

KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC

Form 424B5

November 17, 2014

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
SEC File No. 333-196804

This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and they are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state or jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED NOVEMBER 17, 2014

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus Dated November 17, 2014)

Kindred Healthcare, Inc.

150,000 % Tangible Equity Units

This is an offering of tangible equity units (Units) issued by Kindred Healthcare, Inc. (we or the Company). Each Unit has a stated amount of \$1,000. Each Unit is comprised of a prepaid stock purchase contract issued by the Company (a Purchase Contract) and one share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, Series A of the Company (the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock) having a final preferred stock installment payment date (as defined herein) of December 1, 2017 and an initial liquidation preference of \$ per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

Unless settled or redeemed earlier as described herein, each Purchase Contract will automatically settle on December 1, 2017 (subject to postponement in certain limited circumstances) and we will deliver a number of shares of our common stock, par value \$0.25 per share (Common Stock), based on the applicable market value of our Common Stock. The applicable market value is the average of the daily volume-weighted average prices (VWAPs) of our Common Stock for the 20 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017. On the mandatory settlement date, each Purchase Contract will settle, unless earlier settled or redeemed, as follows (subject to adjustment):

if the applicable market value is greater than \$, you will receive shares of Common Stock for each Purchase Contract;

if the applicable market value is less than or equal to \$ but greater than or equal to \$, you will receive a number of shares of Common Stock (and any cash in lieu of fractional shares) for each Purchase Contract equal to \$1,000 divided by the applicable market value; and

if the applicable market value is less than \$, you will receive shares of Common Stock for each Purchase Contract.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

At any time prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017, you may settle any or all of your Purchase Contracts early, and we will deliver _____ shares of our Common Stock per Purchase Contract (subject to adjustment). In addition, if a fundamental change (as defined herein) occurs and you elect to settle your Purchase Contracts early in connection with such fundamental change, you will receive a number of shares of our Common Stock based on the fundamental change early settlement rate, as described herein. We may elect to settle all, but not less than all, outstanding Purchase Contracts on or after May 1, 2015 and prior to December 1, 2017, at the early mandatory settlement rate (as defined herein), upon a date fixed by us upon not less than five business days' notice. In addition, if the Merger Agreement (as defined herein) relating to our pending acquisition of Gentiva Health Services, Inc. (Gentiva) has terminated, we may elect within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015 to redeem all, but not less than all, outstanding Purchase Contracts on the terms described herein. Except for cash in lieu of fractional shares or, under certain circumstances, in the event of a merger termination redemption (as defined herein), the Purchase Contract holders will not receive any cash distributions under the Purchase Contracts.

We will make equal quarterly preferred stock installment payments (as defined herein) of \$ _____ per share (or in the case of the first preferred stock installment payment, \$ _____ per share) on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 of each year, commencing on March 1, 2015 to, and including, December 1, 2017, in each case, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash and, with respect to the dividend portion of such payment, such dividend is declared by our board of directors. In the aggregate, the preferred stock installment payments will be equivalent to a _____ % cash payment per year with respect to each \$1,000 stated amount of Units. Such preferred stock installment payments will be payable in cash, shares of our Common Stock or a combination thereof, at our election, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash.

Each preferred stock installment payment will constitute a dividend payment as well as a payment of consideration (the Redemption Amount) for the partial reduction in liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (the Partial Redemption). Under the terms of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, we will partially reduce the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on every quarterly preferred stock installment payment date until no liquidation preference remains. All shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be fully redeemed on the last preferred stock installment payment date. The portion of a preferred stock installment payment that constitutes a dividend will be payable on the relevant preferred stock installment payment date only if our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) declares a dividend with respect to such date and to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, except that we will be required to pay, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, all accumulated dividends (whether or not declared) on the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to Partial Redemption on such preferred stock installment payment date. If we elect to settle all the Purchase Contracts early or if a merger termination redemption occurs, holders of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have the right to require us to redeem their shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for cash at the redemption price (as defined herein).

Each Unit may be separated into its constituent Purchase Contract and its constituent Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock after the initial issuance date of the Units, and the separate components may be combined to recreate a Unit, except at certain times as described herein.

We will apply to list the Units on The New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) under the symbol KNDU, subject to satisfaction of its minimum listing standards with respect to the Units. If the Units are approved for listing, we expect trading on the NYSE to begin within 30 calendar days after the Units are first issued. We do not intend to apply to list the separate Purchase Contracts or the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on any securities exchange or automated inter-dealer quotation system, but we may apply to list such separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in the future as described herein. Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the Units.

Our Common Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol KND. On November 14, 2014, the last reported sale price of our Common Stock on the NYSE was \$19.92 per share.

The underwriters have an option, exercisable for settlement within 13 calendar days from, and including, the date of the initial issuance of the Units to purchase up to an additional 22,500 Units from us at the price to public less underwriting discounts and commissions, solely to cover over-allotments, if any.

Concurrently with this offering of Units, pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement, we are offering 5,000,000 shares of our Common Stock (Common Stock Offering) for a total price to public of approximately \$ _____ million (or 5,750,000 shares, for a total price to public of approximately \$ _____ million, if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase up to an additional 750,000 shares of Common Stock in full). The completion of this offering is not

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

contingent on the completion of the concurrent Common Stock Offering, and the completion of the concurrent Common Stock Offering is not contingent on the completion of this offering. This offering is not contingent on completion of the Merger (as defined herein) or completion of the other Financing Transactions (as defined herein). For more information, see "The Transactions" in this prospectus supplement.

Investing in the Units involves risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section on page S-34 of this prospectus supplement and the "Risk Factors" sections of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, as such discussion may be amended or updated in other reports filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), which are incorporated by reference herein.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Public Offering Price	Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Proceeds, Before Expenses, to Us
Per Unit	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$

The underwriters expect to deliver the Units to purchasers on or about _____, 2014 through the book-entry facilities of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC").

Book-Running Managers

**Citigroup
Guggenheim Securities**

**J. P. Morgan
Morgan Stanley**

Co-Managers

BMO Capital Markets

Deutsche Bank Securities

SunTrust Robinson Humphrey

, 2014

Table of Contents

We are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus we prepare or authorize. We have not and the underwriters have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and neither we nor the underwriter take responsibility for any other information that others may give you. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or the underwriters that would permit a public offering of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The securities offered by this prospectus supplement may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such securities be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or in any related free writing prospectus we prepare or authorize is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document containing the information.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-iii
<u>Non-GAAP Financial Measures</u>	S-v
<u>Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-34
<u>Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-77
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-80
<u>Price Range of Our Common Stock</u>	S-81
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	S-81
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-82
<u>The Transactions</u>	S-84
<u>Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information</u>	S-90
<u>Description of the Units</u>	S-107
<u>Description of the Purchase Contracts</u>	S-112
<u>Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock</u>	S-134
<u>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-144
<u>Book-Entry Procedures and Settlement</u>	S-152
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-155
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-161
<u>Experts</u>	S-161
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-162
<u>Documents Incorporated by Reference</u>	S-162

Prospectus

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	i
<u>Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	i
<u>Kindred Healthcare, Inc.</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	2
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preference Dividends</u>	2
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	3
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	4
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	4
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	5
<u>Description of Units</u>	5
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	6
<u>Validity of the Securities</u>	7
<u>Experts</u>	7
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	8
<u>Documents Incorporated by Reference</u>	8

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document consists of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which describes more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in the sections entitled **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Documents Incorporated by Reference** in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus.

