WEBMD CORP /NEW/ Form S-3/A September 27, 2002 As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 27, 2002

Registration No. 333-89616

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Amendment No. 3

to

## Form S-3

## REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

# **WebMD Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

#### **Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

94-3236644

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

669 River Drive, Center 2 Elmwood Park New Jersey 07407-1361 (201) 703-3400

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant s principal executive offices)

Charles A. Mele, Esq.
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
WebMD Corporation
669 River Drive, Center 2
Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407-1361
(201) 703-3400

(Name and address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service of process)

Copies to: Stephen T. Giove, Esq. Shearman & Sterling

599 Lexington Avenue New York, New York 10022 (212) 848-4000

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement as determined by market conditions.

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

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

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

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

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box: o

The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

## **Table of Contents**

#### **PROSPECTUS**

## \$249,500,000

## WebMD Corporation

## 3 1/4% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2007

## and Common Stock Issuable Upon Conversion of the Notes

#### The Notes and Common Stock

We issued \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our 3 1/4% convertible subordinated notes due 2007 in a private placement in April 2002.

We will pay interest on the notes semi-annually in arrears on April 1 and October 1 of each year, starting on October 1, 2002.

The notes will mature on April 1, 2007.

The selling securityholders identified in this prospectus may offer from time to time up to \$249,500,000 of the notes and shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes. If required, we will set forth the names of any other selling securityholders in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the notes or shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes by any of the selling securityholders. The notes and the shares of common stock may be offered in negotiated transactions or otherwise, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. In addition, shares of our common stock may be offered from time to time through ordinary brokerage transactions on the Nasdaq National Market. See Plan of Distribution.

## **Conversion of the Notes**

The notes are convertible into 107.9564 shares of our common stock, par value \$.0001 per share, per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. This rate results in an initial conversion price of approximately \$9.26 per share.

## **Redemption and Repurchase of the Notes**

On or after April 5, 2005, we may, at our option, redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at the redemption prices described in this prospectus, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date.

Holders may require us to repurchase all or a portion of their notes upon a change in control as defined in the indenture at 100% of their principal amount, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to the repurchase date.

## Ranking of the Notes

The notes are junior to all of our existing and future senior indebtedness and are structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, including trade payables, lease commitments and monies borrowed.

### Listing

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol HLTH. On September 26, 2002, the closing sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$5.49.

The notes originally issued in the private placement are eligible for trading on The Private Offerings, Resales and Trading Through Automated Linkages, or PORTAL, Market of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. However, notes sold pursuant to this prospectus will no longer be eligible for trading on the PORTAL market. We do not intend to list the notes on any national securities exchange.

Investing in the notes and common stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 8.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is September 27, 2002.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO READERS** 

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

**RISK FACTORS** 

**USE OF PROCEEDS** 

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS** 

**DESCRIPTION OF NOTES** 

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK** 

CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION** 

**LEGAL MATTERS** 

**EXPERTS** 

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

**INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE** 

**SIGNATURES** 

EX-23.1 CONSENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP

## **Table of Contents**

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO READERS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, the selling securityholders may, from time to time, offer notes or shares of our common stock owned by them. Each time the selling securityholders offer notes or common stock under this prospectus, they will provide a copy of this prospectus and, if applicable, a copy of a prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and, if applicable, any prospectus supplement together with the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation by Reference for more information.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus or any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of the applicable document or as specifically indicated in the document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Unless otherwise indicated, in this prospectus, WebMD, we, us and our refer to WebMD Corporation and its subsidiaries.

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Important Notice to Readers	i
Prospectus Summary	1
Risk Factors	8
Use of Proceeds	22
Forward-Looking Statements	22
Certain Considerations Relating to the Healthcare Industry	23
Description of Notes	30
Description of Capital Stock	42
Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations	46
Selling Securityholders	52
Plan of Distribution	58
Legal Matters	60
Experts	60
Where You Can Find More Information	60
Incorporation by Reference	61

i

#### **Table of Contents**

#### PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. It is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by, and should be read in conjunction with, the more detailed information (including Risk Factors and financial information) appearing elsewhere in this prospectus, as well as in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

#### **Our Company**

#### Overview

We provide a range of transaction and information services and technology solutions for participants across the entire continuum of healthcare. There are many types of transactions, information exchanges and other communications that occur between the various participants in the healthcare industry, including physicians, patients, pharmacies, dentists, hospitals, billing services, commercial health insurance companies, pharmacy benefit management companies, managed care organizations, state and federal government agencies and others. Our products and services promote administrative efficiency and assist in reducing the cost of healthcare and creating better patient outcomes. Our business is divided into the following three segments:

*Transaction Services or WebMD Envoy.* WebMD Envoy is a leading provider of electronic data interchange services to the healthcare industry. Through our WebMD Envoy transaction network, we transmit electronic transactions between healthcare payers and physicians, pharmacies, dentists, hospitals, laboratory companies and other healthcare providers. The transactions that we facilitate include:

administrative transactions, such as claims submission and status inquiry, eligibility and patient coverage verification, referrals and authorizations, and electronic remittance advice; and

clinical transactions, such as lab test ordering and reporting of results.

In addition, WebMD Envoy provides automated patient billing services to providers, including statement printing and mailing services.

Most of our electronic transactions are conducted by healthcare providers using computers, modems and ordinary phone lines to connect to our clearinghouse. Information is typically sent from the provider s billing or practice management system to our clearinghouse, where it is validated for format and completeness and then sent to the payer s computer. Some of these transactions are transmitted securely over the Internet. In either case, there are important advantages for healthcare participants in using electronic transactions as compared to mail, fax or telephone: electronic transactions significantly reduce processing time and costs, which increases efficiency and productivity for both payers and providers. We are focused on continuing to increase the percentage of healthcare transactions that are handled electronically and on providing value-added services to providers and payers in connection with our transmission of transactions.

