control Severance Plan.

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The Change in Control Severance Plan provides that if, after the merger, the surviving corporation terminates an executive officer's employment without Cause or due to a Reduction in Force (as defined below), or he or she voluntarily terminates employment for Good Reason (as defined below) and the benefits to be provided to the executive officer are better than those provided under the executive officer's applicable employment agreement, if any, then such executive officer will be entitled to receive:

a one-time lump sum payment equivalent to 12 months of his or her then-current annual base salary;

payment of COBRA premiums for a 12-month period provided he or she properly elects to continue those benefits under COBRA; and

outplacement services and/or career transition services.

In the event that an executive officer voluntarily terminates his or her employment at any time (other than for Good Reason), or the surviving corporation terminates the executive officer for Cause, the executive officer would not be eligible to receive any of the severance benefits provided under the Change in Control Severance Plan.

To the extent that any severance and change in control payments and benefits provided to a participant in the Change in Control Severance Plan, whether under the Change in Control Severance Plan or otherwise, constitute parachute payments then such payments and benefits shall be cut-back or reduced to the extent necessary such that no portion of the payments and benefits is subject to the imposition of excise taxes, but only if the net amount of such payment and benefits, as so reduced (and after subtracting any additional taxes due on such reduced payments and benefits) is greater than or equal to the net amount of such payments and benefits without such reduction (but after subtracting the net amount of excise taxes and all additional taxes due on such unreduced payments and benefits).

To receive severance payments and benefits under the Change in Control Severance Plan, a terminated executive must execute a waiver and release of claims substantially in the form used by Health Net immediately prior to the merger. For the two year period following the effective time of the merger, no amendment or termination of the Change in Control Severance Plan shall impair any rights or obligations to a participant unless the participant consents to such amendment or termination.

For purposes of the Change in Control Severance Plan, Good Reason generally means any of the following which occurs without a participant's prior written consent: (i) a relocation of a participant's principal place of employment by more than 50 miles from the participant's place of work immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, (ii) a material diminution of a participant's base compensation as in effect immediately prior to the effective time of the merger or (iii) with respect to employees at the level of director or above, a material diminution of responsibilities as in effect immediately prior to the effective time of the merger; provided that, the participant must provide notice of the existence of the condition constituting Good Reason within 90 days of the initial existence of the condition, upon the notice of which the surviving corporation will have 30 days during which it may remedy the condition, and the participant must terminate employment no later than one year after the initial occurrence of the event constituting Good Reason.

For purposes of the Change in Control Severance Plan, Reduction in Force means changes in the surviving corporation's operations that result in elimination of a participant's position, and Cause means, without limitation, and as determined by the surviving corporation in its sole discretion, (i) an act of dishonesty by a participant that causes

harm to the surviving corporation; (ii) a knowing disclosure by a participant of confidential information relating to the surviving corporation's business; (iii) habitual drunkenness or narcotic drug addiction; (iv) conviction of a felony; (v) breach of the surviving corporation's policies and procedures; (vi) refusal to perform or failure to adequately perform assigned duties; or (vii) a willful breach by a participant of any law that, directly or indirectly, affects the surviving corporation.

Table of Contents*Consulting Agreement with Ms. Mayhew*

Ms. Mayhew was not eligible to receive severance compensation in connection with her termination of employment. Pursuant to a consulting agreement between Ms. Mayhew and Health Net dated as of August 12, 2015, following Ms. Mayhew's retirement on August 15, 2015, Ms. Mayhew continues to provide services as a consultant to Health Net. Ms. Mayhew's consulting services include providing assistance with enterprise transition and integration in connection with the merger, and Ms. Mayhew receives compensation at a rate of \$31,250 per month in respect of her consulting services. If Ms. Mayhew successfully continues to provide consulting services through the closing of the merger, Health Net will pay Ms. Mayhew a success fee in an amount in its discretion, of up to \$2,500,000. To receive any such success fee, Ms. Mayhew must execute a waiver and release of claims, substantially in the form prescribed by Health Net. Ms. Mayhew's consulting agreement also provides that Health Net will indemnify Ms. Mayhew in respect of the consulting services to the same extent as such indemnification is provided to executive officers of the Company and only to the extent permitted by law.

Severance Terms of Mr. Capezza's Employment Agreement

Mr. Capezza's service as a consultant to Health Net following his service as an executive officer terminated on December 31, 2014. He has already received his severance compensation in connection with his prior termination and is not entitled to further compensation in connection with the merger.

Severance Terms of Ms. Bouchard's Employment Agreement

Ms. Bouchard was not eligible to receive severance compensation in connection with her termination of employment and is not entitled to further compensation in connection with the merger.

Other Potential Payments

Additional amounts become payable to executive officers upon their termination of employment pursuant to certain Health Net deferred compensation plans and arrangements; however, these amounts become payable without regard to the occurrence of the merger. In addition, certain non-executive directors have deferred receipt of restricted stock units which vested prior to the merger. These vested restricted stock units are payable upon the earlier of a specified date, change in control of Health Net (which includes the merger) and termination of the director's service. These vested restricted stock units will become distributable upon the closing of the merger.

Except as more fully described above under *Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits - Stock Options*, *Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits - Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards*, *2015 Annual Bonus Payments*, *Consulting Agreement with Ms. Mayhew* and *Other Potential Payments*, no compensation is payable to the executive officers prior to, or upon the effectiveness of, the merger, in the absence of termination of employment.

Quantification of Potential Payments

The severance payments and benefits to each executive officer that are described above are set forth in the table below, assuming the closing of the merger occurred on September 14, 2015, which is the latest practicable date prior to the filing of this proxy statement, and such executive officer's employment is terminated by the executive officer for Good Reason or by the surviving corporation without Cause (which we refer to as a Qualifying Termination) immediately after the closing of the merger. Payments included in the table set forth below assume that severance payments and benefits are provided under the applicable officer's employment agreement rather than under the Change

in Control Severance Plan.

Table of Contents***Payments Upon a Change in Control and a Qualifying Termination***

Name	Cash (1)	Perquisites /		Total
		Benefits (2)	Tax Reimbursement (3)	
Jay M. Gellert	\$ 6,000,000	\$	\$	\$ 6,000,000
James E. Woys	\$ 2,363,514	\$ 126,015	\$	\$ 2,489,529
Juanell Hefner	\$ 1,092,701	\$ 11,476	\$	\$ 1,104,177
Steven J. Sell	\$ 1,114,608	\$ 64,496	\$	\$ 1,179,104
Steven D. Tough	\$ 1,153,646	\$ 717,943	\$	\$ 1,871,589
Joseph C. Capezza, CPA (4)	\$	\$	\$	\$
Angelee F. Bouchard (5)	\$	\$	\$	\$
Patricia T. Clarey (6)	\$ 1,341,306	\$	\$	\$ 1,341,306
Scott D. Law	\$ 1,075,372	\$ 13,976	\$	\$ 1,089,348
Karin D. Mayhew (7)	\$	\$	\$	\$
Andrew R. Ortiz (8)	\$ 800,000	\$ 53,518	\$	\$ 853,518
Kathleen A. Waters (9)	\$ 1,090,000	\$ 84,552	\$	\$ 1,174,552

- (1) Amounts shown reflect cash severance payments under the executive officer's employment agreement.
- (2) Amounts shown include continuation of health benefits and employer-paid COBRA premiums. The amounts associated with health benefits are calculated using 2015 enrollment rates and severance agreement terms.
- (3) Amounts shown reflect grandfathered excise tax gross-up benefits under the executive officer's employment agreement.
- (4) Effective as of September 2, 2014, Mr. Capezza stepped down from his role as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Health Net and entered into a consulting agreement with Health Net as of September 3, 2014 to assist with the transition of his responsibilities and duties until December 31, 2014. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
- (5) Ms. Bouchard stepped down from her role as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary on March 31, 2015, and ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on such date. Ms. Bouchard assumed the role of Special Counsel until May 26, 2015, the effective date of her retirement from Health Net. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
- (6) Ms. Clarey ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on February 21, 2014.
- (7) Effective as of July 1, 2015, Ms. Mayhew stepped down from her role as Senior Vice President, Organization Effectiveness and ceased serving as an executive officer of Health Net on such date. Ms. Mayhew continued serving as an employee until August 15, 2015, the effective date of her retirement, and began serving as a consultant to Health Net on August 16, 2015 pursuant to the terms of a consulting agreement. Upon the closing of the merger, Ms. Mayhew will cease providing services as a consultant and will be eligible to receive a success fee of up to \$2,500,000. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.
- (8) Mr. Ortiz was named Senior Vice President, Organization Effectiveness and Chief People Officer of Health Net effective June 29, 2015.
- (9) Ms. Waters became Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Health Net on April 27, 2015.

Share Ownership

As of the close of business on September 22, 2015, the most recent practicable date for which such information was available, Health Net's current non-executive directors and executive officers beneficially owned in the aggregate

2,790,137 shares of Health Net common stock, or 2,953,857 shares of Health Net common stock giving effect to the receipt of shares thereby upon vesting of outstanding equity awards (which for purposes of awards to non-executive directors was calculated consistent with the discussion set forth under Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards , including footnote 1 to the table therein), in each case, without reduction for any cashless tax withholding of shares, representing approximately 3.55% (or 3.75% giving effect to such vesting of outstanding equity awards) of

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outstanding Health Net common stock. The numbers and percentages of Health Net common stock owned by Health Net's current non-executive directors and executive officers as of the record date are not expected to be meaningfully different from the numbers and percentages as of September 14, 2015. Additional details of the voting interests of certain of Health Net's non-executive directors and executive officers are described under "Security Ownership of Management" in Health Net's Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders filed with the SEC on March 26, 2015.

Indemnification and Insurance

The merger agreement provides that, for six years following the merger, Centene and the surviving corporation shall provide current and former non-executive directors and officers of Health Net with exculpation, indemnification and advancement of expenses no less favorable than currently provided by Health Net's Seventh Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, Eleventh Amended and Restated Bylaws or any agreement to which Health Net is a party. In addition, prior to the merger, Health Net will obtain and fully pay for, and, following the merger, Centene and the surviving corporation shall maintain in effect for not less than six years from the closing of the merger, directors' and officers' liability insurance and fiduciary liability insurance policies with benefits not materially more favorable than the existing policies maintained by Health Net for current and former officers and non-executive directors with respect to matters occurring at or prior to the closing of the merger; provided, however, that the surviving corporation shall not be required to pay any premium in excess of 250% of the annual premiums paid by Health Net for the existing policies in effect as of July 2, 2015 and may reduce the coverage provided to the maximum obtainable without paying in excess of such amount.

New Compensation Arrangements with Centene

As described under "Governance of Centene Following Completion of the Merger," the Centene Board will include as an independent director one of the current Health Net directors.

Any executive officers and directors who become officers, directors or employees or who otherwise are retained to provide services to Centene or the surviving corporation may enter into new individualized compensation arrangements and may participate in cash or equity incentive or other benefit plans maintained by Centene or the surviving corporation. As of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, no compensation arrangements between such persons and Centene and/or its affiliates have been established.

Golden Parachute Compensation Table

The following tables set forth the information required by Item 402(t) of Regulation S-K regarding the compensation for each of the named executive officers (which we refer to as NEOs) of Health Net (i) that is based on or otherwise becomes payable immediately prior to, or upon the effectiveness of, the merger, assuming the closing of the merger occurred on September 14, 2015, which is the latest practicable date prior to the filing of this proxy statement, and (ii) that becomes payable upon the termination of employment of such NEO if such termination is a Qualifying Termination and occurs immediately after the closing of the merger, which reported amounts include such amounts described in the preceding clause (i) payable in connection with the merger, as well as additional amounts payable in connection with the termination.

The payments described in the table below are made pursuant to the arrangements discussed in "Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger."

Table of Contents***Payments Upon a Change in Control Without a Qualifying Termination***

Name	Cash (1)	Equity (2)	Perquisites /		Other	Total
			Benefits (3)	Tax Reimbursement (4)		
Jay M. Gellert	\$	\$ 29,742,384	\$	\$	\$	\$ 29,742,384
James E. Woys	\$	\$ 13,188,107	\$	\$	\$	\$ 13,188,107
Juanell Hefner	\$	\$ 723,500	\$	\$	\$	\$ 723,500
Steven J. Sell	\$	\$ 633,063	\$	\$	\$	\$ 633,063
Steven D. Tough	\$	\$ 3,819,774	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,819,774
Joseph C. Capezza, CPA (5)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

- (1) Amounts shown reflect cash severance payments under the NEO's employment agreement, none of which are payable absent a Qualifying Termination.
- (2) Amounts shown reflect the value provided in respect of stock options, restricted stock units and performance share awards, as more fully described above under Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits Stock Options and Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards. The amount included for purposes of determining the value of stock options is the value set forth in the column entitled Value of Outstanding Options of the table under Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits Stock Options .
- (3) Amounts shown reflect continuation of health benefits and employer-paid COBRA premiums, none of which are payable absent a Qualifying Termination. The amounts associated with health benefits are calculated using 2015 enrollment rates and severance agreement terms.
- (4) Amounts shown reflect grandfathered excise tax gross-up benefits under the NEO's employment agreement.
- (5) Effective as of September 2, 2014, Mr. Capezza stepped down from his role as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Health Net and entered into a consulting agreement with Health Net as of September 3, 2014 to assist with the transition of his responsibilities and duties until December 31, 2014. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.

Payments included in the table set forth below assume that severance payments and benefits are provided under the NEO's applicable employment agreement rather than under the Change in Control Severance Plan.