If the description of the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

Any statement made in this prospectus supplement or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement or in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement. The information we have included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, and any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since any such dates.

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise specified or the context requires otherwise:

References to **we**, **us**, **our**, **the Company** and **Kindred** are references to Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries as of the date hereof;

References to **Gentiva** are references to Gentiva Health Services, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries as of the date hereof;

References to the **Merger** are references to the merger of Kindred Healthcare Development 2, Inc. (the **Merger Sub**), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, with and into Gentiva, with Gentiva surviving the merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of Kindred;

References to the **combined company** are references to Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries (including Gentiva and its consolidated subsidiaries) after the completion of the Transactions (as defined herein), including the Merger, and assume that the Merger is completed; and

References to **pro forma** are references to the pro forma information as defined in **Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information** in this prospectus supplement.

Although Kindred's acquisition of Gentiva has not yet occurred, the pro forma information in this prospectus supplement gives pro forma effect to the Merger and the related Financing Transactions (as defined herein) as of September 30, 2014, in the case of balance sheet data, and as of January 1, 2013, in the case of statement of operations data, unless otherwise specified. The pro forma statement of

operations in this prospectus supplement also gives effect of Gentiva's acquisition of Harden Healthcare Holdings, Inc. (Harden) in October 2013, the effect of Kindred's refinancing of certain debt obligations in April 2014 and Kindred's Common Stock offering in June 2014. The pro forma information is for illustrative purposes only, is based on various adjustments and assumptions, and is not necessarily an indication of the financial condition or the results of operations of Kindred that would have been achieved had the Merger and the Financing Transactions been completed as of the dates indicated or that may be achieved in the future. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger and Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information.

S-iii

Table of Contents

This offering is not contingent on completion of the Merger. If the Merger is not completed, none of the transactions described under The Transactions, other than this offering and the concurrent Common Stock Offering, if completed, will occur, the other pieces of our current capital structure will remain in place as described herein or in the documents incorporated by reference herein and we will use the net proceeds from this offering as described under Use of Proceeds. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger.

In connection with the Merger, we plan to file a registration statement on Form S-4 (the Merger S-4) to register shares of our Common Stock to be issued as the Stock Consideration (as defined herein) at the closing of the Merger. The Merger S-4 will include certain information related to the Merger and Kindred and Gentiva s businesses that is substantially similar to the information included in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. The Merger S-4 is subject to SEC review, and as a result, we may receive comments from the SEC that require us to make changes, modifications or additions to the Merger S-4. Any such changes, modifications or additions to the Merger S-4 could be significant and may be different from the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated, all information in this prospectus supplement assumes (i) no exercise by the underwriters of their right to purchase up to 22,500 additional Units from us and (ii) our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) declares any and all dividends with respect to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and we have funds lawfully available to pay the preferred stock installment payments in full with respect to any such payments in cash on each quarterly preferred stock installment payment date.

Market data and other statistical information used in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus are based on independent industry publications, government publications, reports by market research firms and other published independent sources. Some data is also based on our good faith estimates, which we derive from our review of internal surveys and independent sources. Although we believe these sources are reliable, we have not independently verified the information. We neither guarantee their accuracy nor undertake a duty to provide or update such data in the future.

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus may include trademarks, service marks and trade names owned by us or other companies. All trademarks, service marks and trade names included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Table of Contents

NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

The SEC has adopted rules to regulate the use in filings with the SEC and in public disclosures of non-GAAP financial measures, such as EBITDA, EBITDAR, Adjusted EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDAR, Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA and Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR.

We define EBITDA of Kindred (Kindred EBITDA) as earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization and EBITDAR of Kindred (Kindred EBITDAR) as earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation, amortization and rent. Adjusted EBITDA of Kindred (Kindred Adjusted EBITDA) and Adjusted EBITDAR of Kindred (Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR) exclude the effects of impairment charges, litigation costs, one-time bonus costs, facility closing costs, customer bankruptcy costs, severance and retirement costs, acquisition-related expenses and certain other items. Kindred Adjusted EBITDA also excludes the effect of lease cancellation charges.

We define EBITDA of Gentiva (Gentiva EBITDA) as earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization and EBITDAR of Gentiva (Gentiva EBITDAR) as earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation, amortization and rent. Adjusted EBITDA of Gentiva (Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA) and Adjusted EBITDAR of Gentiva (Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR) exclude the effects of impairment charges, legal settlements, cost savings initiatives and other restructuring costs, gain on sale of business, dividend income, acquisition, merger and integration costs, and the impact of closed locations.

We define Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA as Kindred Adjusted EBITDA and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA for the relevant period, combined, without further adjustment. We define Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR as Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR for the relevant period, combined, without further adjustment.

We believe that the presentation of these measurements included in this prospectus supplement provides useful information to investors with which to analyze Kindred's and Gentiva's operating trends and performance and ability to service and incur debt. Further, we believe these measurements facilitate company-to-company operating performance comparisons by backing out potential differences caused by variations in capital structures, taxation and the age and depreciation of property and equipment, which may vary for different companies for reasons unrelated to operating performance. In addition, we believe that these measurements are frequently used by securities analysts, investors and other interested parties in their evaluation of companies. These measurements are not measurements of financial performance under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) and should not be considered as an alternative to net income as a measure of performance or to net cash flows provided by (used in) operations as a measure of liquidity. In addition, other companies may define these measurements differently and, as a result, our measures may not be directly comparable. Furthermore, these measurements have limitations as an analytical tool and you should not consider them in isolation, or as a substitute for analysis of Kindred or Gentiva's results as reported under GAAP. Some of these limitations are:

EBITDA and EBITDAR do not reflect Kindred or Gentiva's cash expenditures, or future requirements, for capital expenditures or contractual commitments;

EBITDA and EBITDAR do not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, Kindred or Gentiva's working capital needs;

EBITDAR and Adjusted EBITDAR do not reflect rent expense or cash requirements necessary to make rent payments;

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

EBITDA and EBITDAR do not reflect the significant interest expense on Kindred or Gentiva's debts, or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments;

EBITDA and EBITDAR do not reflect a provision for income taxes, which may vary significantly from period to period;

S-v

Table of Contents

EBITDA and EBITDAR do not reflect a provision for (earnings) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests, which may vary significantly from period to period;

although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized will often have to be replaced in the future, and EBITDA and EBITDAR do not reflect any cash requirements for such replacements; and

other companies in Kindred or Gentiva's industry may calculate EBITDA and EBITDAR differently than Kindred or Gentiva does, limiting its usefulness as a comparative measure.

You should compensate for these limitations by relying primarily on Kindred or Gentiva's GAAP results, such as income (loss) from continuing operations and net income (loss), and using EBITDA and EBITDAR only supplementally.