Our clearinghouse maintains direct connections with many healthcare payers, including Medicare contractors and Medicaid agencies, Blue Cross and Blue Shield organizations, commercial health insurance companies, pharmacy benefit management companies and managed care organizations. These direct connections typically consist of dedicated networks between the payer and our clearinghouse. We also work with numerous practice management system vendors and other physician service providers to provide integrated transaction processing between their systems and our clearinghouse. Most practice management systems support, and can be integrated with, WebMD Envoy transaction services.

Our all-payer suite of services includes the capture, validation and routing of claims transactions on behalf of not just commercial payers, but also Blue Cross Blue Shield payers, Medicare and Medicaid. Additionally, our all-payer services include the return of an electronic

1

### **Table of Contents**

remittance transaction, which is the equivalent of a paper explanation of benefits, from all the payers back to the originating provider. The goal is to provide a single source EDI reimbursement cycle management solution for providers and practice management system vendors. All-payer reporting reduces administrative burdens on the provider office by providing a single report back to the provider office regarding its claims transactions. That, in turn, allows the provider office to determine more easily whether it has been paid on a particular claim and how much. We are rolling out our all-payer services, both directly to healthcare providers and through our practice management system partners.

Physician Services or WebMD Medical Manager. We develop and market integrated physician practice management systems and related services, primarily under The Medical Manager, Intergy and Medical Manager Network Services brands. Our systems have been implemented in a wide variety of practice settings from small physician groups to large clinics. Our practice management solutions include administrative and financial applications that enable physicians and their administrative personnel to manage their practices more efficiently and clinical applications that assist physicians in delivering quality patient care.

The Medical Manager. The Medical Manager software is the leading physician practice management system in the United States. Due to its scalable design, The Medical Manager software is a cost-effective solution in a stand-alone or enterprise-wide environment. The Medical Manager system is designed to operate on a wide range of hardware platforms used by small, medium and large sized practices. Its modular, fully integrated product portfolio allows clients to add incremental capabilities to existing information systems while minimizing the need for capital investments. The Medical Manager systems allow physician offices to automate their scheduling, billing and other administrative tasks, to maintain electronic medical records and to automate documentation of patient encounters. In addition, The Medical Manager systems provide integrated access to our WebMD Envoy transaction services and to our Medscape professional portal.

*ULTIA*. The ongoing development of ULTIA<sup>TM</sup>, our wireless handheld solution, is one of the ways in which we continue to meet the changing demands of physicians. Physicians are able to use ULTIA in their offices, at the point-of-care, to access data within The Medical Manager system and perform a range of clinical and administrative tasks. ULTIA also provides a range of offsite functionality and can easily be used at hospitals and other remote locations. Up to ten days of hospital rounds and patient data can be downloaded to the handheld device. This information is then accessible to the physician when working at a remote location. The physician can enter new data and capture patient charges, all of which are then uploaded to The Medical Manager system when the physician returns to the office.

Intergy. Intergy is WebMD Medical Manager s newest product offering for the physician practice/ clinical management market. Designed from the ground up, Intergy combines a graphical user interface, or GUI, and a relational database environment with integrated clinical and financial subsystems. Intergy has been designed to provide a user-friendly interface with data storage capacity that will accommodate the largest of our installations. We believe that Intergy will comprise the majority of our new sales of practice management systems. However, we intend to continue to develop and support The Medical Manager system.

Portal Services or WebMD Health. WebMD Health, the leading provider of online health information in the United States, offers a variety of online resources and services for consumers and healthcare professionals.

WebMD Health Consumer Portal. WebMD Health, our consumer portal, is located at www.my.webmd.com. WebMD Health helps people become better informed about healthcare choices and assists them in playing an active role in managing their own health. We provide online access to health and wellness news and information, support communities, special events, interactive tools and other services. Our communities and events allow consumers to participate

2

### **Table of Contents**

in real-time discussions in our chat rooms and on our message boards, with experts and with people who share similar health conditions or concerns. Consumers are also welcome to access content at our Medscape professional portal. We recently began the integration of Medscape Health s content and tools into WebMD Health.

Medscape Professional Portal. Medscape, our portal for physicians and allied healthcare professionals, is located at www.medscape.com. Medscape is designed to meet the needs of medical professionals in a personalized and easy-to-use manner. We organize our professional information by medical specialty area, such as oncology and cardiology, to make it easier for our members to access the information most relevant to them. Our extensive and up-to-date medical content and easy-to-use search capabilities assist medical professionals in keeping abreast of medical advances and obtaining fast, accurate answers to medical questions online. At Medscape, physicians and other healthcare professionals can access continuing medical education services, medical journals, textbooks and data bases, specialty-focused medical news and medical conference coverage, and opportunities to purchase other products and services. We recently began the integration of the WebMD professional portal s contents and tools into Medscape.

*Portal Relationships.* We also distribute our content and services to leading general consumer Internet portals and media distribution partners, including MSN, AOL and News Corporation. In addition, we provide content and services to payers—and other healthcare partners—Web sites for use by their affiliated physicians and consumers.

We believe that our user base of consumers and healthcare professionals represents an attractive audience to a variety of advertisers and sponsors who are interested in influencing healthcare decisions. We are working with our advertisers and sponsors to develop innovative online and offline programs that provide demonstrable results and complement their offline education, marketing and customer service programs. In addition, we believe that our advertising, sponsorship and syndication relationships with participants in the healthcare industry also foster our ability to develop broader relationships that can assist us in our efforts to develop, deploy and increase utilization levels of our other products and services.

We believe that the combination, in one company, of WebMD Envoy, WebMD Medical Manager and WebMD Health makes us well positioned to create significant improvements in the way that information is used by the healthcare system, enabling increased efficiency, better decision-making and, ultimately, higher quality patient care at a lower cost.

## **Recent Developments**

WebMD s plastic and filtrations business, which we refer to as Porex, is being held for sale and accounted for as a discontinued operation in our financial statements. While WebMD has received various proposals to acquire Porex, the disposal of Porex has taken longer than anticipated due, in part, to the replacement of Arthur Andersen LLP as Porex s auditors. We expect to complete the disposal of Porex in close proximity to the end of 2002. If the disposal process of Porex is not completed by the time we issue our 2002 financial results, we will be required to reclassify Porex as a continuing operation in our financial statements.

