Effective prevention, detection and control systems are critical to maintain regulatory compliance and prevent fraud and failure of these systems could adversely affect the Company.

Failure of Cigna's prevention, detection or control systems related to regulatory compliance or the failure of employees to comply with Cigna's internal policies, including data systems security or unethical conduct by managers and employees, could adversely affect Cigna's reputation and also expose it to litigation and other proceedings, fines and penalties. Federal and state governments have made investigating and prosecuting health care and other insurance fraud and abuse a priority. Fraud and abuse prohibitions encompass a wide range of activities, including kickbacks for referral of members, billing for unnecessary medical services, improper marketing, and violations of patient privacy rights. The regulations and contractual requirements applicable to the Company are complex and subject to change. In addition, ongoing vigorous law enforcement, a highly technical regulatory scheme and the Dodd-Frank legislation and related regulations being adopted to enhance regulators' enforcement powers and whistleblower incentives and protections, mean that Cigna's compliance efforts in this area will continue to require significant resources.

In addition, provider or customer fraud that is not prevented or detected could impact Cigna's medical costs or those of its self-insured customers. Further, during an economic downturn, Cigna's segments, including Global Health Care, Group Disability and Life and Global Supplemental Benefits, may see increased fraudulent claims volume that may lead to additional costs due to an increase in disputed claims and litigation.

Cigna's pharmacy benefit management business is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, in addition to those Cigna faces with its health care business.

Cigna's pharmacy benefit management business is subject to federal and state regulation, including federal and state anti-remuneration laws, ERISA, HIPAA and laws related to the operation of Internet and mail-service pharmacies. Noncompliance with such regulations could have a material adverse effect on Cigna's business, results of operations, financial condition, liquidity and reputation.

The Company's pharmacy benefit management business would also be adversely affected by an inability to contract on favorable terms with pharmaceutical manufacturers and could suffer claims and reputational harm in connection with purported errors by Cigna's mail order or retail pharmacy businesses. Disruptions at any of the Company's pharmacy business facilities due to failure of technology or any other failure or disruption to these systems or to the infrastructure due to fire, electrical outage, natural disaster, acts of terrorism or some other catastrophic event could reduce Cigna's ability to process and dispense prescriptions and provide products and services to customers, that could have a material adverse effect on Cigna's business, results of operations, financial condition and liquidity.

In operating its onsite clinics and medical facilities, the Company may be subject to additional liability, that could result in significant time and expense and divert management's attention from other strategic activities.

The Company employs physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and other health care professionals at onsite low acuity and primary care clinics it operates for the Company's customers (as well as certain clinics for Company employees). Through the HealthSpring business acquired in 2012, Cigna also operates LivingWell health centers and health care practices for its customers. In addition, the Company owns and operates medical facilities in the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area, including multispecialty health care centers, outpatient surgery and urgent care centers, low acuity clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and other operations that employ primary care as well as specialty care physicians and other types of health care professionals. As a direct employer of health care professionals and as an operator of primary and low-acuity care clinics and other types of medical facilities, the Company is subject to liability for negligent acts, omissions, or injuries occurring at one of its clinics or caused by one of its employees. Even if any claims brought against the Company were unsuccessful or without merit, it would have to defend against such claims. The defense of any actions may be time-consuming and costly, and may distract management. As a result, Cigna may incur significant expenses that could have a material adverse effect on Cigna's business, results of operations, financial condition, and liquidity.

Cigna faces competitive pressure, particularly price competition, that could result in premiums which are insufficient to cover the cost of the health care services delivered to its members and inadequate medical claims reserves.

While health plans compete on the basis of many factors, including service quality of clinical resources, claims administration services and medical management programs, and quality, sufficiency and cost effectiveness of health care professional network relationships, Cigna expects that price will continue to be a significant basis of competition. Cigna's customer contracts are subject to negotiation as customers seek to contain their costs, and customers may elect to reduce benefits in order to constrain increases in their benefit costs. Such an election may result in lower premiums for the Company's products, and even though it may also reduce Cigna's costs, it could still adversely affect Cigna's financial results. Alternatively, the Company's customers may purchase different types of products that are less profitable, or move to a competitor to obtain more favorable premiums.

Factors such as business consolidations, strategic alliances, legislative reform and marketing practices create pressure to contain premium price increases, despite increasing medical costs. For example, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act gives banks and other financial institutions the ability to be affiliated with insurance companies that may lead to new competitors with significant financial resources in the insurance and health benefits fields. The Company's product margins and