Payments Upon a Change in Control and a Qualifying Termination

Name	Cash (1)	Equity (2)	Perquisites /		Other	Total
			Benefits (3)	Tax Reimbursement (4)		
Jay M. Gellert	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 49,202,165	\$	\$	\$	\$ 55,202,165
James E. Woys	\$ 2,363,514	\$ 21,471,638	\$ 126,015	\$	\$	\$ 23,961,167
Juanell Hefner	\$ 1,092,701	\$ 7,784,572	\$ 11,476	\$	\$	\$ 8,888,749
Steven J. Sell	\$ 1,114,608	\$ 4,341,274	\$ 64,496	\$	\$	\$ 5,520,378
Steven D. Tough	\$ 1,153,646	\$ 8,225,997	\$ 717,943	\$	\$	\$ 10,097,586
Joseph C. Capezza, CPA (5)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

- (1) Amounts shown reflect cash severance payments under the NEO's employment agreement.
- (2) Amounts shown reflect the value provided in respect of stock options, restricted stock units and performance share awards, as more fully described above under Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits Stock Options, Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards and Conversion of Certain Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards. The amount included for purposes of determining the value of stock options is the value set forth in the column entitled Value of Outstanding Options of the table under Accelerated Vesting of Certain Awards and Benefits Stock Options.
- (3) Amounts shown include continuation of health benefits and employer-paid COBRA premiums. The amounts associated with health benefits are calculated using 2015 enrollment rates and severance agreement terms.

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- (4) Amounts shown reflect grandfathered excise tax gross-up benefits under the NEO's employment agreement.
- (5) Effective as of September 2, 2014, Mr. Capezza stepped down from his role as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Health Net and entered into a consulting agreement with Health Net as of September 3, 2014 to assist with the transition of his responsibilities and duties until December 31, 2014. See Potential Severance Payments in Connection with the Merger.

Director and Officer Indemnification

Under the merger agreement, certain indemnification and insurance rights exist in favor of Health Net and its subsidiaries' current and former directors and officers. See The Merger Interests of Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger Indemnification and Insurance beginning on page 120 for information about these rights.

Accounting Treatment

Centene prepares its financial statements in accordance with GAAP. The transaction will be accounted for by applying the acquisition method in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 805, *Business Combinations*, or ASC 805, which requires the determination of the acquirer, the acquisition date, the fair value of assets and liabilities of the acquiree and the measurement of goodwill. The accounting guidance provides that in identifying the acquiring entity in a combination effected through an exchange of equity interests, all pertinent facts and circumstances must be considered, including the relative voting rights of the stockholders of the constituent companies in the combined entity, the composition of the board of directors and senior management of the surviving corporation, the relative size of each company and the terms of the exchange of equity securities in the business combination, including payment of any premium.

Based on the fact that current Centene Board members will represent a majority of the directors of the Centene Board immediately following completion of the transaction, Centene stockholders will own approximately 71% of the stock of the surviving corporation with Health Net stockholders receiving a premium (as of the date preceding the transaction announcement) over the fair market value of their shares on such date, as well as other terms of the transaction, Centene is considered to be the acquirer of Health Net for accounting purposes.

Accordingly, Centene will allocate the purchase price to the fair value of Health Net's assets and liabilities at the acquisition date. To the extent the net fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed is less than the purchase price, goodwill will be recognized for the difference. Currently, the preliminary purchase price allocation indicates that goodwill will be recognized because the preliminary net fair value of the assets to be acquired and liabilities to be assumed is less than the preliminary purchase price.

All unaudited pro forma condensed combined consolidated financial statements contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus were prepared using the acquisition method of accounting. The final allocation of the purchase price will be determined after the transaction is completed and after completion of an analysis to determine the estimated net fair value of Health Net's assets and liabilities. Accordingly, the final acquisition accounting adjustments may be materially different from the unaudited pro forma adjustments. Any decrease in the estimated net fair value of the assets and liabilities of Health Net as compared to the unaudited pro forma information included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus will have the effect of increasing the goodwill recognized related to the transaction.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger

To complete the merger, Centene and Health Net must obtain approvals or consents from, or make filings with, a number of United States federal, state and foreign antitrust, health care and insurance regulators and other regulatory authorities. We describe below the material United States federal, state and foreign approvals. In

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addition, either prior to or following the completion of the merger, Centene or Health Net will be required to make change of control notification filings with various state regulators pursuant to applicable insurance and health care laws and regulations. Centene and Health Net are not currently aware of any other material governmental consents, approvals or filings that are required prior to the parties' completion of the transaction other than those we describe below. If additional approvals, consents and filings are required to complete the transaction, Centene and Health Net intend to seek such consents and approvals and make such filings.

Centene and Health Net expect to complete the transaction by early 2016. Although Centene and Health Net believe that they will receive the required consents and approvals described below to complete the transaction, we cannot give any assurance as to the timing of these consents and approvals or as to Centene's and Health Net's ultimate ability to obtain such consents or approvals (or any additional consents or approvals which may otherwise become necessary) or that we will obtain such consents or approvals on terms and subject to conditions satisfactory to Centene and Health Net. The receipt of the regulatory approvals (as described hereinafter) is a condition to the obligation of each of Centene and Health Net to complete the merger. Additionally, receipt of such regulatory approvals without the imposition of, or any governmental authority seeking to impose, any Burdensome Condition is a condition to the obligation of Centene to complete the merger. For more information about the circumstances which may constitute Burdensome Conditions, see the section entitled "The Merger Agreement - Covenants and Agreements - Reasonable Best Efforts" beginning on page 150.

Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act

The merger is subject to the requirements of the HSR Act and the related rules and regulations, which provide that certain transactions may not be completed until required information has been furnished to the DOJ and the FTC and until certain waiting periods have been terminated, have expired or approval has been obtained. The HSR Act requires Centene and Health Net to observe a 30-day waiting period after the submission of their HSR filings before consummating their transaction, unless the waiting period is terminated early.

On July 17, 2015, each of Centene and Health Net filed a Notification and Report Form under the HSR Act with the DOJ and the FTC, which filings started the initial 30-day waiting period required by the HSR Act. On August 11, 2015, early termination of the waiting period under the HSR Act was granted by the FTC and the DOJ.

Other Regulatory Approvals

The merger requires approval (or non-objection, grant of exemption or, in certain circumstances, alternative resolution, as the case may be) from (i) state insurance regulators in the States of Arizona, California and Oregon for the change of control of Health Net's U.S. domiciled insurance company subsidiaries, (ii) the Department of Managed Health Care of the State of California with respect to the change of control for Health Net's Knox-Keene licensed health care service plan subsidiaries, (iii) the Health Care Cost Containment System of the State of Arizona with respect to a change in ownership for Health Net's Medicaid Acute Care Health Plan in the State of Arizona, (iv) the Department of Banking and Insurance of the State of New Jersey with respect to the material modification to Health Net's subsidiary licensed as an organized delivery system in the State of New Jersey and (v) the Insurance Department of the State of Texas with respect to the change of control of Health Net's subsidiary licensed as a third party administrator in Texas. In addition, the merger requires receipt of a response letter from the Department of Insurance of the State of Missouri confirming that the merger falls below the threshold requirements for filing a Form E (pre-acquisition notification form regarding the potential competitive impact of a proposed merger) in Missouri, as well as a grant of (public company) exemption from approval requirements for a change of control of Health Net's Cayman Islands domiciled insurance company subsidiaries from the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority. To obtain these approvals, Centene, or the applicable Health Net subsidiary, as the case may be, has filed acquisition of control

and material modification or similar statements, notices or applications, as required by the insurance and health care laws and regulations of each applicable state or jurisdiction. In addition, either prior to or following the completion of the merger, Centene or Health Net will be required to make change of

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control notification filings with various state regulators pursuant to applicable insurance and health care laws and regulations (none of which such notification filings are conditions to the completion of the merger). Although we expect that all required regulatory clearances and approvals will be obtained, we cannot assure you that these clearances and approvals will be timely obtained, obtained at all or that the granting of these regulatory clearances and approvals will not involve the imposition of additional conditions on the completion of the merger, including the requirement to divest assets or membership or requirements that may be considered a Burdensome Condition under the merger agreement, or require changes to the terms of the merger agreement. These conditions or changes could result in the conditions to the merger not being satisfied.

One or more governmental agencies may impose a condition, restriction, qualification, requirement or limitation when it grants the necessary approvals and consents. Third parties may also seek to intervene in the regulatory process or litigate to enjoin or overturn regulatory approvals, any of which actions could significantly impede or even preclude obtaining required regulatory approvals. There is currently no way to predict how long it will take to obtain all of the required regulatory approvals or whether such approvals will ultimately be obtained and there may be a substantial period of time between the approval by the stockholders of Centene or Health Net and the completion of the merger.

To date, the exemptions from regulators in Missouri and the Cayman Islands referenced above have been obtained.

Treatment of Health Net's Existing Debt; Financing

There is no financing condition to the merger and the merger is not conditioned upon the funding of the Financing, as described herein.

In connection with the merger, the parties intend to terminate Health Net's existing revolving credit facility. In addition, Health Net agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to cooperate with Centene to conduct the Consent Solicitation with respect to the 2017 Notes to obtain from the requisite holders thereof an agreement to amend the defined term "Change of Control" in the 2017 Notes to provide that that the merger will not constitute a "Change of Control." Health Net commenced such consent solicitation on August 3, 2015 and received the requisite consents on August 12, 2015. Following the receipt of the requisite consents, the amendments became effective on August 14, 2015.

Centene has agreed to pay or reimburse Health Net for financing the Consent Solicitation. Centene has obtained a commitment letter from Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, WF Investment Holdings, LLC, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Barclays Bank PLC, Citibank, N.A., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., SunTrust Bank, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., Fifth Third Bank, Regions Bank, Regions Capital Markets, a Division of Regions Bank, U.S. Bank, National Association, U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc., Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc. and The PrivateBank and Trust Company, which is referred to as the Financing Commitment, to fund up to \$1 billion under a new revolving credit facility and \$2.67 billion under a senior bridge facility to consummate the merger. The Financing is subject to customary conditions and will be unsecured. The Financing Commitments will terminate on the date that is the earlier of (a) consummation of the merger, (b) the termination of the merger agreement and (c) one business day after the "Outside Date," which is July 2, 2016.

Treatment of Health Net Stock Options and Other Stock-Based Awards

Stock Options

Upon completion of the merger, each outstanding Health Net stock option will be cancelled in exchange for:

A cash payment of \$28.25 for each share of Health Net common stock subject to the option, generally reduced by an amount of cash equal to any applicable withholding taxes; and

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A distribution of 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock for each share of Health Net common stock subject to the option, generally reduced by a number of shares of Centene common stock with a Centene stock value equal to the aggregate exercise price of the option.

If the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to a holder of Health Net stock options is not sufficient to cover the applicable withholding taxes, then the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. If the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to a holder of Health Net stock options is not sufficient to cover the option exercise price, then the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. Any fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth in The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders.

Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards

Upon completion of the merger:

Each outstanding Health Net restricted stock unit and performance share award that either (i) is vested in accordance with its vesting schedule as of the completion of the merger or (ii) becomes vested under its terms solely as a result of the completion of the merger will be cancelled in exchange for a cash payment per share subject to the award of \$28.25 and a distribution per share subject to the award of 0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock.

Any applicable withholding taxes resulting from this treatment of vested Health Net restricted stock units and performance share awards will be satisfied by reducing the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to the holder of the vested award, but if the amount of that cash is not sufficient to cover the applicable withholding taxes, then the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. Any fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth in The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders.

Each outstanding Health Net restricted stock unit and performance share award that is not vested in accordance with its vesting schedule as of the completion of the merger and does not otherwise become vested under its terms solely as a result of the completion of the merger will be converted into an award relating to a number of shares of Centene common stock (rounded down to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (i) the number of shares of Health Net common stock that were issuable upon the vesting of such award immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, multiplied by (ii) the rollover award exchange ratio, as described hereinafter, but will otherwise remain outstanding subject to the same terms and conditions (including time-based vesting conditions) as applied to the award immediately prior to the completion of the merger. However, any outstanding performance criteria relating to converted Health Net performance share awards will be deemed to have been achieved at the target level. The rollover award exchange ratio is equal to the sum of (x) 0.622 and (y) the quotient of (1) \$28.25 divided by (2) the Centene stock value.

Appraisal Rights

Centene Stockholders Appraisal Rights

Under Delaware law, Centene stockholders will not be entitled to any appraisal rights in connection with the merger, the subsequent merger or any other transactions described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Table of Contents***Health Net Stockholders Appraisal Rights***

Record holders of Health Net common stock who comply with the procedures summarized below will be entitled to appraisal rights if the merger is completed. Under Section 262 of the DGCL, which is referred to as Section 262, holders of shares of Health Net common stock with respect to which appraisal rights are properly demanded and perfected and not withdrawn or lost are entitled, in lieu of receiving the merger consideration, to have the fair value of their shares (exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger) at the effective time of the merger, which is referred to as the completion of the merger, judicially determined and paid to them in cash by complying with the provisions of Section 262. Health Net is required to send a notice to that effect to each stockholder not less than 20 days prior to the Health Net special meeting. This joint proxy statement/prospectus constitutes that notice to the record holders of Health Net common stock.

The following is a brief summary of Section 262, which sets forth the procedures for demanding statutory appraisal rights. This summary, however, is not a complete statement of the applicable requirements, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Section 262, a copy of the text of which is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex G. If you wish to consider exercising your appraisal rights, you should carefully review the text of Section 262 contained in Annex G. Failure to comply timely and properly with the requirements of Section 262 may result in the loss of your appraisal rights under the DGCL. The following summary does not constitute any legal or other advice nor does it constitute a recommendation that stockholders exercise their appraisal rights under Section 262.

Stockholders of record who desire to exercise their appraisal rights must do all of the following: (i) not vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement, (ii) deliver in the manner set forth below a written demand for appraisal of the stockholder's shares to the Secretary of Health Net before the vote on the adoption of the merger agreement at the Health Net special meeting, (iii) continuously hold the shares of record from the date of making the demand through completion of the merger and (iv) otherwise comply with the requirements of Section 262.

Only a holder of record of Health Net common stock is entitled to demand an appraisal of the shares registered in that holder's name. A demand for appraisal must be executed by or for the stockholder of record. The demand should set forth, fully and correctly, the stockholder's name as it appears on the certificates representing shares. If shares are owned of record in a fiduciary capacity, such as by a trustee, guardian or custodian, such demand must be executed by the fiduciary. If shares are owned of record by more than one person, as in a joint tenancy or tenancy in common, the demand must be executed by or on behalf of all joint owners. An authorized agent, including an agent of two or more joint owners, may execute the demand for appraisal for a stockholder of record; however, the agent must identify the record owner and expressly disclose that, in exercising the demand, the agent is acting as agent for the record owner.