Based on currently available information, including the proposals that we have received to date, we believe that our carrying value of Porex in our financial statements represents a reasonable estimate of fair value. Accordingly, we do not expect to record an impairment charge relating to Porex. However, the carrying value of Porex on our balance sheet may be subject to change based on several factors, including Porex s future financial performance and factors that affect valuations of companies in general, such as volatility in the financial markets and the availability and terms of financing for potential acquirors. These factors could result in some combination of a future impairment charge and a loss on disposal of Porex to the extent the proceeds received by us are lower than our carrying value. See Risk Factors Changes in

3

## **Table of Contents**

our expectations regarding Porex s future financial performance or factors affecting valuations of businesses in general could result in future impairment charges with respect to Porex.

WebMD Corporation is a Delaware corporation that was incorporated in December 1995 and commenced operations in January 1996 as Healtheon Corporation. Our principal executive offices are located at 669 River Drive, Center 2, Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407-1361 and our telephone number is (201) 703-3400. Our Web site is located at www.webmd.com. The information on our Web site is not a part of this prospectus.

Our common stock has traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol HLTH since February 11, 1999. In May 1998, Healtheon Corporation completed a merger with ActaMed Corporation. In November 1999, Healtheon completed mergers with WebMD, Inc., MedE America Corporation and Greenberg News Networks, Inc., known as Medcast. Following these mergers, Healtheon changed its name to Healtheon/ WebMD Corporation. Healtheon/ WebMD completed acquisitions of Kinetra LLC and Envoy Corporation in January 2000 and May 2000, respectively. On September 12, 2000, Healtheon/ WebMD completed mergers with Medical Manager Corporation, CareInsite, Inc. and OnHealth Network Company and changed its name to WebMD Corporation. For additional information regarding these transactions, please refer to our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001, as amended, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

4

### **Table of Contents**

## The Offering

Issuer WebMD Corporation.

Notes We issued \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 3 1/4% convertible subordinated notes due 2007 in a

private placement in April 2002. The selling securityholders identified in this prospectus may offer from time to time up to \$249,500,000 of the notes and shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of

the notes.

Interest payment dates We will pay interest on the notes semi-annually in arrears on April 1 and October 1 of each year, starting on

October 1, 2002.

Maturity The notes will mature on April 1, 2007.

Conversion The notes are convertible into 107.9564 shares of our common stock, par value \$.0001 per share, per \$1,000

principal amount of notes, subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. This rate results in an initial conversion price of approximately \$9.26 per share. See Description of Notes Conversion Rights.

Ranking The notes are:

unsecured;

junior to all of our existing and future senior indebtedness; and

structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, including trade payables,

lease commitments and monies borrowed.

As of June 30, 2002, we and our subsidiaries had approximately \$480 million of consolidated obligations effectively ranking senior to the notes. The indenture under which the notes were issued does not restrict our or our subsidiaries ability to incur additional senior or other indebtedness. See Description of Notes

Subordination of Notes.

Sinking fund None.

Original issue discount The notes were sold with original issue discount and you will therefore be required to include amounts in

gross income in each taxable year in advance of receipt of a corresponding cash payment on the notes. See Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Payment of Interest Original Issue Discount.

Contain C.S. Federal mediae Pax Considerations Payment of Interest Original Issue Discount.

Optional redemption On or after April 5, 2005, we may, at our option, redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at the redemption

prices described in this prospectus, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date. See

Description of Notes Redemption of Notes at Our Option.

Change in control If we experience a change in control as defined in the indenture, each holder may require us to purchase all

or a portion of that holder s notes at 100% of their principal amount, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to the repurchase date. See Description of Notes Holders May Require Us To Purchase Their Notes Upon a

Change in Control.

4

## **Table of Contents**

Use of proceeds We will not receive any proceeds from the sale by any selling securityholder of the notes or the shares of

common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes.

Listing and trading

The notes originally issued in the private placement are eligible for trading on the PORTAL market.

However, notes sold pursuant to this prospectus will no longer be eligible for trading on the PORTAL market. We do not intend to list the notes on any national securities exchange. Our common stock is listed

on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol HLTH.

Risk factors In analyzing an investment in the notes and common stock offered by this prospectus, prospective investors

should carefully consider, along with other matters referred to in this prospectus, the information set forth

under Risk Factors.

For a more complete description of the terms of the notes, see Description of Notes. For a more complete description of the common stock, see Description of Capital Stock.

6

## **Table of Contents**

## RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Fiscal year ended December 31,					Six months ended June 30,	
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001	2002
Coverage Deficiency(1)	\$(28,005)	\$(54,048)	\$(287,992)	\$(3,085,608)	\$(6,689,669)	\$(1,861,142)	\$(60,151)

<sup>(1)</sup> Earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges. We needed additional earnings, as indicated by the coverage deficiency for each of the periods presented above, to achieve a ratio of earnings to fixed charges of 1.0x.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider all of the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before deciding whether to invest in the notes and, in particular, the following factors:

#### **Risks Related to Our Business**

## Our ability to generate revenue could suffer if we do not continue to update and improve our existing products and services and develop new ones

We must introduce new products and services and improve the functionality of our existing products and services in a timely manner in order to retain existing customers and attract new ones. However, we may not be successful in responding to technological developments and changing customer needs. The pace of change in the markets we serve is rapid and there are frequent new product and service introductions by our competitors and by vendors whose products and services we use in providing our own products and services. If we do not respond successfully to technological changes and evolving industry standards, our products and services may become obsolete. Technological changes may also result in the offering of competitive products and services at lower prices than we are charging for our products and services, which could result in our losing sales unless we lower the prices we charge.

We rely on a combination of internal development, strategic relationships, licensing and acquisitions to develop our products and services. The cost of developing new healthcare information technology products and services is inherently difficult to estimate. Our development of proposed products and services may take longer than originally expected, require more testing than originally anticipated and require the acquisition of additional personnel and other resources. In addition, there can be no assurance that the products we develop or license will be able to compete with the alternatives available to our customers. See We face significant competition for our products and services.