You are encouraged to evaluate each adjustment to Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDAR and the reasons we consider them appropriate for supplemental analysis. As an analytical tool, Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDAR are subject to all of the limitations applicable to EBITDA and EBITDAR, so you should rely primarily on Kindred or Gentiva's GAAP results and use Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDAR only supplementally. In addition, in evaluating Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDAR, you should be aware that in the future we may incur expenses similar to the adjustments we use in deriving Adjusted EBITDA or Adjusted EBITDAR and Kindred or Gentiva's presentation of Adjusted EBITDA or Adjusted EBITDAR should not be construed as an inference that Kindred or Gentiva's future results will be unaffected by unusual or nonrecurring items.

Investors should be aware that Gentiva EBITDA, Gentiva EBITDAR, Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR may not be entirely comparable to Kindred EBITDA, Kindred EBITDAR, Kindred Adjusted EBITDA and Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR. Neither Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA nor Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation S-X or any other securities laws relating to the presentation of pro forma financial information and does not include pro forma information as defined in Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information. Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA and Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR are presented for information purposes only and do not purport to represent what our actual financial position or results of operations would have been if the pending acquisition of Gentiva had been completed as of an earlier date or that may be achieved in the future.

See Summary Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information Kindred Healthcare, Inc. in this prospectus supplement for descriptions of Kindred EBITDA, Kindred EBITDAR, Kindred Adjusted EBITDA, Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR, Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA and Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR and a reconciliation of these measures to Kindred's directly comparable GAAP measures. See

Summary Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information Gentiva Health Services, Inc. in this prospectus supplement for descriptions of Gentiva EBITDA, Gentiva EBITDAR, Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR and a reconciliation of these measures to Gentiva's directly comparable GAAP measures.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

*The following information supplements, and should be read together with, the information contained or incorporated by reference in other parts of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus supplement. As a result, it does not contain all of the information you should consider before investing in the Units. You should carefully read the entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, which are described under *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Documents Incorporated by Reference*, before deciding whether to invest in the Units. You should pay special attention to the *Risk Factors* section of this prospectus supplement and the *Risk Factors* sections of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 to determine whether to invest in the Units.*

*In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise specified or the context requires otherwise: (i) references to *we*, *us*, *our*, *the Company* and *Kindred* are references to Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries as of the date hereof; (ii) references to *Gentiva* are references to Gentiva Health Services, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries as of the date hereof; (iii) references to *the combined company* are references to Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries (including Gentiva and its consolidated subsidiaries) after the completion of the Transactions, including the Merger (each as defined herein), and assume that the Merger is completed; and (iv) references to *pro forma* are references to the pro forma information as defined in *Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information*.*

Our Company

General

Kindred is one of the largest diversified post-acute healthcare providers in the United States. At September 30, 2014, Kindred, through its subsidiaries, provided healthcare services in 2,376 locations across 47 states.

We have organized our business into four operating divisions:

Hospital Division Our hospital division provides long-term acute care (LTAC) services to medically complex patients through the operation of a national network of 97 transitional care (TC) hospitals with 7,145 licensed beds and five inpatient rehabilitation hospitals (IRFs) with 215 licensed beds in 22 states as of September 30, 2014. We operate the second largest network of TC hospitals and IRFs in the United States based upon number of facilities.

Nursing Center Division Our nursing center division provides quality, cost-effective care through the operation of a national network of 99 nursing centers (12,478 licensed beds) and six assisted living facilities (341 beds) located in 21 states as of September 30, 2014. Through our nursing centers, we provide short stay patients and long stay residents with a full range of medical, nursing, rehabilitative, pharmacy and routine services, including daily dietary, social and recreational services.

Rehabilitation Division Our rehabilitation division provides rehabilitation services, including physical and occupational therapies and speech pathology services, to residents and patients of nursing centers, acute and LTAC hospitals, outpatient clinics, home health

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

agencies and assisted living facilities under the name RehabCare. Within our rehabilitation division, we are organized into two reportable operating segments: skilled nursing rehabilitation services (SRS) and hospital rehabilitation services (HRS). Our SRS operations provide contract therapy services primarily to freestanding nursing centers, school districts and hospice providers. As of September 30, 2014, our SRS segment provided rehabilitative services to 1,896 nursing centers in 45 states. Our HRS operations provide program management and

S-1

Table of Contents

therapy services on an inpatient basis in hospital-based inpatient rehabilitation units, LTAC hospitals, sub-acute (or skilled nursing) units, as well as on an outpatient basis to hospital-based and other satellite programs. As of September 30, 2014, our HRS segment operated 102 hospital-based inpatient rehabilitation units and provided rehabilitation services in 117 LTAC hospitals, 10 sub-acute (or skilled nursing) units and 139 outpatient clinics.

Care Management Division Our care management division primarily provides home health, hospice and private duty services, under the name Kindred at Home, to patients in a variety of settings, including homes, nursing centers and other residential settings. As of September 30, 2014, we operated 152 Kindred at Home hospice, home health and non-medical home care locations in 13 states. While minor in scope at this time, our care management division is also developing (1) physician coverage across sites of service, (2) care managers to improve care transitions, (3) information sharing and technology connectivity, (4) patient placement tools, and (5) condition-specific clinical programs and outcome measures.

We believe that the independent focus of each of our divisions on the unique aspects of its business enhances its ability to improve the quality of its operations and achieve operating efficiencies.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and year ended December 31, 2013, Kindred generated net operating revenue of approximately \$3.8 billion and \$4.8 billion, respectively, and Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR of approximately \$518 million and \$658 million, respectively. For a reconciliation of Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR to income (loss) from continuing operations for Kindred, see Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information Kindred Healthcare, Inc.

Recent Developments

On November 11, 2014, we entered into a definitive agreement (the Centerre Merger Agreement) to acquire Centerre Healthcare Corporation (Centerre), a national company that operates IRFs in partnership with leading acute care hospitals and health systems, for a purchase price of approximately \$195 million in cash (the Centerre Acquisition). Centerre currently operates 11 IRFs with a total of 612 beds in joint ventures with acute-care hospital systems in eight states. Centerre has two additional hospitals with a total of 90 beds under construction and scheduled to open in 2015, and additional potential hospitals in various stages of development. The Centerre Acquisition is subject to several conditions to closing, including, among others, approval of the merger agreement by the requisite vote of Centerre's stockholders, regulatory approvals, consents from certain joint venture partners and certain other customary conditions to closing, including the expiration of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended (the HSR Act). The Centerre Acquisition is expected to close in the first quarter of 2015.

On November 5, 2014, we announced that upon closing of our acquisition of Gentiva, which is expected in the first quarter of 2015, David A. Causby will become the President of the combined Kindred at Home business. Mr. Causby, currently Gentiva's President and Chief Operating Officer, will be responsible for the combined company's home health, hospice, palliative, and community care offerings. Mr. Causby will serve on the Company's Executive Committee and will report to Benjamin A. Breier, Kindred's President and Chief Operating Officer.

On October 30, 2014, we announced that Benjamin A. Breier will become Chief Executive Officer on March 31, 2015, succeeding Paul J. Diaz who will become Executive Vice Chairman of Kindred's board of directors. Mr. Breier will also become a member of Kindred's board of directors, effective March 31, 2015.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

On October 9, 2014, we entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Gentiva, a leading national provider of home health, hospice and community care services in the United States, for a total consideration of approximately \$1.8 billion. For additional information, see Acquisition of Gentiva Health Services.