A record owner, such as a broker, who holds shares as a nominee for others may exercise appraisal rights with respect to the shares held for all or less than all beneficial owners of shares as to which the holder is the record owner. In that case, the written demand must set forth the number of shares covered by the demand. Where the number of shares is not expressly stated, the demand will be presumed to cover all shares outstanding in the name of the record owner.

Beneficial owners who are not record owners and who intend to exercise appraisal rights should consult with the record owner to determine the appropriate procedures for having the record holder make a demand for appraisal with respect to the beneficial owner's shares. Any holder of shares held in street name who desires appraisal rights with respect to those shares must take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that a timely and proper demand for appraisal is made by the record owner of the shares. Shares held through brokerage firms, banks and other financial institutions are frequently deposited with and held of record in the name of a nominee of a central security depository, such as Cede & Co., The Depository Trust Company's nominee. A demand for appraisal with respect to such shares must be made by or on behalf of the depository nominee and it must identify

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the depository nominee as the record owner. Any beneficial holder of shares desiring appraisal rights with respect to such shares which are held through a brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution is responsible for ensuring that the demand for appraisal is made by the record holder.

As required by Section 262, a demand for appraisal must be in writing and must reasonably inform Health Net of the identity of the record holder (which might be a nominee as described above) and of such holder's intention to seek appraisal of the holder's shares.

Stockholders of record who elect to demand appraisal of their shares must mail or deliver their written demand to: Health Net, Inc., 21650 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, California 91367, Attention: Kathleen A. Waters, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. The written demand for appraisal should specify the stockholder's name and mailing address. The written demand must reasonably inform Health Net that the stockholder intends thereby to demand an appraisal of his, her or its shares. The written demand must be received by Health Net prior to the vote on the Merger proposal at the Health Net special meeting. Neither voting (in person or by proxy) against, abstaining from voting on or failing to vote on the adoption of the merger agreement will alone suffice to constitute a written demand for appraisal within the meaning of Section 262. In addition, the stockholder must not vote its shares of Health Net common stock in favor of adoption of the merger agreement. An executed proxy that does not contain voting instructions will, unless revoked, be voted in favor of adoption of the merger agreement and will cause the stockholder's right of appraisal to be lost. Therefore, a stockholder who desires to exercise appraisal rights should either (x) refrain from executing and submitting the enclosed proxy card or (y) vote by proxy against the adoption of the merger agreement or affirmatively register an abstention with respect thereto.

Within 120 days after completion of the merger, but not thereafter, either the surviving corporation in the merger or any stockholder who has timely and properly demanded appraisal of such stockholder's shares and who has complied with the requirements of Section 262 and is otherwise entitled to appraisal rights, or any beneficial owner for which a demand for appraisal has been properly made by the record holder, may commence an appraisal proceeding by filing a petition in the Delaware Court of Chancery, with a copy served on the surviving corporation in the case of a petition filed by a stockholder, demanding a determination of the fair value of the shares of all stockholders who have properly demanded appraisal. There is no present intent on the part of Health Net as the surviving corporation to file an appraisal petition and stockholders seeking to exercise appraisal rights should not assume that the surviving corporation will file such a petition or that the surviving corporation will initiate any negotiations with respect to the fair value of such shares. Accordingly, stockholders who desire to have their shares appraised should initiate any petitions necessary for the perfection of their appraisal rights within the time periods and in the manner prescribed in Section 262.

Within 120 days after completion of the merger, any stockholder who has complied with the applicable provisions of Section 262 will be entitled, upon written request, to receive from the surviving corporation a statement setting forth the aggregate number of shares of Health Net common stock not voting in favor of the merger and with respect to which demands for appraisal were received by the surviving corporation and the number of holders of such shares. A person who is the beneficial owner of shares held in a voting trust or by a nominee on behalf of such person may, in such person's own name, file a petition or request from the surviving corporation for the statement described in the previous sentence. Such statement must be mailed within 10 days after the written request therefor has been received by the surviving corporation.

If a petition for appraisal is duly filed by a Health Net stockholder and a copy of the petition is delivered to the surviving corporation, then the surviving corporation will be obligated, within 20 days after receiving service of a copy of the petition, to file with the Delaware Register in Chancery a duly verified list containing the names and addresses of all stockholders who have demanded an appraisal of their shares of Health Net common stock and with

whom agreements as to the value of their shares of Health Net common stock have not been reached. After notice to stockholders who have demanded appraisal, if such notice is ordered by the Delaware Court of Chancery, the Delaware Court of Chancery will conduct a hearing upon the petition and determine those

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stockholders who have complied with Section 262 and who have become entitled to appraisal rights. The Delaware Court of Chancery may require the stockholders who have demanded an appraisal for their shares and who hold stock represented by certificates to submit their certificates of stock to the Register in Chancery for notation thereon of the pendency of the appraisal proceedings; and if any stockholder fails to comply with such direction, the Delaware Court of Chancery may dismiss the proceedings as to such stockholder. Where proceedings are not dismissed, the appraisal proceeding will be conducted, as to the shares of Health Net common stock owned by such stockholders, in accordance with the rules of the Delaware Court of Chancery, including any rules specifically governing appraisal proceedings.

After a hearing on such petition, the Delaware Court of Chancery will determine which stockholders are entitled to appraisal rights and thereafter will appraise the shares owned by those stockholders, determining the fair value of the shares exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger, together with interest to be paid, if any, upon the amount determined to be the fair value. Unless the Delaware Court of Chancery in its discretion determines otherwise for good cause shown, interest from the date the merger is completed through the date of payment of the judgment will be compounded quarterly and will accrue at 5% over the Federal Reserve discount rate (including any surcharges) as established from time to time during the period between the date the merger is completed and the date of payment of the judgment. In determining fair value, the Delaware Court of Chancery is to take into account all relevant factors. In *Weinberger v. UOP, Inc., et al.*, the Delaware Supreme Court stated that proof of value by any techniques or methods which are generally considered acceptable in the financial community and otherwise admissible in court should be considered in an appraisal proceeding and that [f]air price obviously requires consideration of all relevant factors involving the value of a company. The Delaware Supreme Court has stated that in making this determination of fair value the court must consider market value, asset value, dividends, earnings prospects, the nature of the enterprise and any other facts which could be ascertained as of the date of the merger which throw any light on future prospects of the merged corporation. Section 262 provides that fair value is to be determined exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger. In *Cede & Co. v. Technicolor, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court stated that such exclusion is a narrow exclusion [that] does not encompass known elements of value, but which rather applies only to the speculative elements of value arising from such accomplishment or expectation. In *Weinberger*, the Delaware Supreme Court construed Section 262 to mean that elements of future value, including the nature of the enterprise, which are known or susceptible of proof as of the date of the merger and not the product of speculation, may be considered.

Stockholders considering seeking appraisal should bear in mind that the fair value of their shares determined under Section 262 could be more than, the same as, or less than the merger consideration they are entitled to receive pursuant to the merger agreement if they do not seek appraisal of their shares, and that opinions of investment banking firms as to the fairness from a financial point of view of the consideration payable in a transaction are not opinions as to fair value under Section 262. Each of Centene and Health Net reserves the right to assert, in any appraisal proceeding, that for purposes of Section 262, the fair value of a share of Health Net common stock is less than the applicable merger consideration.

The cost of the appraisal proceeding may be determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery and charged upon the parties as the Delaware Court of Chancery deems equitable in the circumstances. However, costs do not include attorneys' and expert witness fees. The Delaware Court of Chancery may order that all or a portion of the expenses incurred by such stockholder in connection with the appraisal proceeding, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and the fees and expenses of experts, be charged pro rata against the value of all shares entitled to appraisal. In the absence of such a determination of assessment, each party bears its own expenses.

From and after the date of completion of the merger, any stockholder who has duly demanded appraisal in compliance with Section 262 will not, after completion of the merger, be entitled to vote for any purpose any shares subject to

such demand or to receive payment of dividends or other distributions on such shares, except for dividends or distributions payable to stockholders of record at a date prior to completion of the merger.

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Within 10 days after the effective time of the merger, the surviving corporation must give notice of the date that the merger became effective to each of Health Net's stockholders who has properly filed a written demand for appraisal, who did not vote in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and who has otherwise complied with Section 262. At any time within 60 days after completion of the merger, any stockholder who has demanded appraisal and who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined that proceeding as a named party will have the right to withdraw such stockholder's demand for appraisal and to accept the cash and Centene common stock to which the stockholder is entitled pursuant to the merger. After this period, the stockholder may withdraw such stockholder's demand for appraisal only with the written approval of the surviving corporation. If no petition for appraisal is filed with the Delaware Court of Chancery within 120 days after completion of the merger, stockholders' rights to appraisal will cease and all stockholders will be entitled only to receive the merger consideration as provided for in the merger agreement. No petition timely filed in the Delaware Court of Chancery demanding appraisal will be dismissed as to any stockholders without the approval of the Delaware Court of Chancery, and that approval may be conditioned upon such terms as the Delaware Court of Chancery deems just. However, the preceding sentence will not affect the right of any stockholder who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined the proceeding as a named party to withdraw such stockholder's demand for appraisal and to accept the terms offered upon the merger within 60 days after completion of the merger.

The foregoing is a brief summary of Section 262 that sets forth the procedures for demanding statutory appraisal rights. This summary, however, is not a complete statement of all applicable requirements and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Section 262, a copy of the text of which is attached as Annex G to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Failure to comply strictly with all the procedures set forth in Section 262 may result in the loss of a stockholder's statutory appraisal rights. Consequently, if you wish to exercise your appraisal rights, you are strongly urged to consult a legal advisor before attempting to exercise your appraisal rights.

NYSE Listing of Centene Common Stock; Delisting and Deregistration of Health Net Common Stock

Prior to the completion of the merger, Centene has agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to cause the shares of Centene common stock to be issued in the merger to be approved for listing on the NYSE subject to official notice of issuance. The listing of the shares of Centene common stock is also a condition to completion of the merger.

If the merger is completed, Health Net common stock will cease to be listed on the NYSE and Health Net common stock will be deregistered under the Exchange Act.

Litigation Relating to the Merger

In connection with the merger, two purported Health Net stockholders filed two putative class action lawsuits in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware seeking to enjoin the merger, and other relief. The lawsuits are captioned *Larkin v. Gellert et al.*, C.A. No. 11349-VCL (Del. Ch.) and *Sachs Investment Group v. Health Net, Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 11385-VCL (Del. Ch.). The defendants in the lawsuits are Health Net, Centene, the Merger Subs and the members of the Health Net Board. On August 31, 2015, the Court entered an order consolidating the two actions as *In re Health Net, Inc. Stockholders Litigation*, Consol. C.A. No. 11349-VCL, and appointing lead counsel for the consolidated action. On September 1, 2015, plaintiffs in the consolidated action filed a consolidated amended complaint. The amended complaint alleges, among other things, that the merger consideration is inadequate, that the process culminating in the merger was flawed, that the directors of Health Net breached their fiduciary duties in connection with the merger, and that Centene and the Merger Subs aided and abetted the breaches of fiduciary duty. The amended complaint also alleges that the Form S-4 Registration Statement filed on August 19, 2015 contains

material misstatements and omits material information. The defendants have not yet responded to the amended complaint.

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U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following is a general discussion of the principal U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger and the subsequent merger (collectively, the mergers) to U.S. holders (as defined below) of Health Net common stock that exchange their Health Net common stock for Centene common stock and cash in the merger.

This discussion is based upon the Code, U.S. Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code and court and administrative rulings and decisions, all as in effect on the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. These authorities may change, possibly retroactively, or be subject to differing interpretations, and any such change or differing interpretation could affect the accuracy of the statements and conclusions set forth in this discussion.

This discussion addresses only those U.S. holders of Health Net common stock that hold their Health Net common stock as a capital asset (generally, property held for investment) within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code. This discussion is not a complete description of all of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the mergers and, in particular, does not address any tax consequences arising under the unearned income Medicare contribution tax enacted pursuant to the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, nor does it address any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. jurisdiction, or under any U.S. federal laws other than those pertaining to the income tax. Further, this discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to you in light of your individual circumstances or that may be applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, including if you are:

a financial institution;

a tax-exempt organization;

a real estate investment trust or real estate mortgage investment conduit;

a partnership, S corporation or other pass-through entity (or an investor in a partnership, S corporation or other pass-through entity);

an insurance company;

a regulated investment company or a mutual fund;

a dealer or broker in stocks and securities, or currencies;

a trader in securities that elects mark-to-market treatment;

a holder of shares of Health Net common stock subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code;

a holder of shares of Health Net common stock that received Health Net common stock through the exercise of an employee stock option, through a tax qualified retirement plan or otherwise as compensation;

a holder of shares of Health Net common stock that has a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar;

a holder of shares of Health Net common stock that holds Health Net common stock as part of a hedge, straddle, constructive sale, conversion or other integrated transaction; or

a U.S. expatriate.

For purposes of this discussion, the term "U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of shares of Health Net common stock that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (1) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (2) a corporation organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia, (3) a trust if (a) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of

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the trust or (b) such trust has made a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or (4) an estate, the income of which is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source.

If an entity or an arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds shares of Health Net common stock, the U.S. federal income tax consequences to a partner in such partnership (or owner of such entity) generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership (or entity). Any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes that holds shares of Health Net common stock, and any partners in such partnership, should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of the mergers in their specific circumstances.

The tax consequences of the mergers will depend on your specific situation. You should consult your own tax advisor as to the tax consequences of the mergers in your particular circumstances, including the applicability and effect of the alternative minimum tax and any state, local, non-U.S. or other tax laws and of changes in those laws.