# New or newly integrated products and services will not become profitable unless they achieve sufficient levels of physician penetration and market acceptance

There can be no assurance that physicians and payers will accept from us new products and services or products and services that result from integrating existing and/or acquired products and services, including the products and services we are developing to integrate our transaction services and portal services into the physician office workflow, such as our handheld solution.

Even physicians and payers who are already our customers may not purchase new or newly integrated products or services, especially when they are initially offered. Physicians using our existing products and services may refuse to adopt new or newly integrated products and services when they have made extensive investments in hardware, software and training relating to those existing products and services. Similarly, other healthcare participants may not accept new or newly integrated products and services from us developed for their use. In addition, there can be no assurance that any pricing strategy that we implement for any such products and services will be economically viable or acceptable to the target markets. Failure to achieve broad penetration in target markets with respect to new or newly integrated products and services could have a material adverse effect on our business prospects.

Achieving market acceptance for new or newly integrated products and services is likely to require substantial marketing efforts and expenditure of significant funds to create awareness and demand by participants in the healthcare industry. In addition, deployment of new or newly integrated products may require the use of additional resources for training our existing sales force and customer service personnel and for hiring and training additional salespersons and customer service personnel. There can be no assurance that the revenue opportunities from new or newly integrated products and services will justify amounts spent for their development, marketing and roll-out.

5

### **Table of Contents**

### Developments in the healthcare industry could adversely affect our revenues

Almost all of our revenues come from customers in various parts of the healthcare industry. Developments that result in a reduction of expenditures by customers or potential customers in the healthcare industry could have a material adverse effect on our business. The healthcare industry has changed significantly in recent years and we expect that significant changes will continue to occur. However, the timing and impact of developments in the healthcare industry are difficult to predict. Reductions in expenditures by healthcare industry participants could result from, among other things:

government regulation or private initiatives that affect the manner in which healthcare providers interact with patients, payers or other healthcare industry participants, including changes in pricing or means of delivery of healthcare products and services;

decreases in marketing expenditures by pharmaceutical companies or medical device manufacturers, including as a result of governmental regulation or private initiatives that discourage or prohibit promotional activities by pharmaceutical or medical device companies;

consolidation of healthcare industry participants;

reductions in governmental funding for healthcare; and

adverse changes in business or economic conditions affecting healthcare payers or providers, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers or other healthcare industry participants.

In addition, even if general expenditures by industry participants remain the same or increase, developments in the healthcare industry may result in reduced spending on information technology and services or in some or all of the specific segments of that market we serve or are planning to serve. Expectations of our customers regarding pending or potential developments may also affect their budgeting processes and spending plans. We cannot provide assurance that the markets for our products and services will expand and develop or that we will have adequate technical, financial and marketing resources to maintain or increase our share of these markets or to enter additional markets.

For additional discussion of the potential effects of regulatory matters on our business and on participants in the healthcare industry, see Healthcare regulation could adversely affect our business and Certain Considerations Relating to the Healthcare Industry.

## We have incurred and may continue to incur losses

We began operations in January 1996 and have incurred net losses from operations in each year since our inception. Although we have begun to generate positive cash flows from operations, we continue to incur losses in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles due to depreciation, amortization and other non-cash items. Inclusive of these non-cash expenses, we expect that we will incur net losses for a least the next 12 months. We currently intend to continue to invest in infrastructure development, applications development, sales and marketing, and acquisitions in order to execute on our business plan.

## We face significant competition for our products and services

The markets in which we operate are intensely competitive, continually evolving and, in some cases, subject to rapid technological change. We have many competitors, including:

healthcare information system vendors and support providers, including physician practice management system vendors and support providers;

transaction processing companies, including those providing EDI and/or Internet-based services and those providing services through other means, such as paper and fax;

large information technology consulting service providers;

online services, portals or Web sites targeted to the healthcare industry, healthcare consumers and/or physicians generally;

Table of Contents 16

(

### **Table of Contents**

consortiums of health insurance companies and of pharmacy benefit management companies that have announced that they are developing electronic transaction services for use by their members and other potential customers;

publishers and distributors of traditional offline media, including those targeted to healthcare professionals, many of which have established or may establish their own Web sites or partner with other Web sites;

general purpose consumer online services and portals and other high-traffic Web sites that provide access to healthcare-related content and services;

public sector and non-profit Web sites that provide healthcare information without advertising or commercial sponsorships; and

vendors of healthcare information, products and services distributed through other means, including direct sales, mail and fax messaging.

We also compete, in some cases, with alliances formed by the above competitors, including alliances that are intended to allow the participants to pursue a strategy similar to our strategy of integrating transaction processing capabilities and portal services with physician practice management systems. Major software, hardware and information systems companies, both with and without healthcare companies as their partners, offer or have announced their intention to offer products or services that are competitive with some of our solutions, including wireless handheld solutions that will compete with ULTIA, our handheld solution.

In addition, there can be no assurance that healthcare payers and providers will continue to use WebMD Envoy and other independent companies to transmit healthcare transactions. Some of our existing payer and provider customers and some of our strategic partners compete with us or plan to do so or belong to alliances that compete with us or plan to do so. For example, some payers currently offer electronic data transmission services to healthcare providers that establish a direct link between the provider and payer, bypassing third party EDI service providers such as WebMD Envoy. Any significant increase in the utilization of direct links between healthcare providers and payers could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. A significant portion of WebMD Envoy s transaction volume comes from the country s largest commercial payers. We cannot provide assurance that we will be able to maintain our existing links to these or other payers or develop new connections on satisfactory terms, if at all, or that we will be able to develop new links with additional payers.

Competitors of WebMD Envoy may, for periods of time, price competing transaction services at levels that produce little or no profit in order to seek to increase their market share with respect to those or related services. As a result, WebMD Envoy may experience reductions in the amount of its revenues as a result of decreases in either transaction volume or pricing, or a combination of both. For example, WebMD Envoy s pharmacy transaction transmission services have recently been subject to pricing pressures and the volume of or revenue from these transactions transmitted by WebMD Envoy may decline.