S-2

Table of Contents

Competitive Strengths

We believe that there are several competitive strengths supporting Kindred's and, after the completion of the Merger, the combined company's business strategy, including:

Diversified service offerings allow us to Continue the Care[®] across the post-acute continuum. We have a diversified portfolio of service offerings including TC hospitals, IRFs, nursing centers, contract rehabilitation services, home health and hospice operations. We have designated 23 markets across the United States as current or potential Integrated Care Markets. We focus on developing our diverse services in these Integrated Care Markets, which allows us to coordinate and manage the continuum of care for our patients, reduce lengths of stay, implement physician services strategies, prevent avoidable re-hospitalizations and reduce costs. This array of services across our four operating divisions creates multiple earnings streams and avenues for growth and development. Our acquisition of Gentiva, if completed, will enhance our ability to offer a diverse array of services.

Well positioned for bundled or episodic payment environment. As healthcare reform continues to be implemented, we believe that healthcare providers that can operate with scale across the continuum of care will have a competitive advantage in an episodic payment environment. Our diversified service offerings across our four operating divisions enable us to do this effectively and to participate with other healthcare providers in determining the most appropriate setting for patients as they continue their care throughout a post-acute episode. Our acquisition of Gentiva, if completed, will significantly expand our home health and hospice operations. As a leading provider in four critical segments of the post-acute continuum, we are well positioned to deliver the right care at the right site of service. We also are positioned to become a valuable partner to short-term acute care hospitals and managed care organizations, which are seeking to increase care coordination, reduce re-hospitalizations, reduce lengths of stay, more effectively manage healthcare costs and develop new care delivery and payment models.

Strong asset base including owned real estate. We have been focused on adding high quality assets to our balance sheet through opportunistic acquisitions and the development of TC hospitals and transitional care centers (licensed as nursing centers). We own the real estate of 17 TC hospitals, one IRF, 28 nursing centers and two assisted living facilities as of September 30, 2014, a significant increase from the 16 facilities we owned in 2006. We also have taken steps to reduce our lease portfolio and exit 114 leased nursing centers through transactions with Ventas, Inc. (Ventas). We believe that over time increased facility ownership and reduced lease obligations will improve our future growth and profitability.

Strong cash flow generation. We have demonstrated the ability to generate strong operating cash flows in a highly regulated environment. We believe our acquisition of Gentiva, if completed, will further strengthen our operating cash flows. Our operating cash flows offer opportunities to fund our acquisition and development strategies, as well as reduce our leverage over time. In addition, we initiated a quarterly cash dividend to our shareholders in 2013, which reflects confidence in our ability to generate meaningful and sustainable free cash flows.

Business Strategy

We are one of the largest diversified post-acute healthcare providers in the United States, and accordingly, we believe that we are well-positioned to grow and succeed in what will be an increasingly integrated healthcare delivery system. Our core strategy is to provide superior clinical outcomes and quality care with an approach that is patient-centered and focused on lowering costs by reducing lengths of stay in short-term acute care hospitals and transitioning patients to their homes at the highest possible level of function, thereby preventing avoidable re-hospitalizations.

Table of Contents

The key elements of our business strategy include:

Providing quality, clinical-based care with a focus on operating efficiency. We are committed to succeeding in the core by maintaining and improving the quality of our patient care by dedicating appropriate resources at each site of service and continuing to refine our clinical initiatives and objectives. We are implementing technology enhancements and clinical protocols that will promote best practices and improve the operating efficiency of our caregivers. We are continuing our Company-wide program to re-engineer processes, improve efficiencies and focus on the provision of shared services across our divisions that will help us reduce costs while maintaining quality patient care.

Aggressively grow Kindred at Home and RehabCare. We continue to expand our presence in the home health and hospice business, and provide services in 152 locations in 13 states as of September 30, 2014. In October 2014, we announced our entrance into a definitive agreement to acquire Gentiva. If we complete the acquisition of Gentiva, Kindred at Home will have approximately 650 locations in 41 states and will be one of the largest home health and hospice companies in the United States based on revenues. In addition, we have committed significant resources to develop a senior management team for these growing operations, which will enable and support future growth. We intend to continue expanding our home health and hospice operations through additional acquisitions, joint ventures and de novo site development, particularly in our Integrated Care Markets.

Develop care management capabilities. In August 2013, we announced the creation of a new care management division to improve care transitions and patient outcomes by further developing capabilities to deliver integrated care across various care settings. Our care management division is expected to develop programs that will enable us and our partners to better manage episodes of care, create more seamless transitions between care settings and improve patient satisfaction, thereby reducing lengths of stay and re-hospitalizations at a lower cost to Medicare and other payors. Our care management division includes our home health and hospice business, and if our acquisition of Gentiva is completed, will include the operations of Gentiva. In addition to expanding the home health and hospice business, the care management division is responsible for leveraging our service offerings as we develop and support care models, including medical homes and accountable care organizations that meet consumer preference and support integrated care delivery. We believe that the new division will grow our home health and hospice business, test new delivery and payment models and develop capabilities to support our Integrated Care Markets and Continue the Care[®] strategies. These capabilities are expected to include (1) physician coverage across sites of service, (2) care managers to improve care transitions, (3) information sharing and technology connectivity, (4) patient placement tools and (5) condition-specific clinical programs and outcome measures.

Advance Integrated Care Market strategy. Our operating divisions are increasingly focused on enabling our patients to Continue the Care[®] during an episode of care at a Kindred facility or site of service in markets where we operate multiple facilities or sites of service. Our Integrated Care Markets allow our caregivers to coordinate and manage the continuum of care for our patients, as well as implement physician services strategies. The Integrated Care Markets provide opportunities to improve quality and patient satisfaction, lower hospital re-admissions, increase volumes and lower costs.

During the last few years, we have focused our development activities on expanding our Integrated Care Markets. In addition to the significant planned expansion of our home health and hospice operations discussed above, we continue to grow our transitional care centers and hospital-based sub-acute units. During 2014, we opened a new 100-bed transitional care center in Indianapolis, Indiana. During 2013, we began construction of a new 120-bed transitional care center in Phoenix, Arizona and a 160-bed transitional care center in Las Vegas, Nevada, each of which should open in the second half of 2015. Also during 2013, we opened a TC hospital that is co-located within a host hospital (a HIH) in St. Louis, Missouri with 54 beds. In 2012, we opened a 30 bed co-located sub-acute unit in our Seattle TC hospital, completed the construction of a new freestanding IRF with

Table of Contents

46 licensed beds in Humble, Texas and opened a newly constructed, freestanding replacement IRF with 50 licensed beds in Austin, Texas. In addition, the Centerre Acquisition, if completed, will add seven of its 13 operational or in development IRFs to our Integrated Care Markets.

Improve capital structure and enhance shareholder returns. We seek to improve our capital structure by owning more of our operating facilities, which lowers our lease obligations and allows us to dispose of non-strategic or underperforming assets. During 2014, we completed the previously announced acquisition of two leased nursing centers for \$22 million. Seven additional nursing centers, associated with this acquisition, were acquired in the fourth quarter of 2013 for \$61 million. In addition, since initiating a quarterly dividend of \$0.12 per share in the third quarter of 2013, we have declared six regular quarterly cash dividends to shareholders, which reflects and reaffirms confidence in our ability to generate meaningful and sustainable free cash flows. If completed, we believe that the acquisition of Gentiva will be significantly accretive to earnings and cash flows, exclusive of transaction and integration costs, and enhance shareholder value.