Tax Consequences of the Mergers

Centene and Health Net intend for the mergers, taken together, to be treated as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The completion of the subsequent merger is conditioned on Health Net receiving an opinion from its counsel, Morgan Lewis, with a copy delivered to Centene, to the effect that the mergers, taken together, will constitute a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, it is not a condition to either party's obligation to complete the merger that Health Net receive such opinion or that the mergers, taken together, be treated as a reorganization. If Morgan Lewis does not deliver such opinion, then the subsequent merger will not occur, and the merger will be a taxable transaction as described under Tax Consequences if the Subsequent Merger Does Not Occur or the Mergers Do Not Qualify as a Reorganization Described in Section 368(a) of the Code. If the opinion is delivered, it will be based, and the discussion under Tax Consequences if the Subsequent Merger Occurs and the Mergers Qualify as a Reorganization Described in Section 368(a) of the Code is based, on the facts, representations, warranties and covenants contained in representation letters to be provided by Centene and Health Net to Morgan Lewis, and on customary factual assumptions set forth in Morgan Lewis' opinion. The opinion of Morgan Lewis, if delivered, will not be binding on the Internal Revenue Service or any court. Health Net and Centene have not sought and will not seek any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service regarding any matters relating to the mergers and, as a result, there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the conclusions set forth below.

Tax Consequences if the Subsequent Merger Occurs and the Mergers Qualify as a Reorganization Described in Section 368(a) of the Code

If the opinion of Morgan Lewis is delivered and the subsequent merger occurs, the merger and the subsequent merger, taken together, are intended to qualify as a reorganization described in Section 368(a) of the Code for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming that the merger and the subsequent merger, together, are so treated, the principal U.S. federal income tax consequences of the mergers to U.S. Holders of Health Net common stock will be as follows:

A U.S. holder will recognize gain (but not loss) in an amount equal to the lesser of: (i) the amount, if any, by which the sum of the cash and the fair market value of the Centene common stock received by such U.S.

holder exceeds such U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in such U.S. holder's shares of Health Net common stock exchanged therefor and (ii) the amount of cash received by such U.S. holder. Such gain will be capital gain (except for gain treated as a dividend, as discussed below) and will be long-term capital gain if the U.S. holder's holding period in the Health Net common stock surrendered exceeds one year at the effective time of the merger.

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The aggregate tax basis of the Centene common stock received by a U.S. holder in the merger (including any fractional share deemed received and exchanged for cash, as discussed below) will be the same as the aggregate adjusted tax basis of such U.S. holder's Health Net common stock exchanged therefor, decreased by the cash received (but excluding any cash received in lieu of a fractional share of Centene common stock) and increased by the amount of any gain recognized by the holder (but excluding any gain resulting from the deemed receipt and redemption of a fractional share of Centene common stock, as discussed below).

A U.S. holder's holding period in the Centene common stock received (including a fractional share of Centene common stock deemed to be received) will include the holding period of the shares of Health Net common stock exchanged for such Centene common stock.

If a U.S. holder acquired Health Net common stock at different times or at different prices, any gain or loss realized will be determined separately with respect to each block of Health Net common stock, and a loss realized (but not recognized) on the exchange of one block of Health Net common stock cannot be used to offset a gain realized on the exchange of another block of Health Net common stock. Any such holder should consult its own tax advisor regarding the manner in which cash and Centene common stock received pursuant to the merger should be allocated among different blocks of Health Net common stock and with respect to identifying the bases or holding periods of particular Centene common stock received in the merger.

A U.S. holder who receives cash instead of a fractional share of Centene common stock generally will be treated as having received such fractional share, and then as having received such cash in redemption of the fractional share. Gain or loss generally will be recognized based on the difference between the amount of such cash received and the portion of the U.S. holder's aggregate adjusted tax basis of its Health Net common stock surrendered allocable to the fractional share. Such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss (except for gain treated as a dividend, as discussed below) and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period in the fractional share of Centene common stock deemed to be received exceeds one year at the effective time of the merger.

Under certain circumstances, cash received by a U.S. holder that is also the beneficial owner of Centene common stock may be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, the determination of whether any gain recognized will be treated as capital gain or has the effect of a distribution of a dividend depends upon whether and to what extent the exchange reduces the U.S. holder's deemed percentage stock ownership of Centene (as calculated for U.S. federal income tax purposes). In general, such treatment generally will not apply to a stockholder in a publicly held corporation, such as Centene, whose relative stock interest is minimal and who exercises no control with respect to corporate affairs. These rules are complex and depend upon the specific factual circumstances particular to each U.S. holder. Consequently, each U.S. holder that may be subject to these rules should consult its tax advisor as to the application of these rules to its particular facts.

A U.S. holder may be required to retain records related to such holder's Health Net common stock and file with its U.S. federal income tax return for the taxable year that includes the mergers a statement setting forth certain facts relating to the mergers.

Tax Consequences if the Subsequent Merger Does Not Occur or the Mergers Do Not Qualify as a Reorganization Described in Section 368(a) of the Code

If the subsequent merger does not occur, or if the merger and the subsequent merger, taken together, do not qualify as a reorganization described in Section 368(a) of the Code for U.S. federal income tax purposes, then a U.S. holder of shares of Health Net common stock that exchanges such shares of Health Net common stock for Centene common stock and cash generally will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between (i) the sum of the cash

(including any cash received in lieu of a fractional share of Centene common stock) and the fair market value of the shares of Centene common stock actually received by such U.S. holder and (ii) such

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U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the Health Net common stock exchanged therefor. Gain or loss must be calculated separately for each block of Centene common stock exchanged by such U.S. holder if such blocks were acquired at different times or for different prices. Any gain or loss so recognized will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period in a particular block of Health Net common stock exceeds one year at the effective time of the merger. A U.S. holder's aggregate tax basis in the Centene common stock received in the merger will equal the fair market value of such shares of Centene common stock as of the effective time of the merger, and the holding period of such Centene common stock will begin on the date after the merger.

Backup Withholding

If you are a non-corporate holder of Health Net common stock you may be subject, under certain circumstances, to backup withholding (currently at a rate of 28%) on any cash payments you receive in the merger. You generally will not be subject to backup withholding if you:

furnish a correct taxpayer identification number, certify that you are not subject to backup withholding on the Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 or successor form (or appropriate substitute) included in the election form/letter of transmittal you will receive and otherwise comply with all the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules; or

provide proof acceptable to Centene or the exchange agent, as applicable, that you are otherwise exempt from backup withholding.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules are not an additional tax and will generally be allowed as a refund or credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided you timely furnish the required information to the Internal Revenue Service.

Holders of Health Net common stock are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of the mergers in their particular circumstances, including the applicability and effect of the alternative minimum tax and any state, local, non-U.S. or other tax laws and of changes in those laws.

Restrictions on Sales of Shares of Centene Common Stock Received in the Merger

All shares of Centene common stock received by Health Net stockholders in the merger will be freely tradable for purposes of the Securities Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which is referred to as the Exchange Act, except for shares of Centene common stock received by any Health Net stockholder who becomes an affiliate of Centene after completion of the merger (such as Health Net directors or executive officers who become directors or executive officers of Centene after the merger). This joint proxy statement/prospectus does not cover resales of shares of Centene common stock received by any person upon completion of the merger, and no person is authorized to make any use of this joint proxy statement/prospectus in connection with any resale.

Table of Contents**THE MERGER AGREEMENT**

This section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus describes the material provisions of the merger agreement, but does not describe all of the terms of the merger agreement and may not contain all of the information about the merger agreement that is important to you. The following summary is qualified by reference to the complete text of the merger agreement, which is attached as Annex A to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and incorporated by reference herein. The rights and obligations of Centene, Health Net, and the Merger Subs, are governed by the express terms and conditions of the merger agreement and not by this summary or any of the other information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You are urged to read the full text of the merger agreement because it is the legal document that governs the merger.

The merger agreement, the Centene Voting Agreement and the Health Net Voting Agreement contain representations, warranties and covenants by each of the parties to the respective agreements, which were made only for purposes of the respective agreement, as of specified dates. The representations, warranties and covenants in each respective agreement were made solely for the benefit of the parties to such agreement; may be subject to limitations agreed upon by the contracting parties, including being qualified by confidential disclosures made for the purposes of allocating contractual risk between the parties to such agreement instead of establishing these matters as facts; and may be subject to standards of materiality applicable to the contracting parties that differ from those applicable to investors. Investors should not rely on representations, warranties and covenants or any descriptions thereof as characterizations of the actual state of facts or condition of Centene, Merger Sub I, Merger Sub II, Health Net or any of their respective subsidiaries or affiliates. Investors are not entitled to rely on the representations and warranties, which are only for the benefit of the parties to the respective agreements. Moreover, information concerning the subject matter of the representations, warranties and covenants may change after the date of each such agreement, which subsequent information may or may not be fully reflected in Centene's or Health Net's public disclosures. Each such agreement should not be read alone, but should instead be read in conjunction with the other information regarding the respective agreement, the mergers, Centene, Health Net and their respective affiliates and businesses, which is contained in or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, as well as in the Forms 10-K, Forms 10-Q and other filings that each of Centene and Health Net have made or will make with the SEC.

Structure of the Merger

The merger agreement provides, upon the terms and subject to the conditions thereof, for two mergers involving Health Net. First, Merger Sub I will merge with and into Health Net, with Health Net surviving the merger as the surviving corporation and as a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Centene. Immediately following the completion of the merger, and contingent upon Health Net's receipt before the effective time of the merger of an opinion from Morgan Lewis, its outside legal counsel, that the mergers will constitute a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Code, Health Net, as the surviving corporation, will merge with and into Merger Sub II, with Merger Sub II surviving the subsequent merger as the surviving corporation, and will be named Health Net, Inc. As used herein, surviving corporation means Health Net following the merger or Merger Sub II following the subsequent merger.

Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders

At the effective time of the merger, each outstanding share of Health Net common stock (other than (i) shares of Health Net that are owned, directly or indirectly, by Centene, Health Net (including as treasury stock), Merger Sub I or Merger Sub II that will be cancelled upon completion of the merger, (ii) shares underlying Health Net stock options, restricted stock units or performance share awards and (iii) shares with respect to which appraisal rights are properly exercised and not withdrawn, which we collectively refer to as the Health Net excluded shares), will be converted into the following, which is referred to as the merger consideration:

the right to receive \$28.25 in cash, without interest, and

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0.622 of a validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable share of Centene common stock, provided, that Health Net stockholders will not receive any fractional shares of Centene common stock and will instead receive cash in lieu of any such fractional shares in an amount, without interest, rounded down to the nearest cent, equal to the product of (A) the amount of fractional share interest in Centene common stock to which the holder would otherwise be entitled and (B) the Centene stock value.

Treatment of Health Net Stock Options and Other Stock-Based Awards

Health Net Stock Options

Each Health Net stock option that is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, whether or not vested or exercisable, will be cancelled at the effective time of the merger and automatically converted into the right to promptly receive the following:

an amount of cash equal to the product of (i) the number of shares of Health Net common stock subject to the Health Net stock option and (ii) \$28.25, less any applicable withholding taxes, and

a number of shares of Centene common stock equal to (i) the product of (x) the number of shares of Health Net common stock subject to the Health Net stock option and (y) 0.622, less (ii) a number of shares of Centene common stock with a Centene stock value that is equal to the aggregate exercise price of the Health Net stock option, which is referred to as the option exercise price.

If the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to a holder of Health Net stock options is not sufficient to cover the applicable withholding taxes, then the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. If the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to a holder of Health Net stock options is not sufficient to cover the option exercise price, then the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. Any resulting fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth above in The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders.

Health Net Restricted Stock Units and Performance Share Awards

Each time-based Health Net restricted stock unit granted under a Health Net stock plan, which is referred to as a restricted stock unit, and each performance share award granted under a Health Net stock plan, which is referred to as a performance share award, that is outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger and either (i) is vested as of immediately prior to the effective time of the merger in accordance with the vesting schedule as in effect on the date of the merger agreement or (ii) becomes vested solely as a result of the consummation of the merger as a result of a non-discretionary vesting acceleration provision contained therein as of the date of the merger agreement, in each case which is referred to as a vested award, will be cancelled at the effective time of the merger and automatically converted into the right to receive the merger consideration. Any applicable withholding taxes resulting from this treatment will be satisfied by reducing the amount of cash that would otherwise be provided to the holder of the vested award, but if the amount of that cash is not sufficient to cover the applicable withholding taxes, then the number of shares of Centene common stock that would otherwise be provided to the holder will be reduced to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. Any resulting fractional shares of Centene common stock will be treated as set forth above in The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Received by Health Net Stockholders.

As of the effective time of the merger, each restricted stock unit and performance share award that does not qualify as a vested award, which is referred to as a rollover award, will continue to have, and be subject to, the same terms and conditions (including the vesting schedule) as were applicable to the corresponding rollover award immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, except that (i) each rollover award will relate to that number of shares of Centene common stock (rounded down to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of

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(x) the number of shares of Health Net common stock that were issuable upon the vesting of such rollover award immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, multiplied by (y) the rollover award exchange ratio, as described hereinafter, and (ii) the number of shares of Health Net common stock subject to any grant of rollover awards that are performance share awards for which the achievement of the outstanding performance criteria has not occurred in accordance with the terms thereof prior to the effective time of the merger shall be equal to the number of such shares that would be issued upon achievement of the outstanding performance metrics at the target level (and such rollover award will not be subject to any performance metrics). The rollover award exchange ratio is the sum of (1) 0.622 and (2) the quotient of (x) \$28.25 divided by (y) the Centene stock value.

Closing

Unless another date, time or place is agreed to in writing by Centene and Health Net, the closing of the merger and, if applicable, the second merger, will occur on the later of (i) the third business day after satisfaction (or waiver to the extent legally permissible) of the closing conditions set forth in the merger agreement (except for any conditions that by their nature can only be satisfied on the closing date, but subject to the satisfaction or waiver of such conditions) and (ii) the earlier of (a) the date during the marketing period (described below under Marketing Period) to be specified by Centene on no less than two business days notice to Health Net and (b) the first business day following the final day of the marketing period.