WebMD Health faces competition both in attracting members and visitor traffic and in generating revenue from advertisers, sponsors and others. We compete with numerous companies and organizations for the attention of healthcare professionals and consumers including traditional offline media such as network and cable television, print journals, conferences, continuing medical education programs and symposia. We also face significant competition from online information resources. There are thousands of healthcare-related Web sites on the Internet. In addition, there are many companies that provide non-Internet based marketing and advertising services to the healthcare industry. These competitors include advertising agencies, consulting firms, marketing and communications companies and contract sales and marketing organizations. In addition, to the extent that we are successful in increasing revenue from our portals, competition for our portals audience and for the potential sources of revenue are likely to increase.

10

#### **Table of Contents**

Many of our competitors have greater financial, technical, product development, marketing and other resources than we do. These organizations may be better known than we are and have more customers than we do. We cannot provide assurance that we will be able to compete successfully against these organizations or any alliances they have formed or may form.

## WebMD Envoy s transaction volume and financial results could be adversely affected if we do not maintain relationships with practice management system vendors and large submitters of healthcare EDI transactions

To market and increase the usage of our WebMD Envoy transaction services, we have developed relationships with practice management system vendors and large submitters of healthcare claims. WebMD Medical Manager is a competitor of these practice management system vendors. These vendors, as a result of our ownership of WebMD Medical Manager or for other reasons, may choose in the future to diminish or terminate their relationships with WebMD Envoy. Some other large submitters of claims compete with, or may have significant relationships with entities that compete with, WebMD Envoy or WebMD Health. To the extent that we are not able to maintain mutually satisfactory relationships with the larger practice management system vendors and large submitters of healthcare EDI transactions, WebMD Envoy s transaction volume and financial results could be adversely affected.

# WebMD Envoy s transaction volume and financial results could be adversely affected if payers and providers conduct EDI transactions without using a clearinghouse

There can be no assurance that healthcare payers and providers will continue to use WebMD and other independent companies to transmit healthcare transactions. Some payers currently offer electronic data transmission services to healthcare providers that establish a direct link between the provider and payer, bypassing third party EDI service providers such as WebMD Envoy. Any significant increase in the utilization of direct links between healthcare providers and payers could have a material adverse effect on WebMD Envoy s transaction volume and financial results. We cannot provide assurance that we will be able to maintain our existing links to payers or develop new connections on satisfactory terms, if at all.

### Our ability to generate sufficient advertising and sponsorship revenue from our portal services is unproven

We derive a portion of our revenues from advertising and sponsorships on our Web sites and other Web sites that license our content. The Internet advertising and sponsorship market is new and rapidly evolving, and no standards have been widely accepted to measure its effectiveness as compared to traditional media advertising. Demand for Internet advertising in general has, during the past year, been weaker than in prior periods and there can be no assurance that such demand will return to the levels seen previously. We cannot provide assurance that we will be able to generate sufficient advertising or sponsorship revenue from our portal services to make these services profitable.

We are seeking to enter into relationships with advertisers and sponsors in which we will be compensated based on specific negotiated criteria designed to demonstrate the value of our portal services to the advertisers and sponsors. The amount of compensation that we receive from such arrangements is inherently difficult to estimate and may be less than we believed it would be at the time of entering into such arrangements and at the time of performing the services.

#### Loss of a small number of key advertisers and sponsors could have a material adverse effect on our Portal Services revenues

A substantial portion of our Portal Services revenues come from a relatively small number of advertisers and sponsors. Thus, the loss of one or a small number of relationships with key advertisers and sponsors or reduction of their purchases could have a material adverse effect on our Portal Services revenues. We may lose such relationships or experience a reduction in purchases if we fail to meet our customers expectations or needs or to keep up with our competition or for reasons outside our control, including changes in economic and regulatory conditions affecting the healthcare industry or changes

11

#### **Table of Contents**

specific to the businesses of particular customers. See Developments in the healthcare industry could adversely affect our revenues and Healthcare regulation could adversely affect our business.

## The WebMD Health Network has limited experience with international operations and in adapting its services in non-United States markets

To date, we have had limited experience in developing localized versions of our portals and in marketing and operating portals internationally. However, we intend to continue to devote resources to expanding our portals business to select non-United States markets. To achieve this, we may enter into relationships with foreign business partners. We may experience difficulty in obtaining these partners and managing international operations because of distance, trade and privacy regulation, language barriers and cultural differences. The financial results of our international operations may be harmed by a variety of factors, including changes in foreign currency exchange rates, changes in a country s or region s political, regulatory and economic conditions, and difficulties we may encounter in protecting our intellectual property.

## Our business could suffer if our software products and information technology systems contain errors, experience failures or do not meet customer expectations

The software products and information technology systems we offer are inherently complex. Despite testing and quality control, we cannot be certain that errors will not be found in prior versions, current versions or future versions or enhancements of our software products and information technology systems. We could face breach of warranty or other claims or additional development costs if our software contains undetected errors, or if our products experience failures, do not perform in accordance with their documentation, or do not meet the expectations that our customers have for them. Even if these claims do not result in liability to us, investigating and defending against them could be expensive and time consuming and could divert management s attention away from our operations. In addition, negative publicity caused by these events may delay market acceptance of our products and services, including unrelated products and services.

#### We could be subject to product liability claims if our products malfunction or provide inaccurate information

We provide products and services that assist in healthcare decision-making, including some that relate to patient medical histories and treatment plans. If these products malfunction or fail to provide accurate and timely information, we could be subject to product liability claims. Even if these claims do not result in liability to us, investigating and defending against them could be expensive and time consuming and could divert management s attention away from our operations. We attempt to limit, by contract, our liability for damages arising from negligence, errors or mistakes. However, contractual limitations on liability may not be enforceable in certain circumstances or may otherwise not provide sufficient protection to us from liability for damages. We maintain general liability insurance coverage, including coverage for errors and omissions. However, it is possible that claims could exceed the amount of our applicable insurance coverage. In addition, this coverage may not continue to be available on acceptable terms or may not be available in sufficient amounts.