Corporate Information

Kindred Healthcare, Inc. is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky and was incorporated in 1998. Our principal office is located at 680 South Fourth Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, and our telephone number is (502) 596-7300. Our website is www.kindredhealthcare.com. The information on, or accessible through, our website is not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus and should not be relied upon in connection with making any investment decision with respect to the securities offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

Acquisition of Gentiva Health Services

Acquisition Overview

On October 9, 2014, Kindred and Gentiva jointly announced their entry into the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of October 9, 2014 (the Merger Agreement), under which Kindred will acquire Gentiva and its subsidiaries for (i) \$14.50 in cash (the Cash Consideration), without interest, and (ii) 0.257 shares of a validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable share of our Common Stock (the Stock Consideration and, together with the Cash Consideration, the Merger Consideration) per share of Gentiva's common stock, \$0.10 par value (each a Gentiva Share). The Merger Agreement provides for the merger of the Merger Sub, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, with and into Gentiva, with Gentiva surviving the Merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. See The Transactions Merger Agreement.

We cannot assure you that we will complete the Merger. The completion of this offering is not contingent upon the completion of the Merger, and the completion of the Merger is not contingent upon the completion of this offering. Nothing in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus should be construed as an offer to purchase any of the Gentiva Shares, our Common Stock or the Senior Notes (as defined below).

The combination of Kindred and Gentiva will create a nation-wide integrated care delivery system. The transaction combines two market leaders in complementary specialties and creates a combined company with significantly increased diversity and scale. Further, the transaction will enhance Kindred's leading position in the post-acute and rehabilitation services market in the United States and will make Kindred at Home one of the largest and most geographically diversified home health and hospice providers in the United States. By combining two market leaders, we believe that the Merger will advance the development of our integrated approach to patient care, creating significant value for both companies' patients, employees and shareholders. The combined company will operate across 47 states with more than 2,860 locations.

If the Merger is completed, we intend to use the net proceeds of this offering, combined with proceeds from the other Financing Transactions (as defined below), to fund the Cash Consideration for the Merger, to repay Gentiva's existing debt and to pay related fees and expenses. If the Merger is not completed, we may use the net proceeds of this offering to redeem the Purchase Contracts and (if required) the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or for general corporate purposes, which may include the financing of potential acquisitions or paying down our existing indebtedness. Pending use, the net proceeds may be invested temporarily in short-term marketable securities or applied to repay short-term debt. Our management will have broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds, and the purposes for which the net proceeds are used may change from those described above. See Use of Proceeds. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Offering Our management will have broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from this offering.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and the year ended December 31, 2013, the combined company would have generated pro forma revenue of approximately \$5.3 billion and \$6.9 billion, respectively, and pro forma income attributable to Kindred from continuing operations of \$54 million and pro forma loss attributable to Kindred from continuing operations of \$626 million, respectively. See Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements. For the twelve months ended September 30, 2014, Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA was \$518 million and Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR was \$885 million. For a reconciliation of Kindred Adjusted EBITDA, Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR, Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA and Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR to income (loss) from continuing operations for Kindred and a reconciliation of Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR to net income (loss) from continuing operations for Gentiva, see Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information.

Table of Contents

Gentiva Overview

Gentiva Health Services, Inc. is a leading provider of home health services, hospice services and community care services serving patients through approximately 493 locations in 40 states as of September 30, 2014. Gentiva provides a single source for skilled nursing; physical, occupational, speech and neuro-rehabilitation services; hospice services; social work; nutrition; disease management education; help with daily living activities; and other therapies and services. Gentiva's revenues are generated predominantly from federal and state government programs and, to a minor extent, commercial insurance and individual consumers.

Gentiva organizes its business into three operating segments:

Home Health Segment provides direct home nursing and therapy services operations, including specialty programs, through approximately 294 locations located in 38 states as of September 30, 2014;

Hospice Segment serves terminally ill patients and their families through approximately 165 locations operating in 30 states as of September 30, 2014; and

Community Care Segment serves patients who have chronic or long-term disabilities who need help with routine personal care through approximately 34 locations in four states as of September 30, 2014. These services include help with personal needs, such as bathing and dressing, and household activities, such as laundry and shopping, all of which help enable the patient to remain at home.

On October 18, 2013, Gentiva completed the acquisition of certain assets relating to the home health, hospice and community care businesses of Harden pursuant to an agreement and plan of merger dated as of September 18, 2013 for a total consideration of \$426.8 million, exclusive of transaction costs, in a combination of cash and stock.

During 2013, Gentiva undertook a corporate restructuring initiative, referred to as *One Gentiva*, to better align its home health, hospice and community care businesses under a common regional management structure. In addition, it undertook a branch rationalization initiative to review under-performing branches. As a result of this review, Gentiva has closed or consolidated 94 branches through the first half of 2014.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2014, and the year ended December 31, 2013, Gentiva generated net operating revenue of approximately \$1.5 billion and \$1.7 billion, respectively, and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA of approximately \$142 million and \$135 million, respectively. For a reconciliation of Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA to net income (loss) from continuing operations for Gentiva, see *Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information* Gentiva Health Services, Inc.

Strategic Rationale

Build on Kindred's industry leadership. We believe the combination of Kindred and Gentiva will advance Kindred's leadership in integrated post-acute care, and will create one of the largest and most geographically diversified home health and hospice organizations in the United States.

Significantly diversifies our service offerings and transforms our business mix. The combination with Gentiva uniquely positions Kindred as one of the leading and most diversified healthcare providers in the United States across a broad spectrum of critical services, including long-term acute care, rehabilitation services,

S-7

Table of Contents

skilled nursing, home health and hospice care. The following charts illustrate the percentage of revenue for the twelve months ended September 30, 2014 for each of Kindred, Gentiva and the combined company by division:

Expand our presence in home health and hospice business, furthering Kindred's position as one of the leading post-acute care service providers. We expect that the acquisition of Gentiva would continue to expand our care management division, and further establish Kindred as a leader within the home health and hospice industry. As of September 30, 2014, we provided home health and hospice services in 152 locations in 13 states. The Merger would also allow us to solidify and extend our leadership in post-acute care, with a diverse array of services operating in 47 states supported by more than 109,000 employees. By leveraging Gentiva's home health and hospice capabilities, we believe we are building a service platform that will facilitate seamless transitions between care settings from hospital to outpatient facility to the patient's home and improve patient satisfaction, thereby reducing lengths of stay and avoidable re-hospitalizations at a lower cost to Medicare and other payors.

Expand our presence and density in Integrated Care Markets and further advance our Continue the Care® strategy. During the last few years, we have focused our development activities on expanding our Integrated Care Markets. Integrating Gentiva's home health, hospice and community care services would expand and enhance our presence in our Integrated Care Markets, deepening Kindred's leadership in coordinating and delivering high-quality care at a lower cost. The acquisition of Gentiva would allow us to provide greater access to more efficient, cost-effective patient care. Our operating divisions are also increasingly focused on enabling our patients to Continue the Care® during an episode of care at a Kindred facility or site of service in markets where we operate multiple facilities or sites of service. We believe the proposed acquisition of Gentiva represents an important strategic initiative to advance and accelerate our Continue the Care® strategy.