Marketing Period

The marketing period referred to above is the first period of 15 consecutive business days after the date of the merger agreement throughout which (i) Centene has received certain required financial information from Health Net related to financing the merger, which is referred to as the required information, and (ii) the conditions to Centene's obligation to complete the merger (other than the condition to receive the Centene Stockholder Approval and the Health Net Stockholder Approval) have been satisfied (except for any conditions that by their nature can only be satisfied on the closing date, but subject to the satisfaction (or waiver to the extent legally permissible) of such conditions) and nothing has occurred and no condition or state of facts exists that would cause any of the conditions to Centene's obligation to complete the merger to fail to be satisfied assuming the closing were to be scheduled for any time during such 15 business day period. If the financial statements included in the required information on the first day of such 15 business day period would not be sufficiently current at any point during such period to permit (A) a registration statement filed by Health Net using such financial statements to be declared effective by the SEC on the last day of such 15 business day period and (B) Health Net's independent auditors to issue a customary comfort letter (in accordance with its normal practices and procedures) on the last day of such 15 consecutive business day period, then a new 15 consecutive business day period will commence upon Centene receiving updated required information that would be sufficiently current to permit such actions on the last day of such 15 business day period. For purposes of the merger agreement, documents with the required information complying with clauses (A) and (B) above are compliant documents.

Additionally, the marketing period will be deemed not to have commenced if (i) before the end of the 15 consecutive business day period, Health Net's independent auditors withdraw its audit opinion with regard to any of the financial statements included in the required information, in which case the marketing period will be deemed not to have commenced unless and until a new unqualified audit opinion with regard to such required information is issued either by such auditors or another big four accounting firm or other independent public accounting firm reasonably acceptable to Centene, (ii) Health Net shall have publicly announced any intention to restate any material financial information included in the required information or that any such restatement is under consideration or may be a possibility, in which case the marketing period will be deemed not to have commenced unless and until such restatement has been completed and Health Net's filings with the SEC have been amended or Health Net has

determined that no restatement shall be required under GAAP or (iii) Health Net is late in filing any material report with the SEC required under the Exchange Act, in which case the marketing period shall be deemed not to have commenced at the earliest until such delinquency is cured. Further, (A) if the

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15 consecutive business day period has not ended on or before August 21, 2015, it shall not commence before September 8, 2015, (B) such period shall not be required to be consecutive to the extent it would include any date from November 26, 2015 through and including November 29, 2015, (which dates will not count for purposes of the 15 business day period), (C) if such period has not ended on or before December 22, 2015, it shall not commence before January 4, 2016 and (D) in no event shall the marketing period extend beyond July 2, 2016.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, (i) the marketing period will end on any earlier date on which proceeds of financing in connection with the merger are obtained and are sufficient to complete the merger and (ii) whether or not commenced, if the final day of the marketing period would otherwise be later than June 29, 2016, then the final day of the Marketing Period shall be deemed to be June 29, 2016.

Effective Time

The merger will become effective at the time the certificate of merger has been duly filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware or at such other time agreed upon by Centene and Health Net and specified in the certificate of merger.

Conversion of Shares; Exchange of Certificates; No Fractional Shares

Conversion and Exchange of Health Net Common Stock

The conversion of shares of Health Net common stock, other than the Health Net excluded shares, into the right to receive the merger consideration will occur automatically at the effective time of the merger. As soon as reasonably practicable after the effective time of the merger, Centene's exchange agent will mail a letter of transmittal to each holder of record of a certificate (representing shares of Health Net common stock) whose shares of Health Net common stock were converted into the right to receive the merger consideration. The letter of transmittal will specify that delivery will be effected and that risk of loss and title to such certificates will pass, only upon delivery of such certificates to the exchange agent. The letter of transmittal will be accompanied by instructions for surrendering such certificates in exchange for the merger consideration, any dividends or distributions payable pursuant to the merger agreement and cash in lieu of any fractional shares of Centene common stock. No interest will be paid or will accrue on any cash payable upon surrender of a certificate. Health Net stockholders should not return stock certificates with the enclosed proxy card.

After the effective time of the merger, shares of Health Net common stock will no longer be outstanding and will cease to exist, until surrendered, and each certificate that previously represented shares of Health Net common stock will represent only the right to receive the merger consideration as described above and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the merger agreement.

Until holders of certificates previously representing Health Net common stock have surrendered their certificates to the exchange agent for exchange, such holders will not receive dividends or distributions on the shares of Centene common stock into which those shares have been converted with a record date after the effective time of the merger. Subject to applicable law, when holders surrender their certificates, they will receive any dividends on shares of Centene common stock they receive as merger consideration with a record date after the effective time of the merger and a payment date on or prior to the date of such delivery, without interest.

Any holder of book entry shares will not be required to deliver a certificate or an executed letter of transmittal to the exchange agent to receive the merger consideration that such holder is entitled to receive pursuant to the merger agreement. In lieu thereof, each holder of record of book entry shares whose shares of Health Net common stock will

be converted into the right to receive the merger consideration shall automatically, upon the effective time of the merger, be entitled to receive, and Centene shall cause the exchange agent to pay and deliver as promptly as practicable after the effective time of the merger, the merger consideration, any dividends or distributions payable pursuant to the merger agreement and cash in lieu of any

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fractional shares of Centene common stock. The book entry shares of Health Net common stock held by such holder will be cancelled. No interest shall be paid or accrue on any cash payable upon conversion of any book entry shares.

Subject to applicable law, when holders of book entry shares exchange such shares for Centene common stock, they will receive any dividends or other distributions on such shares of Centene common stock with a record date after the effective time of the merger but prior to delivery of such Centene common stock by the exchange agent and a payment date on or prior to the date of such delivery, without interest.

Health Net stockholders will not receive any fractional shares of Centene common stock pursuant to the merger. Instead of receiving any fractional shares, each holder of Health Net common stock will be paid an amount in cash, without interest, rounded down to the nearest cent, equal to the product of (i) the amount of the fractional share interest in a share of Centene common stock to which such holder would otherwise be entitled (rounded to three decimal places) and (ii) the Centene stock value.

Centene, Health Net, Merger Sub I, Merger Sub II or the exchange agent will be entitled to deduct and withhold from the consideration otherwise payable to any person under the merger agreement any amounts required to be deducted and withheld under the Code, or under any provision of state, local or foreign tax law.

All shares of Centene common stock issued pursuant to the merger agreement will be issued in book entry form unless a physical certificate is requested.

Designation of Director

Centene and Health Net have agreed to take all actions necessary to provide that as of immediately following the closing, the Centene Board will have appointed one individual who was a member of the Health Net Board as of July 2, 2015 and who, as of July 2, 2015, qualified as an independent director under the NYSE rules. Such individual will be designated by Health Net and will be reasonably acceptable to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Centene Board to serve on the Centene Board.

Representations and Warranties

The merger agreement contains a number of representations and warranties made by the parties thereto that are subject in some cases to exceptions and qualifications (including exceptions that do not result in, and would not reasonably be expected to have, a material adverse effect). See the definition of material adverse effect beginning on page 139 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The representations and warranties in the merger agreement relate to, among other things:

due organization, valid existence, good standing and qualification to do business, and corporate power and authority;

capitalization and ownership of subsidiaries;

corporate authorization of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and the valid and binding nature of the merger agreement;

the unanimous approval and recommendation by such party's board of directors of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and the inapplicability of anti-takeover laws;

required consents and approvals from governmental entities;

the absence of any conflicts or violations of organizational documents and other agreements or laws;

SEC documents and financial statements;

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internal controls and disclosure controls and procedures relating to financial reporting;

absence of certain undisclosed liabilities;

conduct of its businesses in the ordinary course and the absence of a material adverse effect;

accuracy of information supplied or to be supplied in connection with this joint proxy statement/prospectus;

absence of certain legal proceedings, investigations and governmental orders;

compliance with applicable laws and governmental orders and corruption laws, filings with regulatory authorities, and compliance with insurance agreements and receipt of necessary approvals;

possession of and compliance with required permits necessary for the conduct of such party's business;

employee benefit plan and ERISA matters;

employment and labor matters;

environmental matters;

real property;

tax matters;

material contracts;

intellectual property;

health care regulatory matters, including compliance with applicable health care or insurance laws, compliance programs, governmental fines or sanctions, participation and compliance under certain governmental programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, corporate integrity agreements or similar agreements and governmental examination reports, regulated subsidiaries, and policies and premium rates;

related party transactions;

insurance policies;

brokers and transaction-related fees and expenses; and

opinions from financial advisors.

For Health Net, the merger agreement contains additional representations and warranties to the effect that the Health Net Board has taken all necessary actions to render the Health Net rights agreement inapplicable to the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Centene and the Merger Subs have also made certain representations and warranties relating to financing, the validity of the commitment letter and the sufficiency of the funds to be provided under the commitment letter.

Certain of the representations and warranties made by the parties are qualified as to knowledge, materiality or material adverse effect. For purposes of the merger agreement, material adverse effect, when used in reference to Centene or Health Net, means any event, change, effect, development, state of facts, condition, circumstance or occurrence that, individually or in the aggregate with all other events, changes, effects, developments, states of facts, conditions, circumstances and occurrences, (i) would, or would reasonably be expected to, prevent, materially delay or materially impede the ability of the referenced party to complete the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or (ii) is, or would reasonably be expected to be, materially adverse to the business, results of operations, properties, assets, liabilities, operations or financial condition of the referenced party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, except that, for purposes of the definition of material adverse effect, none of the following, and no event, change, effect, development, state of facts, condition,

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circumstance or occurrence resulting from the following shall be taken into account, either alone or in combination, in determining whether a material adverse effect has occurred:

any changes in general United States or global economic conditions, except to the extent, and only to the extent, that such changes have a materially disproportionate adverse effect on such party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to the adverse effect such changes have on other companies operating in the industries in which such party and its subsidiaries operate;

any changes in the general conditions of the health care, health insurance or managed care industry or any other industry in which such party or any of its subsidiaries operate, except to the extent, and only to the extent, that such changes have a materially disproportionate adverse effect on such party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to the adverse effect such changes have on other companies operating in the industries in which such party and its subsidiaries operate;

any decline in the market price or trading volume of the common stock of such party, in and of itself (it being understood that the underlying events, changes, effects, developments, states of facts, conditions, circumstances and occurrences giving rise to or contributing to such decline that are not otherwise excluded from the definition of material adverse effect may be deemed to constitute, or taken into account in determining whether there has been, a material adverse effect or whether a material adverse effect would be reasonably expected to occur);

any changes in regulatory, legislative or political conditions or in securities, credit, financial, debt or other capital markets, in each case in the United States or any foreign jurisdiction, except to the extent, and only to the extent, that such changes have a materially disproportionate adverse effect on such party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to the adverse effect such changes have on other companies operating in the industries in which such party and its subsidiaries operate;

any failure, in and of itself, by such party to meet any internal or published projections, forecasts, estimates or predictions in respect of revenues, earnings or other financial or operating metrics for any period (it being understood that the underlying events, changes, effects, developments, states of facts, conditions, circumstances and occurrences giving rise to or contributing to such failure that are not otherwise excluded from the definition of material adverse effect may be deemed to constitute, or taken into account in determining whether there has been, a material adverse effect or whether a material adverse effect would be reasonably expected to occur);

the execution and delivery of the merger agreement or the public announcement of the merger agreement, the mergers or any other transaction contemplated by the merger agreement, the taking of any action required or expressly contemplated by the merger agreement, or the failure to take any action expressly prohibited by the merger agreement (it being understood and agreed that the foregoing shall not apply with respect to any representation or warranty that is intended to address the consequences of the execution, delivery or performance of the merger agreement or the consummation of the transactions contemplated

thereby);

any adoption, implementation, promulgation, repeal, modification, amendment, reinterpretation, change or proposal of any applicable law of or by any governmental entity after the date of the merger agreement, except to the extent, and only to the extent, that such adoption, implementation, promulgation, repeal, modification, amendment, reinterpretation, change or proposal has a materially disproportionate adverse effect on such party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to the adverse effect such adoption, implementation, promulgation, repeal, modification, amendment, reinterpretation, change or proposal has on other companies operating in the industries in which such party and its subsidiaries operate

any change in applicable law or GAAP (or authoritative interpretations thereof), except to the extent, and only to the extent, that such change has a materially disproportionate adverse effect on such party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to the adverse effect such change has on other companies operating in the industries in which such party and its subsidiaries operate;

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any changes in geopolitical conditions, the outbreak or escalation of hostilities, any acts of war, sabotage or terrorism, or any escalation or worsening of any such acts of war, sabotage or terrorism, except to the extent, and only to the extent, that such changes or events have a materially disproportionate adverse effect on such party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to the adverse effect such changes or events have on other companies operating in the industries in which such party and its subsidiaries operate;

any taking of any action at the written request of or with the written consent of the other party;

any reduction in the credit rating of a such party or its subsidiaries (it being understood that the underlying events, changes, effects, developments, states of facts, conditions, circumstances and occurrences giving rise to or contributing to such reduction that are not otherwise excluded from the definition of material adverse effect may be deemed to constitute, or taken into account in determining whether there has been, a material adverse effect or whether a material adverse effect would be reasonably expected to occur);

any hurricane, earthquake, flood or other natural disasters, acts of God or any change resulting from weather conditions, except to the extent, and only to the extent, that such events have a materially disproportionate adverse effect on such party and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to the adverse effect such events have on other companies operating in the industries in which such party and its subsidiaries operate; or

any litigation or legal proceedings arising from allegations of a breach of fiduciary duty or violation of applicable law relating to the merger agreement or the mergers.

The representations and warranties of each of the parties to the merger agreement will expire upon the effective time of the merger.

Covenants and Agreements

Conduct of Business

Each of Centene and Health Net has agreed to certain covenants in the merger agreement restricting the conduct of its respective business between the date of the merger agreement and the effective time of the merger. In general, each of Centene and Health Net has agreed that it will and will cause its subsidiaries to:

conduct its business in all material respects in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice; and

to the extent consistent with the prior bullet, use commercially reasonable efforts to (i) preserve intact in all material respects its business organization, (ii) maintain in effect all necessary licenses, permits, consents, franchises, approvals and authorizations, (iii) keep available the services of its executive officers and key employees on commercially reasonable terms and (iv) maintain satisfactory relationships with its customers, lenders, suppliers and other persons having material business relationships with it and with governmental entities having jurisdiction over its business and operation.