## We could lose customers and revenue if we fail to meet the performance standards in our contracts

Many of our customer contracts contain performance standards. If we fail to meet these standards, our customers may seek to terminate their agreements with us, withhold payments due to us, seek refunds from us of part or all of the fees charged under those agreements or initiate litigation or other dispute resolution procedures. Despite testing and quality control, we cannot be certain that we will meet these performance standards. To the extent we fail to achieve these standards, our revenues and customer relationships could be adversely affected.

12

### **Table of Contents**

## Performance problems with WebMD Envoy s systems could adversely affect our business

Our payer and provider customer satisfaction and our business could be harmed if WebMD Envoy experiences delays, failures or loss of data in its systems. We currently process our payer and provider transactions and data at our facilities and at a data center in Tampa, Florida that is operated by Verizon Data Services. We have contingency plans for emergencies with our systems; however, we have limited backup facilities to process information if these facilities are not functioning. The occurrence of a major catastrophic event or other system failure at any of our facilities or at the Verizon facility could interrupt data processing or result in the loss of stored data, which could have a material adverse impact on our business.

#### WebMD Envoy s ability to provide transaction services depends on services provided by telecommunications companies

WebMD Envoy relies on a limited number of suppliers to provide some of the telecommunications services necessary for its transaction services. The telecommunications industry has been subject to significant changes as a result of changes in technology, regulation and the underlying economy. Recently, many telecommunications companies have experienced financial problems and some have sought bankruptcy protection. Some of these companies have discontinued telecommunications services for which they had contractual obligations to WebMD Envoy. WebMD Envoy s inability to source telecommunications services at reasonable prices due to a loss of competitive suppliers could affect its ability to maintain its margins until it is able to raise its prices to its customers and, if it is not able to raise its prices, could have a material adverse effect on its financial results.

### Some of our services will not be widely adopted until broadband connectivity is more generally available

Some of our services and planned services require a continuous broadband connection between the physician s office and our data center and/or the Internet. The availability of broadband connectivity varies widely from location to location and even within a single geographic area, due to factors such as the distance of a site from the central switching office. The future availability of broadband connections is unpredictable and is not within our control. While we expect that many physician office locations will remain without ready access to broadband connectivity for some period of time, we cannot predict how long that will be. Accordingly, the lack of these broadband connections will continue to place limitations on the number of sites that are able to utilize our Internet-based services and the revenue we can expect to generate from those services.

#### A new hardware and software platform being implemented by WebMD Health may not perform as expected

WebMD Health is in the process of implementing a new hardware and software platform for creating and delivering our Web sites. WebMD Health is new platform may not perform as expected, which could result in interruptions in WebMD Health is operation of our Web sites or an increase in response time of those sites if, for example, the new platform is unable to be scaled to handle required traffic loads or is incompatible or not sufficiently compatible with systems of third parties with which it must interface. Any significant interruption in WebMD Health is ability to operate our Web sites could have an adverse effect on its relationship with users and sponsors and, as a result, on its financial results. In addition, a new platform may be subject to security breaches or other failures that did not occur during testing of the platform, the occurrence of which could damage our reputation or result in liability.

## If our systems or the Internet experience security breaches or are otherwise perceived to be insecure, our business could suffer

A security breach could damage our reputation or result in liability. We retain confidential information, including patient health information, in our processing centers and other facilities. It is critical that these facilities and infrastructure remain secure and be perceived by the marketplace as secure. We

13

### **Table of Contents**

may be required to expend significant capital and other resources to protect against security breaches and hackers or to alleviate problems caused by breaches. Despite the implementation of security measures, this infrastructure may be vulnerable to physical break-ins, hackers, improper employee or contractor access, computer viruses, programming errors, attacks by third parties or similar disruptive problems. In addition, any well-publicized compromise of Internet security, whether or not related to our own operations, could reduce demand for our Internet-based services.

#### Our Internet-based services are dependent on the development and maintenance of the Internet infrastructure

Our ability to deliver our Internet-based services is dependent on the development and maintenance of the infrastructure of the Internet by third parties. This includes maintenance of a reliable network backbone with the necessary speed, data capacity and security, as well as timely development of complementary products such as high-speed modems, for providing reliable Internet access and services. The Internet has experienced, and is likely to continue to experience, significant growth in the number of users and the amount of traffic. If the Internet continues to experience increased usage, the Internet infrastructure may be unable to support the demands placed on it. In addition, the performance of the Internet may be harmed by increased usage.

The Internet has experienced a variety of outages and other delays as a result of damages to portions of its infrastructure, and it could face outages and delays in the future. These outages and delays could reduce the level of Internet usage as well as the availability of the Internet to us for delivery of our Internet-based services. In addition, our customers who utilize our Web-based services depend on Internet service providers, online service providers and other Web site operators for access to our Web site. All of these providers have experienced significant outages in the past and could experience outages, delays and other difficulties in the future due to system failures unrelated to our systems. Any significant interruptions in our services or increases in response time could result in a loss of potential or existing users of and advertisers and sponsors on our Web site and, if sustained or repeated, could reduce the attractiveness of our services.

#### The performance of our business depends on attracting and retaining qualified executives and employees

Our performance depends on attracting and retaining key personnel, including executives, product managers, software developers and other technical personnel and sales and marketing personnel. Failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on the performance of our business and the results of our operations.

## Business combinations and other transactions may be difficult to complete and, if completed, may have negative consequences for our business and our securityholders

We intend to seek to acquire or to engage in business combinations with companies engaged in complementary businesses. In addition, we may enter into joint ventures, strategic alliances or similar arrangements with third parties. These transactions may result in changes in the nature and scope of our operations and changes in our financial condition. Our success in completing these types of transactions will depend on, among other things, our ability to locate suitable candidates and negotiate mutually acceptable terms with them, as well as the availability of financing. Significant competition for these opportunities exists, which may increase the cost of and decrease the opportunities for these types of transactions. Financing for these transactions may come from several sources, including:

cash and cash equivalents on hand and marketable securities,

proceeds from the incurrence of indebtedness,

and proceeds from the issuance of additional common stock, preferred stock, convertible debt or other securities.