Financially attractive and accretive acquisition. We expect the enhanced scale and capabilities of the combined company to deliver revenue and cost synergies that will be accretive to Kindred's earnings and operating cash flows, exclusive of transaction and integration costs. Kindred expects the majority of cost synergies to be achieved through combining information technology functions, merging supply chains and eliminating redundant public company expenses. In addition, we believe we can realize revenue synergies by improving patient care transitions and choice, and drive volume growth as a result of our expanded service offerings across the combined company. Kindred has a history of successfully integrating acquisitions and achieving cost synergies. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to Acquisitions Generally. We believe Gentiva represents another opportunity to build on this track record of success. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger The Merger may not achieve its intended results, including anticipated synergies.

Well-positioned to take advantage of current trends in the American healthcare system. We believe the Gentiva acquisition would enhance and diversify our business, strengthen our operations and position us to

Table of Contents

benefit from a healthcare delivery model that is trending towards a more patient-centered, outcome-based approach, with an emphasis on post-acute care services. The combination of our two companies would also allow us to further implement our strategy to create value and risk-based payment models, and become an even better partner with accountable care organizations and managed care organizations around the country. Together, we anticipate accelerating value-based care through our combined national platform as well as the adoption of best practices in innovation and clinical care in more local communities. We believe that the combined company would be well-positioned to grow and succeed in what will be an increasingly integrated healthcare delivery system in a favorable demographic environment.

Greater employee opportunity. The acquisition of Gentiva would create a stronger workforce by uniting the talented employees of Kindred and Gentiva, who share a commitment to high-quality and compassionate patient care. We believe Kindred and Gentiva employees would benefit from being part of a stronger, larger company with greater career and professional development opportunities created by the Merger.

See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger and Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements for risks, uncertainties and other factors that may influence the outcome of our acquisition of Gentiva.

Financing Transactions

As described in more detail below, the following transactions (collectively, the Financing Transactions) are expected to occur in connection with the Merger:

we plan to issue 150,000 Units in this offering;

we plan to issue approximately 5,000,000 shares of our Common Stock in the concurrent Common Stock Offering; and

we plan to amend the Credit Facilities and borrow approximately \$193 million under the ABL Facility (each, as defined below);

we plan to issue between \$1.3 billion and \$1.4 billion aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes (as defined below).

Credit Facilities Amendments

We have entered into an amendment and restatement agreement dated as of October 31, 2014 (the ABL Amendment) to our ABL Credit Agreement dated as of June 1, 2011, as previously amended and restated from time to time (as amended, the ABL Facility), to, among other items, modify certain provisions to permit the issuance of Senior Notes (as defined below) into an escrow account. Upon the completion of the Merger and the satisfaction of certain other conditions, the ABL Amendment provides for a further amendment and restatement of the ABL Facility to, among other items, modify certain provisions related to the incurrence of debt and the making of acquisitions, investments and restricted payments.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Concurrently with or following the offering of the Units, we also intend to enter into an amendment and restatement agreement (the Term Loan Amendment) to our Term Loan Credit Agreement dated as of June 1, 2011, as previously amended and restated from time to time (as amended, the Term Loan Facility and, together with the ABL Facility, the Credit Facilities), to, among other items, modify certain provisions to permit the issuance of Senior Notes (as defined below) into an escrow account, increase the applicable margin on the term loans, temporarily increase the maximum total leverage ratio permitted under the financial maintenance covenants and modify certain provisions related to the incurrence of debt and the making of acquisitions, investments and restricted payments. As the final terms of the Term Loan Amendment have not been agreed upon, they may differ from those set forth herein.

The amendments to the Credit Facilities as contemplated by the ABL Amendment and the Term Loan Amendment are referred to in this prospectus supplement as the Credit Facilities Amendments.

S-9

Table of Contents

Concurrent Common Stock Offering

Concurrently with this offering, pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement, we are offering to sell 5,000,000 shares of our Common Stock (or 5,750,000 shares, if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase up to an additional 750,000 shares of Common Stock in full) for cash. We estimate that the net proceeds of the concurrent Common Stock Offering, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses, will be approximately \$ (or approximately \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase additional shares with respect to such offering in full), although there can be no assurance that the concurrent Common Stock Offering will be completed. The completion of this offering is not contingent on the completion of the concurrent Common Stock Offering, and the concurrent Common Stock Offering is not contingent on the completion of this offering.

Senior Notes Offering

Prior to the completion of the Merger and subject to market and other conditions, we plan to offer between \$1.3 billion and \$1.4 billion aggregate principal amount of senior unsecured notes (the Senior Notes) in a private placement (the Senior Notes Offering). We expect the Senior Notes to be issued initially by a wholly owned subsidiary of Kindred (the Escrow Issuer), and we plan to deposit the net proceeds from the Senior Notes Offering, together with any additional amount sufficient to fund the redemption price and any accrued interest, in an escrow account until the Merger is completed. If the Merger is completed, the Escrow Issuer will be merged into Kindred, and as a result we will assume the Escrow Issuer's obligations under the Senior Notes and the Senior Notes will be guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis by each of our domestic 100% owned restricted subsidiaries that guarantee the Credit Facilities. If the Merger is not completed, the Escrow Issuer will redeem all of the Senior Notes at a redemption price to be specified in the indenture governing the Senior Notes. The indenture governing the Senior Notes is expected to contain customary covenants, including, among others, covenants that restrict our ability and our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or redeem or repurchase our capital stock.

The foregoing description and any other information regarding the Senior Notes Offering is included herein solely for informational purposes. There can be no assurance that we will commence or complete the Senior Notes Offering. If commenced, the Senior Notes Offering will not be registered with the SEC, and the Senior Notes will be sold privately by means of a confidential offering memorandum and not by means of this or any other prospectus supplement. The Senior Notes will not be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act) or any state securities laws, and may not be offered or sold in the United States or to U.S. persons unless registered under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws or an exemption from such registration as available. The amount and terms and conditions of the Senior Notes Offering will be subject to market conditions. There can be no assurance that we will be able to issue any such Senior Notes on terms and conditions acceptable to us or at all. This offering is not contingent on the completion of the Senior Notes Offering, and the Senior Notes Offering, if commenced, will not be contingent on the completion of this offering.

The Merger, the Credit Facilities Amendments, the concurrent Common Stock Offering, the Senior Notes Offering, this offering of Units and the payment of associated fees and expenses are collectively referred to in this prospectus supplement as the Transactions. We cannot assure you that we will complete other Financing Transactions on the terms contemplated by this prospectus supplement or at all. For additional information concerning the Merger and its effects, see Use of Proceeds, Capitalization, The Transactions and Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information.

Sources and Uses

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

We estimate that the net proceeds to us from the sale of 150,000 Units we are offering pursuant to this prospectus supplement will be approximately \$ (\$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment

S-10

Table of Contents

option to purchase 22,500 additional Units in full). If the Merger is completed, we intend to use the net proceeds of this offering, the concurrent Common Stock Offering, if completed, and the Senior Notes Offering, if completed, together with borrowings under the ABL Facility, to fund the Cash Consideration for the Merger, to repay Gentiva's existing debt and to pay related fees and expenses. See Use of Proceeds. This offering is not contingent on completion of the Merger. If the Merger is not consummated, we may use the net proceeds from this offering to redeem the Purchase Contracts and (if required) the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or for general corporate purposes, which may include the financing of potential acquisitions or paying down our existing indebtedness. If the Merger is not completed, we may redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by issuing a redemption notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015. If we elect to redeem the outstanding Purchase Contracts, we will pay a merger redemption amount (as defined herein) to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash and/or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we may be required by the holders thereof to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the redemption price as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the Option of the Holder.