Conduct of Business of Health Net

In addition, without limiting the generality of the foregoing covenants described above, Health Net has agreed that, prior to the completion of the merger or the termination of the merger agreement, unless Centene gives its prior written consent (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed except with respect to certain stock issuances and encumbrances, payment of dividends and incurrence of indebtedness) or as otherwise expressly contemplated or permitted by the merger agreement or as required by law or any governmental entity, it will not and will cause its subsidiaries not to:

in the case of Health Net, amend its charter or bylaws or other similar organizational documents (whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise) and, in the case of any subsidiary of Health Net,

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amend in any material respect its charter or bylaws or other similar organizational documents (whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise);

issue, sell, grant, dispose of, pledge or otherwise encumber, or authorize or propose the issuance, sale, disposition or pledge or other lien of (i) any shares of Health Net capital stock or any other securities of Health Net or its subsidiaries, or any rights, warrants, options, calls, restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, commitments or any other agreements of any character to purchase or acquire any Health Net capital stock or other securities of Health Net or its subsidiaries, or (ii) any other securities in respect of, in lieu of, or in substitution for, any shares of Health Net capital stock or other securities of Health Net or its subsidiaries outstanding on the date of the merger agreement, in each case other than the issuance of shares of Health Net common stock pursuant to the exercise of Health Net stock options and the vesting or distribution of restricted stock units or performance share awards that were outstanding as of the date of the merger agreement or pursuant to the exercise of Health Net stock options and the vesting or distribution of restricted stock units or performance share awards granted after the date of the merger agreement under the Health Net stock plans in accordance with the merger agreement, in either case in accordance with their terms on the date of the merger agreement (or on the date of grant, if later);

redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire, or propose to redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire, any outstanding shares of Health Net capital stock or other securities of Health Net or its subsidiaries (other than (i) to the extent required or permitted pursuant to the Health Net benefit plans or (ii) pursuant to the Health Net rights agreement), or split, combine, subdivide, consolidate or reclassify any shares of Health Net capital stock;

declare, set aside for payment or pay any dividend, or make any other actual, constructive or deemed distribution in respect of any shares of Health Net capital stock or other securities of Health Net or its subsidiaries or otherwise make any payments to its or their stockholders or other equity holders in their capacity as such, other than dividends and distributions by a direct or indirect wholly owned Health Net subsidiary to Health Net or to another direct or indirect wholly owned Health Net subsidiary;

other than borrowings under Health Net's credit facilities and other lines of credit in existence as of the date of the merger agreement, incur or otherwise acquire, or modify in any material respect the terms of, any indebtedness for borrowed money or assume, guarantee or endorse or otherwise become responsible for any such indebtedness of any person other than a wholly owned Health Net subsidiary, make any loans, advances or capital contributions to, or investments in, any other person other than a wholly owned Health Net subsidiary or issue or sell any debt securities or calls, options, warrants, or other rights to acquire any debt securities of Health Net or its subsidiaries, enter into any keep well or contract to maintain any financial statement condition of another person or enter into any arrangement (including any capital lease) having the economic effect of the foregoing; provided that no indebtedness incurred by Health Net or its subsidiaries shall have any voting rights;

redeem, repurchase, prepay, defease or cancel any indebtedness for borrowed money, other than (i) as required in accordance with its terms or expressly required by the merger agreement or (ii) in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

sell, transfer, lease, license, mortgage, pledge, encumber, allow to lapse, incur any lien on (other than a permitted lien), or otherwise dispose of, or agree to do any of the foregoing with respect to any of its material properties, assets, licenses, operations, rights, product lines, businesses or interests therein (including intellectual property) except (i) in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (ii) pursuant to contracts in force on the date of the merger agreement, (iii) such dispositions of assets no longer used in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice of Health Net's or the applicable subsidiary's business as conducted on the date of the merger agreement or (iv) such dispositions among Health Net and its subsidiaries;

other than (i) in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice or (ii) pursuant to capital expenditures otherwise permitted by the merger agreement covenants, make any acquisition of, or

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investment in, a business, by purchase of stock, securities or assets, or by merger, consolidation or contributions to capital, from any other person (other than such transactions among Health Net and its subsidiaries) with a value or purchase price in excess of \$1 million, in the aggregate, when taken with all other such ordinary course acquisitions or investments, or that would have any reasonable possibility of preventing or delaying the closing beyond July 2, 2016 or increasing the likelihood of a failure to satisfy the conditions that no order prohibiting the merger has been issued by a governmental entity and continues to be in effect, or that the applicable antitrust waiting periods have expired or have been terminated and the applicable governmental filings and consents have been made or obtained;

make or authorize any payment of, accrual or commitment for, capital expenditures in excess of (i) \$50 million in the aggregate with respect to the 2015 fiscal year, except those previously budgeted or (ii) \$8 million per month with respect to each month of the 2016 fiscal year;

other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, enter into, materially modify or terminate (except expirations in accordance with its terms) any contract that is or would be a material contract, or waive, release or assign any material rights or claims under such contract;

enter into, modify, amend, renew or terminate any contract or waive, release or assign any material rights or claims thereunder which would reasonably be expected to prevent or materially delay or impair the ability of Health Net and its subsidiaries to complete the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, impair in any material respect the ability of Health Net and its subsidiaries to conduct their business in the ordinary course consistent with past practice or adversely affect in a material respect the expected benefits of the mergers;

enter into any contracts containing non-compete or exclusivity provisions that would materially restrict or limit, in any respect, the operations of Health Net and its subsidiaries, or upon completion of the mergers, Centene or its subsidiaries (other than any contract with a governmental entity that, by its terms, limits the geographical areas in which Health Net or its subsidiaries may offer their services);

except as otherwise required pursuant to the terms of any Health Net compensation or benefit plan or applicable law, (i) increase the compensation or benefits provided to any current or former director, officer, employee or consultant; (ii) grant any director, officer, employee or consultant any increase in severance or termination pay; (iii) exercise any discretion to accelerate the vesting of or lapsing of restrictions with respect to, grant any new awards under, or amend any outstanding award under any Health Net stock plan; (iv) establish, adopt, enter into, terminate or amend any Health Net compensation or benefit plan, or establish, adopt or enter into any plan, agreement, program, policy, trust, fund or other arrangement that would be a Health Net compensation or benefit plan if it were in existence as of the date of the merger agreement, in either case, except for any such action that is in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and would not result in a material increase in the cost to Health Net and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole; (v) promote certain identified management employees or promote any employee to certain management positions; (vi) hire any employee whose annual compensation is reasonably expected to be in excess of \$100,000, except that Health Net will be permitted to hire up to 30 employees during 2015 and up to 20 employees during 2016, in each case, whose annual compensation is reasonably expected to be in

excess of \$100,000 and less than \$250,000; (vii) terminate certain identified management employees, other than for cause in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice; or (viii) fund or promise to fund (through a grantor trust or otherwise) any compensation or benefits payable or to be provided under any Health Net compensation or benefit plan;

adopt, enter into, modify, amend or terminate any collective bargaining agreement or similar agreement;

engage in any action, or fail to take any action, that could cause a partial or complete withdrawal, or could give rise to any material liability with respect to partial or complete withdrawal, pursuant to any multiemployer plan;

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except for certain security holder litigation subject to the provisions of the merger agreement, settle, or offer or propose to settle any litigation or other legal proceeding or dispute (i) where the amount paid in settlement or compromise is more than \$5,000,000 individually or \$10,000,000 in the aggregate greater than the amount expressly accrued for such matter in Health Net's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014, other than any settlements or waiver of rights in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice in connection with disputes relating to the processing and paying of claims to providers or (ii) which would include any material non-monetary relief that would materially restrict the operations of the business of Health Net or its subsidiaries after the closing date;

except as required by GAAP, applicable law or governmental entity, make any material change in financial accounting methods, principles or practices used by Health Net or any of its subsidiaries;

authorize or adopt, or publicly propose, a plan or agreement of complete or partial liquidation or dissolution of Health Net or any of its subsidiaries;

except as required by applicable law, (i) make or change any material tax election, (ii) file any material amended tax return, (iii) change any material tax accounting method, (iv) settle, compromise or surrender any material claim, action, suit, litigation, proceeding, arbitration, investigation, audit or controversy relating to taxes, in excess of the amount of accrued reserves in Health Net's financial statements with respect to such matter, (v) consent to any extension or waiver of any limitation period with respect to any claim or assessment for material taxes, (vi) surrender any material claim for a refund of taxes, or (vii) file any tax return that is inconsistent with past practice; or

agree, resolve or commit to take any of the foregoing summarized actions.

Conduct of Business of Centene

In addition, without limiting the generality of the foregoing covenants described above, Centene has also agreed that, prior to the completion of the merger or the termination of the merger agreement, unless Health Net gives its prior written consent (with such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed except with respect to amendment of organizational documents, certain stock issuances, or payment of dividends) or as otherwise expressly contemplated or permitted by the merger agreement or as required by law or any governmental entity, it will not and will cause its subsidiaries not to:

amend the certificates of incorporation, bylaws or other similar organizational documents (whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise) of Centene in a manner that (i) would be materially adverse to Health Net or its stockholders or (ii) would, or would reasonably be expected to, have the effect of delaying or preventing the consummation of the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

issue, sell or authorize the issuance or sale of Centene capital stock for a purchase price that is below its then fair market value;

issue, enter into a subscription agreement with respect to, or otherwise commit to be issued, Centene capital stock such that the number of authorized shares of Centene common stock that have not been issued, subscribed for, or otherwise committed to be issued is less than the number of shares of Centene common stock to be issued pursuant to the merger agreement (assuming no appraisal shares);

redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire, or propose to redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire, any outstanding shares of Centene capital stock or other securities of Centene (other than pursuant to Centene benefit plans or stock repurchase plans disclosed in Centene's SEC documents), or split, combine, subdivide, consolidate or reclassify any shares of Centene capital stock;

declare, set aside for payment or pay any dividend, or make any other actual, constructive or deemed distribution in respect of any shares of Centene capital stock, other than (i) dividends and distributions by a direct or indirect wholly owned Centene subsidiary to Centene or to another direct or indirect

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wholly owned Centene subsidiary, (ii) dividends and distributions of a Centene subsidiary required by the terms of any contracts existing on the date of the merger agreement (provided that Centene shall not exercise any right to cause an amendment to any such contract) and (iii) dividend equivalents that accrue pursuant to the terms of Centene equity or equity-related awards;

other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, make any acquisition of, or investment in, a business, by purchase of stock, securities or assets, or by merger, consolidation or contributions to capital (other than such transactions among Centene and its subsidiaries) that would have any reasonable possibility of preventing or delaying the closing beyond July 2, 2016 or increasing the likelihood of a failure to satisfy the conditions that no order prohibiting the merger has been issued by a governmental entity and continues to be in effect, or that the applicable antitrust waiting periods have expired or have been terminated and the applicable governmental filings and consents have been made or obtained;

authorize or adopt, or publicly propose, a plan or agreement of complete or partial liquidation or dissolution of Centene;

enter into any contract that would reasonably be expected to prevent or materially delay or impair the ability of Centene and its subsidiaries to complete the merger and other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

agree, resolve or commit to take any of the foregoing summarized actions.

Stockholder Meetings and Duty to Recommend

The merger agreement requires each of Centene and Health Net to, as soon as practicable following effectiveness of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, duly set a record date for, call, give notice of, convene and hold a meeting of its respective stockholders for the purpose of seeking stockholder approval of (i) the merger agreement, in the case of Health Net, and (ii) the issuance of Centene common stock in connection with the merger, in the case of Centene. If the applicable party's board has not made an adverse recommendation change, such party will recommend that its stockholders approve the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, in the case of Health Net, and approve the proposal for the issuance of Centene common stock to Health Net stockholders in connection with the merger, in the case of Centene; include such recommendation in this joint proxy statement/prospectus; and use its reasonable best efforts to (i) solicit from its stockholders proxies in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement, in the case of Health Net, and in favor of the issuance of Centene common stock in connection with the merger, in the case of Centene, and (ii) take all other action necessary or advisable to secure stockholder approval. Except as expressly permitted under the no-solicitation provisions described below, neither the Centene Board nor the Health Net Board, nor any committees thereof, may make an adverse recommendation change.

No Solicitation

Each of Centene and Health Net has agreed to immediately cease any discussions or negotiations with any parties that may have been ongoing with respect to a takeover proposal, as described hereinafter, to seek to have returned to it any information and materials that have been provided in any such discussions or negotiations and to immediately

terminate all physical and electronic dataroom access previously granted to any such party or its representatives.

Until the earlier of the effective time of the merger or the date of termination of the merger agreement, each of Centene and Health Net has agreed not to, nor permit any of its subsidiaries to, nor authorize or permit any of its officers, directors or employees or any affiliate, investment banker, financial advisor, attorney, accountant or other representative retained by it or any of its subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly:

solicit, initiate or knowingly encourage (including by way of furnishing information), or take any other action to facilitate, any inquiry or the making of any proposal which constitutes, or may reasonably be expected to lead to, any takeover proposal;

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enter into any letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, merger agreement or other agreement, arrangement or understanding relating to any takeover proposal (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement, which is described hereinafter, entered into in accordance with the merger agreement); or

enter into, continue or otherwise participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding any takeover proposal.

