

WELLPOINT, INC
Form 8-K
March 17, 2010

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 17, 2010

WELLPOINT, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-16751
(Commission
File Number)

35-2145715
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

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120 Monument Circle Indianapolis, IN

(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (317) 488-6000

46204
(Zip Code)

N/A

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Section 7 Regulation FD

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

Officers of WellPoint, Inc. (WellPoint) will be hosting a conference call on March 17, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time for securities analysts and investors to discuss the Company's 2010 financial outlook. The outlook assumes that the Company is able to obtain rate increases that are actuarially sound, and does not include the possible impact of federal health care reform. During this call, the officers expect to provide details of the Company's full year 2010 financial guidance, which includes the following items:

Net income is expected to be at least \$6.00 per share;

Year-end medical enrollment is expected to be 33.3 million members;

Operating revenue is expected to total approximately \$59.0 billion;

The benefit expense ratio is expected to be approximately 84.3 percent;

Underlying Local Group medical cost trend is expected to be in the range of 8.0 percent, plus or minus 50 basis points;

The SG&A expense ratio is expected to be approximately 14.4 percent;

Operating cash flow is expected to be approximately \$1.1 billion, including tax payments of \$1.2 billion related to the sale of the Company's NextRx pharmacy benefit management companies and an unfavorable impact of \$300.0 million related to the run-off of certain business lines that were exited at the end of 2009.

Investors, analysts and the public are invited to listen to the presentation over the Internet via the investor information page at www.wellpoint.com. A webcast replay will be available on that website, approximately 3 hours after the event for 14 days.

None of the information furnished in this report shall be deemed to be filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. None of the information furnished in this report shall be incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

WELLPOINT SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995

WellPoint and its representatives may from time to time make written and oral forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (PSLRA), including statements in this report, in presentations, press releases, filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and reports to shareholders and in meetings with analysts and investors. The projections referenced in this report are forward-looking and they are intended to be covered by the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by PSLRA. Words such as expect(s), feel(s), believe(s), will, may, anticipate(s), intend, estimate, project and similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements, which generally are not historical in nature. These statements include, but are not limited to, financial projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions; statements regarding plans, objectives and expectations with respect to future operations, products and services; and statements regarding future performance. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond our control, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements. These risks and uncertainties include: those discussed and identified in our public filings with the SEC; increased government participation in, or regulation or taxation of health benefits and managed care operations; trends in health care costs and utilization rates; our ability to secure sufficient premium rates including regulatory approval for and implementation of such rates; our ability to contract with providers consistent with past practice; competitor pricing below market trends of increasing costs; reduced enrollment, as well as a negative change in our health care product mix; risks and uncertainties regarding Medicare and Medicaid programs, including those related to non-compliance with the complex regulations imposed thereon, funding risks with respect to

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revenue received from participation therein and CMS sanctions; a downgrade in our financial strength ratings; litigation and investigations targeted at health benefits companies and our ability to resolve litigation and investigations within estimates; our ability to meet expectations regarding repurchases of shares of our common stock; decreased revenues, increased operating costs and potential customer and supplier losses and business disruptions that may be greater than expected following the close of the Express Scripts transaction; events that result in negative publicity for us or the health benefits industry; failure to effectively maintain and modernize our information systems and e-business organization and to maintain good relationships with third party vendors for information system resources; events that may negatively affect our license with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association; possible impairment of the value of our intangible assets if future results do not adequately support goodwill and other intangible assets; intense competition to attract and retain employees; unauthorized disclosure of member sensitive or confidential

information; changes in the economic and market conditions, as well as regulations that may negatively affect our investment portfolios and liquidity; possible restrictions in the payment of dividends by our subsidiaries and increases in required minimum levels of capital and the potential negative effect from our substantial amount of outstanding indebtedness; general risks associated with mergers and acquisitions; various laws and our governing documents may prevent or discourage takeovers and business combinations; future bio-terrorist activity or other potential public health epidemics; and general economic downturns. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements that speak only as of the date hereof. Except to the extent otherwise required by federal securities law, we do not undertake any obligation to republish revised forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Readers are also urged to carefully review and consider the various disclosures in our SEC reports.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: March 17, 2010

WELLPOINT, INC.

By: /s/ John Cannon

Name: John Cannon

Title: EVP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

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