The following table outlines the sources and uses of funds for the Transactions, as if the Transactions were completed on September 30, 2014 (the assumed closing date of the Merger for purposes of the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information contained in Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information), assuming no full or partial exercise by the underwriters of their option to purchase additional Units with respect to this offering or additional shares of Common Stock in the concurrent Common Stock Offering. The table assumes we complete the Merger and consummate the Financing Transactions simultaneously, although this offering and the concurrent Common Stock Offering are expected to occur before completion of the Merger and the Senior Notes Offering is expected to occur after the completion of this offering and the concurrent Common Stock Offering and before the completion of the Merger. The actual amounts may vary from estimated amounts depending on the actual closing date of the Merger and the amount of our Senior Notes that are issued, and any additional proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes, which may include financing other potential acquisitions or paying down our existing indebtedness. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger There can be no assurance that we will successfully complete the Merger on the terms or timetable currently proposed or at all. You should read the following together with the information included under the headings The Transactions, Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information and Use of Proceeds.

Sources of funds	(in millions)	Uses of funds	(in millions)
Units offered hereby ⁽¹⁾	\$ 150	Cash Consideration for Gentiva's outstanding shares ⁽⁶⁾	\$ 553
Concurrent Common Stock Offering ⁽²⁾	100	Repayment of Gentiva's debt ⁽⁷⁾	1,190
Senior Notes Offering ⁽³⁾	1,350	Transaction fees and expenses ⁽⁸⁾	172
ABL Facility ⁽⁴⁾	193	Equity consideration to Gentiva shareholders ⁽⁵⁾	198
Cash on hand	122		
Equity consideration to Gentiva shareholders ⁽⁵⁾	198		
Total sources of funds	\$ 2,113	Total uses of funds	\$ 2,113

- (1) This offering is not contingent on completion of the Merger. If the Merger is not completed, we may use the net proceeds from this offering to redeem the Purchase Contracts and (if required) the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or for general corporate purposes, which may include the financing of potential acquisitions or paying down our existing indebtedness. If the offering is completed but the Merger is not

Table of Contents

- completed, we may redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by issuing a redemption notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015. We will pay a merger redemption amount to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash and/or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we may be required by the holders thereof to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the redemption price for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the Option of the Holder.
- (2) Concurrently with this offering, pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement, we are offering 5,000,000 shares of our Common Stock (or 5,750,000 shares, if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase up to an additional 750,000 shares of Common Stock in full). Calculated based on an assumed public offering price of \$20.00, and assumes no full or partial exercise by the underwriters of their over-allotment option to purchase additional shares. The concurrent Common Stock Offering is not contingent on completion of the Merger. The completion of this offering is not contingent on the completion of the concurrent Common Stock Offering, and the completion of the concurrent Common Stock Offering is not contingent on the completion of this offering.
 - (3) Prior to the completion of the Merger and subject to market and other conditions, we plan to offer between \$1.3 billion and \$1.4 billion aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes in a private placement. There is no assurance that we will commence or complete the Senior Notes Offering. If commenced, the Senior Notes Offering will not be registered with the SEC, and the Senior Notes will be sold privately by means of a confidential offering memorandum and not by means of this prospectus supplement. We expect the Senior Notes to be issued initially by the Escrow Issuer, which will be merged into Kindred if the Merger is completed. If the Merger is not completed, the Escrow Issuer will redeem all of the Senior Notes at a redemption price to be specified in the indenture governing the Senior Notes. See The Transactions The Financing Transactions Senior Notes Offering.
 - (4) We also expect to finance the Centerre Acquisition with borrowings from the ABL Facility. See Summary Recent Developments.
 - (5) Each share of Gentiva common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger (subject to certain exceptions) will be converted into the right to receive 0.257 of a share of Common Stock and \$14.50 in cash, without interest. No fractional shares of Common Stock will be issued in the Merger and Gentiva stockholders will receive cash in lieu of fractional shares. The Merger Agreement also provides for the vesting and conversion of certain Gentiva stock options and the vesting and lapse of restrictions on certain Gentiva restricted shares. The value of the equity consideration portion of the Merger Consideration is subject to change based upon changes in the market price of Common Stock for the 10 trading days prior to the date the Merger is consummated.
 - (6) Represents the cash payment of \$14.50 per share for Gentiva's outstanding shares, assuming 37,328,005 outstanding Gentiva Shares as of November 13, 2014 and cash payment of certain Gentiva Options outstanding as of November 13, 2014 based upon a weighted average intrinsic value of \$6.59 per outstanding stock option (using the closing price of Common Stock on November 13, 2014). Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, Gentiva stockholders will receive Cash Consideration of \$14.50 per Gentiva Share and Stock Consideration of 0.257 share of our Common Stock per Gentiva Share. Holders of Gentiva Options (as defined herein), restricted Gentiva Shares or Gentiva deferred share units may also receive an amount in cash equal to the Cash Consideration, subject to certain conditions set forth in The Transactions Gentiva Stock Options and Other Awards.
 - (7) Represents repayment of \$665 million under Gentiva's Term Loan B facility, \$146 million under Gentiva's Term Loan C facility and \$27 million under Gentiva's revolving credit facility and redemption of \$325 million aggregate principal amount of Gentiva's 11.5% Senior Notes due 2018 (including \$19 million make-whole premium for early redemption and accrued interest of \$8 million).
 - (8) Includes estimated fees and expenses related to the Transactions, including underwriting discounts and commissions, legal, accounting and advisory fees, fees associated with the Financing Transactions and other transaction costs.

Table of Contents

The Offering

The summary below describes the principal terms of the Units, the Purchase Contracts and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Certain of the terms and conditions described below are subject to important limitations and exceptions. The Description of the Units, Description of the Purchase Contracts and Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock sections of this prospectus supplement and the Description of Common Stock and Description of Preferred Stock sections of the accompanying prospectus contain a more detailed description of the terms and conditions of the Units, the Purchase Contracts, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and our Common Stock. As used in this section, the terms we, our and us refer to Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and do not include its subsidiaries and affiliates.

The Units

Issuer	Kindred Healthcare, Inc., a Delaware corporation.
Number of Units offered	150,000 Units. We have also granted the underwriters an option to purchase within 13 days from, and including, the date of initial issuance of the Units up to an additional 22,500 Units, solely to cover over-allotments, if any.
Stated amount and initial offering price of each Unit	\$1,000 for each Unit.
Components of each Unit	<p>Each Unit is comprised of two parts:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a Purchase Contract; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">one share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.</p> <p>Unless earlier redeemed by us in connection with a merger termination redemption (as defined herein) or settled earlier at the holder's option or our option, each Purchase Contract will, subject to postponement in certain limited circumstances, automatically settle on December 1, 2017 (such date, as so postponed (if applicable), the mandatory settlement date), and we will deliver not more than _____ shares of our Common Stock and not less than _____ shares of our Common Stock per Purchase Contract, subject to adjustment, based upon the applicable settlement rate, which will be determined through reference to the applicable market value of our Common Stock, as described below under Description of the Purchase Contracts Delivery of Common Stock.</p> <p>No fractional shares of our Common Stock will be issued to holders upon settlement or redemption of Purchase Contracts. In lieu of fractional shares, holders will be entitled to receive a cash payment calculated as described herein.</p>

Other than cash payments in lieu of fractional shares or, under certain circumstances, in the event of a merger termination redemption, the Purchase Contract holders will not receive any cash distributions under the Purchase Contracts.