However, if, prior to the Health Net stockholder vote (in the case of Health Net) or the Centene stockholder vote (in the case of Centene), following the receipt of a superior proposal, as described hereinafter, or a takeover proposal that the Health Net Board or Centene Board, as applicable, determines in good faith is reasonably expected to lead to a superior proposal and that in either case was unsolicited and made after the date of the merger agreement in circumstances not otherwise involving a breach of the merger agreement, the Health Net Board or Centene Board, as applicable, determines in good faith, after consultation with outside legal counsel, that a failure to take such action with respect to such takeover proposal would be inconsistent with the exercise of its fiduciary duties to its stockholders under applicable law, Health Net or Centene, as applicable, may, in response to such takeover proposal, and subject to compliance with the notification requirements with respect to any takeover proposal described below:

furnish information with respect to Centene or Health Net, as applicable, to the party making such takeover proposal pursuant to a confidentiality agreement, which is referred to as an acceptable confidentiality agreement, that contains confidentiality and standstill provisions not less favorable to Centene or Health Net, as the case may be, than those contained in the confidentiality agreements entered into by Centene and Health Net, each dated June 16, 2015, which are referred to as the confidentiality agreements, provided that (i) such confidentiality agreement shall permit the provision of all information to Centene or Health Net, as applicable, that is contemplated or required by the merger agreement to be provided to Centene or Health Net, as applicable, and (ii) such confidentiality agreement shall include a standstill provision, except that (a) such standstill need not prohibit the person making such takeover proposal from making a takeover proposal to the Health Net Board or Centene Board, as applicable, in a confidential manner and (b) such confidentiality agreement need not include a standstill provision to the extent that the person making such takeover proposal has commenced a tender offer or exchange offer incorporating a takeover proposal; and

engage in discussions or negotiations with such party regarding such takeover proposal.

In addition, following the receipt of a takeover proposal, the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, may contact the person or group who has made such takeover proposal solely for the purpose of seeking clarification of the terms and conditions thereof and Centene or Health Net, as applicable, shall promptly provide a summary of such clarifications to the other party to the merger agreement.

For purposes of the merger agreement, takeover proposal means any inquiry, proposal or offer from any person (other than Centene, Health Net and their respective subsidiaries or affiliates) relating to:

any direct or indirect acquisition or purchase of 15% or more of the consolidated assets (including equity interests in subsidiaries) of Centene or Health Net, or 15% or more of any class of equity securities of

Centene or Health Net;

any tender offer or exchange offer that if completed would result in any person beneficially owning 15% or more of any class of equity securities of Centene or Health Net; and

any merger, consolidation, share exchange, business combination, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution, or similar transaction involving Centene or Health Net or any of their respective subsidiaries pursuant to which such person (or its stockholders) would own 15% or more of the consolidated assets of Centene or Health Net, or 15% or more of any class of equity securities of Centene or Health Net or of any resulting parent company of Centene or Health Net.

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For purposes of the merger agreement, **superior proposal** means a bona fide written takeover proposal from any person (other than Centene, Health Net and their respective subsidiaries or affiliates) for:

a direct or indirect acquisition or purchase of 50% or more of the consolidated assets (including equity interests in subsidiaries) of Centene or Health Net, as applicable, or 50% or more of any class of equity securities or voting power of Centene or Health Net;

any tender offer or exchange offer that if completed would result in any person beneficially owning 50% or more of any class of equity securities or voting power of Centene or Health Net; or

any merger, consolidation, share exchange, business combination, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution or similar transaction involving Centene or Health Net or any of their subsidiaries pursuant to which such person (or its stockholders) would own 50% or more of the consolidated assets of Centene or Health Net or 50% or more of any class of equity securities of Centene or Health Net or of any resulting parent company of Centene or Health Net.

Each of the preceding three bullet points is only a **superior proposal** if (i) the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, determines in good faith it is reasonably capable of being completed on the terms set forth in such proposal, taking into account all financial, legal, regulatory and other aspects thereof that the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, deems relevant, (ii) the third party has demonstrated that, if a cash transaction (whether in whole or in part), the financing for such offer is fully committed or is reasonably likely to be obtained, in each case as determined by the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, in its good faith judgment (after consultation with Centene's or Health Net's, as applicable, financial advisors and outside legal counsel) and (iii) the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, has determined in its good faith judgment that such takeover proposal would, if completed, result in a transaction more favorable to its stockholders from a financial point of view than the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Prior to the termination of the merger agreement, except in connection with a concurrent termination of the merger agreement in the circumstances described below in the event of an adverse recommendation change, but subject to the concurrent payment of the applicable termination fee, (i) neither Health Net nor Centene shall take any action to exempt any person from the restrictions on **business combinations** or any similar provision contained in any applicable takeover law or the charter, bylaws or other organizational documents of Health Net or Centene, as applicable, or otherwise cause such restrictions not to apply, and (ii) Health Net shall not (a) terminate (or permit the termination of (except in accordance with its terms and not related to a takeover proposal)), waive or amend the Health Net rights agreement, (b) redeem any rights under the Health Net rights agreement or (c) take any action with respect to, or make any determination under, the Health Net rights agreement that would interfere with Centene consummating the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, in each case without the prior written consent of Centene.

Adverse Recommendation Change and Termination

Subject to the no-solicitation obligations described above, the takeover proposal notice obligations described below in this section and the obligations described in this paragraph, prior to receipt of the Centene Stockholder Approval, the Centene Board may or, prior to receipt of the Health Net Stockholder Approval, the Health Net Board may (i) withhold, withdraw or modify or qualify, or propose publicly to withhold, withdraw or modify or qualify, in

Centene's case, the Centene recommendation FOR the Share Issuance proposal, and in Health Net's case, the Health Net recommendation FOR the Merger proposal; (ii) take any other action or make any other statement in connection with the Centene or Health Net special meeting, as applicable, inconsistent with the Centene recommendation FOR the Share Issuance proposal or the Health Net recommendation FOR the Merger proposal, as applicable, (iii) approve, determine to be advisable, or recommend, or propose publicly to approve, determine to be advisable, or recommend, any takeover proposal (we collectively refer to clauses (i)-(iii) as an adverse recommendation change) or (iv) provided that any

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applicable termination fee shall have been paid by the applicable party, terminate the merger agreement to enter into a definitive agreement regarding a superior proposal, in each case if (and only if):

a written takeover proposal that was not solicited in violation of the merger agreement is made to Centene or Health Net, as applicable, by a third party and such takeover proposal is not withdrawn or a Health Net intervening event or a Centene intervening event, as applicable, has occurred;

in the case of a takeover proposal, the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, determines in good faith, after consultation with its outside financial advisors and outside legal counsel, that such takeover proposal constitutes a superior proposal;

the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, determines in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel, that the failure to make an adverse recommendation change in response to such superior proposal, Health Net intervening event or Centene intervening event, as applicable, would be inconsistent with the exercise of its fiduciary duties to its stockholders under applicable law;

the applicable party's board of directors considering the adverse recommendation change or termination provides the other party at least five business days' prior written notice of its intention to take such action, which notice will include (x) in the case of an adverse recommendation change or termination in response to a takeover proposal, certain information with respect to such superior proposal as summarized below, as well as a copy of such takeover proposal, or (y) in the case of an adverse recommendation change in response to a Health Net intervening event or Centene intervening event, as applicable, a summary of the material facts, circumstances and other information with respect thereto, together with reasonable documentary support or written analysis conducted by or on behalf of such board;

during the five business days following such written notice (or such shorter period as specified below), if requested by the other party, the board considering the adverse recommendation change or termination and its representatives have negotiated in good faith with the other party (to the extent the other party requested to negotiate) regarding any revisions to the terms of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement that are proposed by the other party in response to such superior proposal, Health Net intervening event or Centene intervening event, as applicable; and

at the end of the five business day period described in the preceding bullet point, the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, determines in good faith, after consultation with its (x) outside legal counsel and financial advisors (and taking into account any adjustment or modification of the terms of the merger agreement proposed in writing by the other party), that in the case of an adverse recommendation change or termination in response to a takeover proposal, the takeover proposal continues to be a superior proposal and (y) outside legal counsel, that the failure to make an adverse recommendation change in response to such superior proposal, Health Net intervening event or Centene intervening event, as applicable, would be inconsistent with the exercise by such board of its fiduciary duties to its stockholders under applicable law.

Any material amendment or modification to any superior proposal will be deemed to be a new takeover proposal for purposes of the no-solicitation obligations summarized in this section; provided, however, that the notice period and the period during which the board considering the adverse recommendation change or termination and its representatives are required to negotiate in good faith with the other party regarding any revisions to the terms of the merger agreement and other transactions contemplated thereby proposed by the other party in response to such new takeover proposal pursuant to the previous bullet point will expire on the later to occur of (i) two business days after the board considering the adverse recommendation change provides written notice of such new takeover proposal to the other party and (ii) the end of the original five business day period described above.

Nothing in the previous two paragraphs will permit a party to the merger agreement or its board to enter into any letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, merger agreement or other agreement, arrangement or

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understanding relating to any takeover proposal or superior proposal (other than an acceptable confidentiality agreement) prior to termination of the merger agreement.

For purposes of the merger agreement, **Health Net intervening event** means any fact, circumstance, effect, change, event or development that affects or would be reasonably likely to affect (i) the business, financial condition or continuing results of operation of Health Net and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole or (ii) the Health Net stockholders (including the benefits of the mergers to the Health Net stockholders) in either case that (x) is material, (y) does not involve or relate to a takeover proposal or the existence thereof and (z) was not known or reasonably foreseeable to the Health Net Board as of the date of the merger agreement and which becomes known prior to receipt of the Health Net Stockholder Approval; provided that no fact, circumstance, effect, change, event or development that has had or would reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on the business, financial condition or continuing results of operations of, or the market price of the securities (including the Centene common stock) of Centene or any of its subsidiaries shall constitute a **Health Net intervening event** unless such fact, circumstance, effect, change, event or development has had or would reasonably be expected to have a Centene material adverse effect.

For purposes of the merger agreement, **Centene intervening event** means any fact, circumstance, effect, change, event or development that affects or would be reasonably likely to affect (i) the business, financial condition or continuing results of operation of Centene and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole or (ii) the Centene stockholders (including the benefits of the mergers to Centene) in either case that (x) is material, (y) does not involve or relate to a takeover proposal or the existence thereof and (z) was not known or reasonably foreseeable to the Centene Board as of the date of the merger agreement and which becomes known prior to receipt of the Centene Stockholder Approval; provided that no fact, circumstance, effect, change, event or development that has had or would reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on the business, financial condition or continuing results of operations of, or the market price of the securities (including the Health Net common stock) of Health Net or any of its subsidiaries shall constitute a **Centene intervening event** unless such fact, circumstance, effect, change, event or development has had or would reasonably be expected to have a Health Net material adverse effect.

Required Vote Notwithstanding Adverse Recommendation Change

Unless the merger agreement is terminated under the terms set forth in **Termination**, the Centene Board and Health Net Board, as applicable, shall submit, in the case of the Health Net Board, the merger agreement or, in the case of the Centene Board, the issuance of Centene common stock in connection with the merger, to their respective stockholders even if the Centene Board and the Health Net Board, as applicable, shall have effected an adverse recommendation change, and the Centene Board and the Health Net Board, as applicable, may not submit to the vote of their stockholders any takeover proposal other than the merger agreement.

No-Solicitation Notice and Disclosure

Additionally, each of Centene and Health Net has agreed to promptly, and in any event no later than 24 hours after receiving any takeover proposal, advise the other party orally and in writing of any request for information in connection with a takeover proposal or of any takeover proposal, the material terms and conditions of such request or takeover proposal and the identity of the person making such request or takeover proposal, and provide copies of any materials, documents or agreements provided to Centene or Health Net in connection with the takeover proposal (including the most current drafts of any acquisition agreements and financing commitments related thereto). The party receiving any such takeover proposal will keep the other party promptly advised of all changes to the material terms of such takeover proposal. Each of Centene and Health Net will, within 48 hours of the time it is provided to any third parties, provide to the other party any non-public information concerning Centene or Health Net and their subsidiaries that Centene or Health Net provides (including through its representatives) to any third party in

connection with any takeover proposal that was not previously provided to the other party.

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Subject to Centene's and Health Net's obligations with respect to their merger recommendations, as summarized in the section immediately above, and to their obligations with respect to publicity related to the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, nothing in the merger agreement prohibits the Centene Board or the Health Net Board, as applicable, from (i) taking and disclosing to their stockholders a position contemplated by Rule 14e-2(a) promulgated under the Exchange Act or making a statement contemplated by Item 1012(a) of Regulation M-A or Rule 14d-9 promulgated under the Exchange Act or (ii) making any disclosure to their stockholders if the Centene Board or Health Net Board, as applicable, determines in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel, that the failure to make such disclosure would be inconsistent with applicable law.

Reasonable Best Efforts

Each of Centene and Health Net has agreed to, and has agreed to cause its subsidiaries to, use reasonable best efforts to (i) take, or cause to be taken, all actions necessary, proper or advisable to comply with all legal requirements which may be imposed on such party or its subsidiaries with respect to the mergers and, subject to the conditions to the merger, to complete the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, (ii) defend any litigation seeking to enjoin, prevent or delay the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or seeking material damages and (iii) obtain (and to cooperate with the other party to obtain) any consent, authorization, order or approval of, or any exemption by, any governmental entity, including the Federal Trade Commission, the Antitrust Division of the DOJ, and those federal and state departments of health, state insurance departments and other governmental entities with jurisdiction under applicable health care or insurance laws, and any other third party that is required to be obtained by Centene or Health Net or any of their respective subsidiaries in connection with the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and to comply with the terms and conditions of any such consent, authorization, order or approval.