14

## **Table of Contents**

Our issuance of additional securities could:

cause substantial dilution of the percentage ownership of our stockholders at the time of the issuance,

cause substantial dilution of our earnings per share, and

adversely affect the prevailing market price for our outstanding securities.

We do not intend to seek securityholder approval for any such acquisition or security issuance unless required by applicable law or regulation or the terms of existing securities.

## Our business will suffer if we fail to successfully integrate acquired businesses and technologies or to assess the risks in particular transactions

We have in the past acquired, and may in the future acquire, businesses, technologies, services, product lines and other assets. The successful integration of the acquired businesses and assets into our operations can be critical to our future performance. The amount and timing of the expected benefits of any acquisition are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, those relating to:

our ability to cross-sell products and services to customers with which we have established relationships and those with which the acquired business has established relationships;

our ability to retain or replace key personnel;

potential conflicts in payer, provider, strategic partner, sponsor or advertising relationships;

our ability to coordinate organizations that are geographically diverse and may have different business cultures; and

compliance with regulatory requirements.

We cannot guarantee that any acquired businesses will be successfully integrated with our operations in a timely manner, or at all. Failure to successfully integrate acquired businesses or to achieve anticipated operating synergies, revenue enhancements or cost savings could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Although our management attempts to evaluate the risks inherent in each transaction and to value acquisition candidates appropriately, we cannot assure you that we will properly ascertain all such risks or that acquired businesses and assets will perform as we expect or enhance the value of our company as a whole. In addition, acquired companies or businesses may have larger than expected liabilities that are not covered by the indemnification, if any, we are able to obtain from the seller.

#### Our business may be subject to litigation

Our business and operations may subject us to claims, litigation and other proceedings brought by private parties and governmental authorities. For information regarding certain proceedings to which we are currently a party, see the information under Legal Proceedings in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 and in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the first quarter of 2002 incorporated by reference herein.

## Healthcare regulation could adversely affect our business

The healthcare industry is highly regulated and is subject to changing political, regulatory and other influences. These factors affect the purchasing practices and operations of healthcare organizations as well as the behavior and attitudes of consumers. Federal and state legislatures and agencies periodically consider programs to reform or revise the United States healthcare system. These programs may contain proposals to increase governmental involvement in healthcare, lower reimbursement rates or otherwise change the environment in which healthcare industry participants operate. Healthcare industry participants

15

## **Table of Contents**

may respond by reducing their investments or postponing investment decisions, including investments in our products and services. We are unable to predict future proposals with any certainty or to predict the effect they would have on our businesses.

Existing laws and regulations also could create liability, cause us to incur additional costs and restrict our operations. Many healthcare laws are complex, applied broadly and subject to interpretation by courts and other governmental authorities. In addition, many existing healthcare laws and regulations, when enacted, did not anticipate the methods of healthcare e-commerce and other products and services that we provide. However, these laws and regulations may nonetheless be applied to our products and services. Our failure, or the failure of our business partners, to accurately anticipate the application of these healthcare laws and regulations, or other failure to comply, could create liability for us, result in adverse publicity and negatively affect our businesses.

For more information regarding healthcare regulation to which we are or may be subject, see Certain Considerations Relating to the Healthcare Industry.

#### The effect of HIPAA on our business is difficult to predict and its implementation may cause unexpected problems

As described under Certain Considerations Relating to the Healthcare Industry Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and Business Transaction Services or WebMD Envoy HIPAA in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 incorporated by reference herein, we believe that we are well-positioned to assist payers, providers and other healthcare participants with their efforts to comply with HIPAA and in their management of the period during which they and others are migrating to compliance. We are continuing to develop our HIPAA-ready solutions and our business strategy for marketing those solutions and services. Changes in compliance deadlines or in other aspects of the HIPAA regulations may cause us to make changes to our strategy or require us to develop different solutions. The effect of HIPAA on our business is difficult to predict and there can be no assurances that we will adequately address the business risks created by HIPAA and its implementation or that we will be able to take advantage of any resulting business opportunities. In addition, our technological and strategic responses to HIPAA may result in conflicts with, or other adverse changes in our relationships with some healthcare industry participants, including some who are existing or potential customers for our products and services or existing or potential strategic partners. Furthermore, we are unable to predict what changes to the HIPAA regulations will be made in the future or how those changes could affect our business.

The extension of the deadline for complying with the HIPAA transaction standards will cause us to have a longer period of time in which we must accommodate our customers—varying states of readiness to test new systems and move to the new standards. There can be no assurance that we will be able to meet our customers—requested deadlines because of our inability to predict or significantly affect the timing of our customers—requests for testing and validation of new systems and connections. The extended compliance period also may allow certain of our customers time to build compliant transaction systems that may diminish their need for certain of our transaction services.

## Regulation of the Internet could adversely affect our business

The Internet and its associated technologies are subject to government regulation. Our failure, or the failure of our business partners, to accurately anticipate the application of applicable laws and regulations, or any other failure to comply, could create liability for us, result in adverse publicity, or negatively affect our business. In addition, new laws and regulations, or new interpretations of existing laws and regulations, may be adopted with respect to the Internet or other online services covering user privacy, patient confidentiality, consumer protection and other issues, including pricing, content, copyrights and patents, distribution, and characteristics and quality of products and services. We cannot predict whether these laws or regulations will change or how such changes will affect our business. Government regulation of the

16

### **Table of Contents**

Internet could limit the effectiveness of the Internet for the methods of healthcare e-commerce that we are providing or developing or even prohibit the sale of particular products and services.

For more information regarding government regulation of the Internet to which we are or may be subject, see Healthcare regulation could adversely affect our business and Certain Considerations Relating to the Healthcare Industry.

## We face potential liability related to the privacy and security of personal information we collect on our Web sites

Internet user privacy has become a controversial issue both in the United States and abroad. We have privacy policies posted on our consumer portal and our professional portal that we believe comply with applicable laws requiring notice to users about our information collection, use and disclosure practices. However, whether and how existing privacy and consumer protection laws in various jurisdictions apply to the Internet is still uncertain and may take years to resolve. Any legislation or regulation in the area of privacy of personal information could affect the way we operate our Web sites and could harm our business. Further, we can give no assurance that the statements on our portals, or our practices, will be found sufficient to protect us from liability or adverse publicity in this area.