Notwithstanding the parties' obligations summarized in this section, Centene and Health Net have also agreed that neither Centene nor Health Net, in each case, on behalf of itself or any of its subsidiaries, will be required to propose, commit to, agree to or effect any action (or refrain from taking any action) or be subject to any term, limitation, condition, restriction or requirement that, individually or in the aggregate:

would have or would reasonably be expected to have a material and adverse effect on the financial condition, business, revenue or EBITDA of Centene and its subsidiaries or of Health Net and its subsidiaries, in each case, as currently conducted, provided that with respect to this bullet, for purposes of determining whether any action, term, limitation, condition, restriction or requirement would have or would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on Centene and its subsidiaries, Centene and its subsidiaries will collectively be deemed to be a company the size of (and with revenue and EBITDA equal to those of) Health Net and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole;

would or would reasonably be expected to restrict or prohibit any lines or types of business in which Centene and its subsidiaries or Health Net and its subsidiaries shall be permitted to engage and would have or would reasonably be expected to have a material and adverse effect on Centene and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or on Health Net and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, provided that with respect to this bullet, for purposes of determining whether any action, term, limitation, condition, restriction or requirement would have or would reasonably be expected to restrict or prohibit any lines or types of business in which Centene and its subsidiaries shall be permitted to engage and would have or would reasonably be expected to have a material and adverse effect on Centene and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, Centene and its subsidiaries

will collectively be deemed to be a company the size of (and with revenue and EBITDA equal to those of) Health Net and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole; or

would or would be reasonably expected to materially impair the benefits reasonably expected to be derived by Centene from the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; provided that for purposes of this bullet, such reasonably expected benefits shall be deemed to be the size of Health Net and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

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We refer to each of the foregoing bullets, individually or in the aggregate, as a Burdensome Condition. Notwithstanding any other provision in the merger agreement, in no event shall Centene or its subsidiaries be required to agree to, nor shall Health Net take or permit any of its subsidiaries to take (unless in each case Centene directs Health Net to do so; provided, that, any action or agreement of Health Net shall be conditioned upon consummation of the merger), any action that would result in a Burdensome Condition.

Centene and Health Net agreed to make all registrations, declarations, notices, reports, submissions or other filings with all governmental entities that may be or may become reasonably necessary, proper or advisable under the merger agreement and applicable law to consummate and make effective the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. In particular, among other things, the parties agreed that:

not later than August 16, 2015, Centene shall file, or cause to be filed, Form A Statements or similar change of control applications, with the insurance commissioners or departments of health or other governmental entities in each jurisdiction where required by applicable law seeking approval of Centene's acquisition of control of each of the applicable regulated subsidiaries of Health Net which results from the mergers;

not later than August 16, 2015, Centene shall file, or cause to be filed, any pre-acquisition notifications on Form E or similar market share notifications to be filed in each jurisdiction where required by applicable laws with respect to the mergers and the other transactions contemplated hereby;

not later than July 17, 2015 (unless Centene and Health Net otherwise agree), Health Net and Centene shall each make an appropriate filing of a notification and report form pursuant to the HSR Act with the Federal Trade Commission or the DOJ with respect to the mergers and the other transactions contemplated hereby;

Health Net and Centene shall each make any other registrations, declarations, notices, reports, submissions or other filings that may be required under any other applicable laws relating to antitrust or by any governmental entity having antitrust jurisdiction under applicable law;

not later than 60 days prior to the closing of the merger, Health Net and Centene shall file any required notices to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is referred to as CMS, with a separate notice to the CMS Central and/or Regional Office Medicare Advantage and/or Part D plan manager if applicable; and

Health Net and Centene shall each promptly and in compliance with the timeframe prescribed by applicable laws make any other registrations, declarations, notices, reports, submissions or other filings that may be required under any applicable laws or by any governmental entity with jurisdiction over enforcement of any such applicable law.

Each of Centene and Health Net has agreed to supply as promptly as practicable any additional information and documentary material that may be requested pursuant to any of the foregoing and use its reasonable best efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all other actions consistent with its obligations to use reasonable best efforts to obtain any consent, authorization, order or approval of, or any exemption by, any governmental entity necessary to cause the

expiration or termination of any applicable waiting periods, including under the HSR Act (including any extensions thereof), as soon as practicable. Each of Centene and Health Net has agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to (i) take all action reasonably necessary to ensure that no state corporate takeover statute or similar law is or becomes applicable to any of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and (ii) if any state corporate takeover statute or similar law becomes applicable to any of such transactions, take all reasonable action to enable the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement to be completed as promptly as practicable on the terms contemplated by the merger agreement and otherwise minimize the effect of such law on such transactions.

Pursuant to the merger agreement, Centene and Health Net were required to file a Premerger Notification and Report Form under the HSR Act with the FTC and the DOJ by July 17, 2015 (10 business days after the date

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of the merger agreement), which the parties filed on July 17, 2015. On August 11, 2015, early termination of the waiting period under the HSR Act was granted by the FTC and the DOJ.

Additionally, each of Centene and Health Net has agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to (i) cooperate with each other in connection with any registrations, declarations, notices, reports, submissions or other filings with a governmental entity or referenced above, including pursuant to health care or insurance laws or other applicable laws, in connection with the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and in connection with such filing with or any response to questions from a governmental entity with respect thereto or any investigation or other inquiry by or before a governmental entity relating to such transactions, including any governmental inquiry, investigation or proceeding initiated by a private party and (ii) keep the other party informed in all material respects and on a reasonably timely basis of any communication received by such party from, or given by such party to, any governmental entity in connection therewith, including the FTC, the DOJ or any other governmental entity, including those federal and state departments of health, state insurance departments and other governmental entities with jurisdiction under applicable health care or insurance laws, and of any communication received or given by a private party in connection with any governmental inquiry, investigation or proceeding, in each case regarding any of such transactions.

Subject to applicable laws relating to the exchange of information, Centene and Health Net will consult and cooperate with each other in connection with any registration, declaration, notice, report, submission or other filing, analysis, appearance, presentation, memorandum, brief, argument, responses to questions from a governmental entity, opinion or proposal made or submitted in connection with any such registration, declaration, notice, report, submission or other filing, request, inquiry, investigation, response to questions from a governmental entity, action or other legal proceeding relating to the mergers or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. In addition, except as may be prohibited by a governmental entity or by law, in connection with any such request, inquiry, investigation, action or other legal proceeding, Centene and Health Net shall permit each other's authorized representatives to (i) to participate at or in each substantive meeting, conference or telephone call with a representative of a governmental entity relating to such registration, declaration, notice, report, submission or other filing, request, inquiry, investigation, response action or other legal proceeding, (ii) have reasonable access to and be consulted in connection with any material document, opinion or proposal made or submitted to any governmental entity in connection with any such request, inquiry, investigation, action or other legal proceeding and (iii) review prior to filing or submission any registration, declaration, notice, report, submission or other filing, pleading and responses to inquiries from governmental entities submitted as required by the provisions summarized in this section.

Each of Centene and Health Net agreed to reasonably cooperate with each other with respect to devising and implementing the strategy for obtaining any necessary clearances or approvals of any governmental entity, including those federal and state departments of health, state insurance departments and other governmental entities with jurisdiction under applicable health care or insurance laws; provided, that, in the event of a disagreement between Centene and Health Net with respect to such strategy, Centene shall have the right to direct such matters with any governmental entity consistent with its obligations in the merger agreement, subject to compliance with those strategies that have been agreed between Centene and Health Net.

Employee Benefits Matters

For a period of one year immediately following the effective time of the merger (or if shorter, during the period of employment), Centene will, or will cause the surviving corporation and its subsidiaries to, provide each employee of Health Net and of each of its subsidiaries as of the effective time of the merger, each of which is referred to as a continuing employee, with (i) at least the same level of base salary or regular hourly wages, as applicable, as was provided to the continuing employee immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, (ii) a target incentive

opportunity and/or target sales and service incentive award opportunity, in each case, at least equal to that provided to the continuing employee immediately prior to the effective time of the merger; provided, that in no event shall the requirement in this clause (ii) extend beyond December 31, 2016, (iii) equity

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award opportunities at levels that are substantially similar to those provided to similarly situated employees of Centene, and (iv) employee benefits that are substantially similar to those provided to the continuing employee (including any applicable dependents) immediately prior to the effective time of the merger.

Continuing employees will receive credit for all purposes (including, for purposes of eligibility to participate, vesting, benefit accrual and eligibility to receive benefits, but excluding benefit accruals under any defined benefit pension plan or retiree medical or welfare arrangement) under any employee benefit plan, program or arrangement established or maintained by Centene, the surviving corporation or any of their respective subsidiaries under which a continuing employee may be eligible to participate on or after the effective time of the merger to the same extent recognized by Health Net or any of its subsidiaries under comparable Health Net benefit plans immediately prior to the effective time of the merger. Such plan, program or arrangement will credit the continuing employee for service accrued or deemed accrued on or prior to the effective time of the merger with Health Net, any predecessor of Health Net, any current or former Health Net subsidiary and all current and former affiliates of Health Net or any predecessor of Health Net where service with such predecessor, subsidiary, or affiliate was credited under a comparable Health Net benefit plan prior to the effective time of the merger.

With respect to the welfare benefit plans, programs and arrangements maintained, sponsored or contributed to by Centene or the surviving corporation, which are referred to as Centene welfare benefit plans, in which a continuing employee may be eligible to participate on or after the effective time of the merger, Centene and the surviving corporation will (i) waive, or use commercially reasonable efforts to cause the applicable insurance carrier to waive, all limitations as to eligibility waiting periods and preexisting and at-work conditions, if any, with respect to participation and coverage requirements applicable to each continuing employee under any Centene welfare benefit plan to the same extent waived or otherwise satisfied under a comparable Health Net benefit plan, and (ii) provide, or use commercially reasonable efforts to cause the insurance carrier to provide, credit to each continuing employee for any co-payments, deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses paid by such continuing employee under Health Net benefit plans during the relevant plan year, up to and including the effective time of the merger.

The merger agreement provides that Health Net will, if requested by Centene no later than ten days prior to the closing date and to the extent permitted by applicable law, take all actions necessary to terminate the Health Net 401(k) plan effective no later than the day before the closing date. In the event of such termination, a 401(k) plan sponsored by Centene or one of its affiliates shall accept a direct rollover of distributions from the Health Net 401(k) plan (including in-kind distributions of promissory notes evidencing outstanding loans) with respect to each continuing employee who elects such rollover in accordance with applicable law. Centene and Health Net will use their respective commercially reasonable efforts to permit each participant in the Health Net 401(k) plan who has an outstanding loan balance under the Health Net 401(k) plan on the date such 401(k) plan is terminated to continue to make loan payments to the Health Net 401(k) plan pending the distribution and rollover of the continuing employee's account, as described in the previous sentence. Continuing employees will be eligible to participate in the Centene 401(k) plan as soon as practicable following the closing date.

Financing

Concurrently with the execution of the merger agreement, Centene furnished to Health Net a copy of a commitment letter pursuant to which Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, WF Investment Holdings, LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC have committed to provide the Financing to Centene in connection with the mergers and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

There is no financing condition to the mergers and the mergers are not conditioned upon the funding of the Financing.

Unless Centene has demonstrated to the reasonable satisfaction of Health Net that Centene has sufficient cash from other sources (including by reason of a capital market or other financing transaction) available to

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satisfy its cash payment obligations under the merger agreement, Centene has agreed to maintain in effect the commitment letter and to use its reasonable best efforts to arrange the Financing on the terms and conditions described in the commitment letter (including in negotiating definitive financing documents and satisfying conditions to funding therein). Centene has the right to amend, supplement, replace or modify the commitment letter so long as such amendment, supplement, replacement or modification:

does not reduce the aggregate amount of the Financing, and

does not impose additional conditions or otherwise amend any of the conditions to the receipt of the Financing in a manner that could reasonably be expected to (i) prevent the closing from occurring prior to July 2, 2016, (ii) make the funding of the Financing (or satisfaction of the conditions to obtaining the Financing) materially less likely to occur or (iii) adversely impact the ability of Centene or the Merger Subs, as applicable, to enforce their respective rights against other parties to the commitment letter or the definitive agreements with respect thereto.

Promptly following the execution of a replacement facility complying with the above, Centene shall notify Health Net to such effect and shall promptly provide a fully executed copy of such replacement facility and any related agreements.

Centene has agreed, in the event any portion of the Financing becomes unavailable on the terms and conditions contemplated in the commitment letter, to promptly notify Health Net and use its reasonable best efforts to arrange alternative financing from the same or alternative sources in an amount sufficient to complete the merger and the transactions contemplated thereby, provided that Centene shall not be required to obtain financing which includes terms and conditions materially less favorable (taken as whole and taking into account any market flex provision) to Centene (as determined in the reasonable judgment of Centene), relative to those in the Financing being replaced.

Health Net has agreed to, and to cause its subsidiaries to, use reasonable best efforts to provide all reasonable cooperation requested by Centene or its financing sources in connection with the Financing. In addition, the merger agreement provides that Health Net will use its reasonable best efforts to cooperate with Centene to conduct a consent solicitation with respect to the 2017 Notes, to obtain from the requisite holders thereof an agreement to amend the defined term Change of Control in the 2017 Notes to provide that that the merger will not constitute a Change of Control. Health Net commenced such consent solicitation and received the requisite consents on August 12, 2015. Following the receipt of the requisite consents, the amendments became effective on August 14, 2015.

Other Covenants and Agreements

The merger agreement contains additional agreements relating to, among other matters:

Indemnification and Insurance

Centene has agreed to continue all rights to exculpation, indemnification or advancement of expenses arising from acts or omissions occurring at or prior to the effective time of the merger as provided for in the certificates of incorporation, bylaws or other organizational documents or any indemnification or similar agreements of Health Net and its subsidiaries in favor of the current or former directors or officers of Health Net or its subsidiaries.

For at least six years after the effective time of the merger, Centene has agreed to cause the surviving corporation to maintain in effect the exculpation, indemnification and advancement of expenses provisions of Health Net's and its subsidiaries' certificates of incorporation and bylaws or similar organizational documents or any indemnification or similar agreements in effect as of the date of the merger agreement and has further agreed not to, and to cause the surviving corporation not to, amend, repeal or modify such provisions in any manner that

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would adversely affect the rights of any individuals who immediately before the effective time of the merger were current or former directors, officers or employees of Health Net. Centene has also agreed that for six years after the effective time of the merger, it will, and will cause the surviving corporation to, indemnify such directors or officers against liabilities arising out of, relating to or in connection with (i) the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of Health Net or any of its subsidiaries, (ii) any acts or omissions occurring or alleged to occur prior to or at the effective time of the merger in such person's capacity as a director, officer, employee or agent of Health Net or any of its subsidiaries or (iii) the mergers or the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated thereby.

Health Net has agreed, prior to the effective time of the merger, to purchase tail insurance policies with respect to directors and officers liability insurance and fidu