For more information regarding regulation of the collection, use and disclosure of personal information to which we may be subject, see Healthcare regulation could adversely affect our business and Certain Considerations Relating to the Healthcare Industry.

## Third parties may challenge the enforceability of our online agreements

The law governing the validity and enforceability of online agreements and other electronic transactions is evolving. We could be subject to claims by third parties that our online agreements with consumers and physicians that provide the terms and conditions for use of our portals are unenforceable. A finding by a court that these agreements are invalid could harm our business and require costly changes to our portals.

## Third parties may bring claims as a result of the activities of our strategic partners

We could be subject to claims by third parties, and to liability, as a result of the activities, products or services of our strategic partners. We state on our portals that we do not control or endorse the products or services of our strategic partners. However, there can be no assurance that the statements made in our portal will be found to be sufficient to ensure that we are not held responsible for such activities, products or services. Furthermore, even if these claims do not result in liability to us, investigating and defending these claims could be expensive, time-consuming and result in adverse publicity that could harm our business.

# Third parties may bring claims against us as a result of content provided on our Web site, which may be expensive and time consuming to defend

We could be subject to third party claims based on the nature and content of information supplied on our Web site by us or third parties, including content providers, medical advisors or users. We could also be subject to liability for content that may be accessible through our Web site or third party Web sites linked from our Web site or through content and information that may be posted by users in chat rooms, bulletin boards or on Web sites created by professionals using our Web site application. Even if these claims do not result in liability to us, investigating and defending against these claims could be expensive and time consuming and could divert management s attention away from our operations.

## Our intellectual property may be subject to infringement claims or may be infringed upon

Our intellectual property is important to our business. The steps we take to protect our intellectual property and proprietary information may prove to be inadequate and, whether or not adequate, may be

17

### **Table of Contents**

expensive. There can be no assurance that we will be able to detect potential or actual misappropriation or infringement of our intellectual property or proprietary information. Even if we do detect misappropriation or infringement by a third party, there can be no assurance that we will be able to enforce our rights at a reasonable cost, or at all. In addition, our rights to intellectual property and proprietary information may not prevent independent third-party development and commercialization of competing products or services.

We could be subject to claims that we are misappropriating or infringing intellectual property or other proprietary rights of others. These claims, even if not meritorious, could be expensive to defend and divert management s attention from our operations. If we become liable to third parties for infringing these rights, we could be required to pay a substantial damage award and to develop non-infringing technology, obtain a license or cease selling the applications that contain the infringing intellectual property. We may be unable to develop non-infringing technology or obtain a license on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. We may also be required to indemnify our customers if they become subject to third party claims relating to intellectual property that we license or otherwise provide to them.

#### We may not be able to raise additional funds when needed for our business or to exploit opportunities

Our future liquidity and capital requirements will depend upon numerous factors, including the success of the integration of our businesses, our existing and new applications and service offerings, competing technologies and market developments, potential future acquisitions and additional repurchases of our common stock. We may need to raise additional funds to support expansion, develop new or enhanced applications and services, respond to competitive pressures, acquire complementary businesses or technologies or take advantage of unanticipated opportunities. If required, we may raise such additional funds through public or private debt or equity financing, strategic relationships or other arrangements. There can be no assurance that such financing will be available on acceptable terms, if at all, or that such financing will not be dilutive to our stockholders.

#### The proposed disposition of our Porex plastics business may not be completed in accordance with our expectations

The proposed disposition of our Porex plastics business has taken longer than originally expected. We determined not to accept any of the offers made by potential buyers because we believed, at the time, that the offers did not reflect the value of the Porex business. We plan to continue to explore various divestiture alternatives for the Porex business.

# Changes in our expectations regarding Porex s future financial performance or factors affecting valuations of businesses in general could result in future impairment charges with respect to Porex

Our estimate of the fair value of the assets and liabilities of Porex, as set forth on our most recent balance sheet, may be subject to change based on several factors. These factors include our expectations regarding Porex s future financial performance and factors that affect valuations of companies in general, such as volatility in the financial markets and the availability and terms of financing for potential acquirors of companies. The financial performance of certain of Porex s subsidiaries is being negatively impacted by adverse economic conditions and increased competitive pressures. See Until we dispose of Porex, we will be subject to risks associated with its business Porex faces significant competition for its products and services below. The carrying value of Porex on our balance sheet may be subject to future impairment charges and, furthermore, a completion of the divestiture of Porex could result in a loss to the extent that the amount of the proceeds received is lower than our carrying value.

#### Until we dispose of Porex, we will be subject to risks associated with its business

Until the proposed disposition of Porex is completed, we will continue to operate that business and to be subject to additional risks associated with that business, which include:

Porex faces significant competition for its products and services

In the porous plastics area, Porex s competitors include other producers of porous plastic materials as well as companies that manufacture and sell products made from materials other than porous plastics

18

## **Table of Contents**

which can be used for the same purposes as Porex s products. Porex s porous plastic pen nibs compete with felt and fiber tips manufactured by a variety of suppliers worldwide. Other Porex industrial products made of porous plastic compete, depending on the industrial application, with porous metals, metal screens, fiberglass tubes, pleated paper, resin-impregnated felt, ceramics and other substances and devices.

The market for Porex s injection molded solid plastic components and products, including its medical products, is highly competitive and highly fragmented. Porex s pipette tips and racks also compete with similar products manufactured by domestic and foreign manufacturers. Porex s injection molding and mold making services compete with services offered by numerous foreign and domestic companies. Porex is experiencing increasing competitive pressures with respect to the products and services referred to in this paragraph.

The MEDPOR® Biomaterial products compete for surgical use against autogenous and allograph materials and alloplastic biomaterials. Porex surgical drains and markers compete against a variety of products from several manufacturers.

Many of Porex s competitors have greater financial, technical, product development, marketing and other resources than Porex does. We cannot provide assurance that Porex will be able to compete successfully against these companies or against particular products and services they provide or may provide in the future.

Healthcare regulation could adversely affect Porex &nbs