S-13

Table of Contents

Each share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have an initial liquidation preference of \$ _____, will be entitled to dividends, when, as and if declared by our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof), to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, at the rate of _____ % per annum on the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and will have a final preferred stock installment payment date of December 1, 2017. On each March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 of each year, commencing on March 1, 2015 (each, a preferred stock installment payment date), in each case, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash and, with respect to the dividend portion of such payment, such dividend is declared by our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof), we will make equal quarterly preferred stock installment payments of \$ _____ per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (except for the March 1, 2015 preferred stock installment payment, which will be \$ _____ per share), which in the aggregate per year will be equivalent to a _____ % cash payment per year with respect to each \$1,000 stated amount of Units. However, we may elect to deliver shares of our Common Stock in lieu of all or any portion of such cash payments, as described under Preferred stock installment payments below. Each preferred stock installment payment will constitute a payment of dividends and a payment of consideration (the Redemption Amount) for the partial reduction in the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (a Partial Redemption), allocated as set forth on the redemption schedule set forth under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption Schedule.

The return to an investor on a Unit will depend upon the return provided by each component. The overall return will depend on the number and value of the shares of our Common Stock delivered upon settlement of the Purchase Contracts and the amount of cash paid and/or the number and value of the shares of our Common Stock delivered to such holder in respect of preferred stock installment payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

The stated amount of each Unit must, for United States federal income tax purposes, be allocated between the share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and the Purchase Contract based upon their relative fair market values. We have determined that the fair market value of each share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock is \$ _____ and the fair market value of each Purchase Contract is \$ _____. As discussed in Description of the Units Deemed Actions by Holders by Acceptance, each holder agrees to such allocation.

Each Unit may be separated into its components

Each Unit may be separated by a holder into its constituent Purchase Contract and its constituent share of Mandatory Redeemable

Table of Contents

Preferred Stock on any business day during the period beginning on, and including, the business day immediately following the date of initial issuance of the Units to, but excluding, the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding (i) December 1, 2017, (ii) any early mandatory settlement date or (iii) any merger redemption settlement date, and also excluding the business day immediately preceding any preferred stock installment payment date (provided that, for the avoidance of doubt, such right to separate the Units will resume after such business day), each as defined herein. Prior to separation, the Purchase Contracts and Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock may only be purchased and transferred together as Units. See Description of the Units Separating and Recreating Units.

A Unit may be recreated from its components

If you hold a separate Purchase Contract and a separate share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, you may combine the two components to recreate a Unit. See Description of the Units Separating and Recreating Units.

Trading

We will apply to list the Units on the NYSE under the symbol KNDU, subject to satisfaction of its minimum listing standards with respect to the Units. If approved for listing, we expect trading on the NYSE to begin within 30 calendar days after the Units are first issued. We will not initially apply to list the separate Purchase Contracts or the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on any securities exchange or automated inter-dealer quotation system, but we may apply to list such separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in the future as described under Description of the Units Listing of Securities. Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the Units.

New York Stock Exchange symbol

Our Common Stock is listed on NYSE under the symbol KND.

Use of proceeds

We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated offering expenses payable by us, will be approximately \$ million (\$ million if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase additional Units in full).

We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering, combined with proceeds from the related Financing Transactions, to fund the Cash Consideration for the Merger, to repay Gentiva's existing debt and to pay related fees and expenses, if the Merger is completed. If the Merger is not completed, we intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to finance other potential acquisitions or for general corporate purposes, including paying down our existing indebtedness, or to redeem the Purchase Contracts and (if required) the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as described below. This offering is not contingent on completion of the Merger.

See Use of Proceeds.

Table of Contents

Certain U.S. federal income tax considerations By acquiring a Unit, unless otherwise required by law, you agree to treat the Unit as an investment unit composed of two separate instruments in accordance with its form, and to treat the Purchase Contract as a prepaid contract to acquire our Common Stock and the Mandatorily Redeemable Preferred Share as a share of our preferred stock that will be completely redeemed by December 1, 2017.

Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax treatment of an investment in Units, whether a purchase of a Unit is advisable in light of the investor's particular tax situation and the tax treatment described under Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Risk factors Investing in the Units involves risks. See Risk Factors for a description of certain risks you should consider before investing in the Units.

The Purchase Contracts

Mandatory settlement date December 1, 2017, subject to postponement in limited circumstances.

Mandatory settlement On the mandatory settlement date, unless such Purchase Contract has been earlier redeemed by us in connection with a merger termination redemption or settled at the holder's option or our option, each Purchase Contract will automatically settle, and we will, based on the applicable settlement rate, deliver to the holder thereof the number of shares of our Common Stock to which such holder is entitled.

Settlement rate for the mandatory settlement date The settlement rate for each Purchase Contract will be not more than _____ shares of our Common Stock and not less than _____ shares of our Common Stock (each subject to adjustment as described herein), depending on the applicable market value of our Common Stock, calculated as described below.

If the applicable market value is greater than \$ _____ (the threshold appreciation price), you will receive _____ shares of Common Stock per Purchase Contract (the minimum settlement rate).

If the applicable market value is greater than or equal to \$ _____ (the reference price) but less than or equal to the threshold appreciation price, you will receive a number of shares of Common Stock (and any cash in lieu of fractional shares) per Purchase Contract equal to \$1,000, *divided by* the applicable market value.

If the applicable market value is less than the reference price, you will receive _____ shares of Common Stock per Purchase Contract (the maximum settlement rate).

Table of Contents

Each of the maximum settlement rate, the minimum settlement rate, the reference price and the threshold appreciation price is subject to adjustment as described below under Description of the Purchase Contracts Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates.

The applicable market value means the average of the daily VWAPs (as defined below) of our Common Stock for the 20 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017.

The reference price is the public offering price of our Common Stock in the concurrent Common Stock offering described under The Transactions.

The threshold appreciation price shall be equal to \$1,000, *divided by* the minimum settlement rate (rounded to the nearest \$0.0001), representing an approximately % appreciation over the reference price.

No fractional shares of our Common Stock will be issued to holders upon settlement of Purchase Contracts on the mandatory settlement date. In lieu of fractional shares, holders will be entitled to receive a cash payment of the fair value of such fraction of a share calculated as described herein. Other than cash payments in lieu of fractional shares or, under certain circumstances, in the event of a merger termination redemption, the Purchase Contract holders will not receive any cash distributions under the Purchase Contracts.

The following table illustrates the settlement rate per Purchase Contract and the value of our Common Stock issuable upon settlement on the mandatory settlement date, determined using the applicable market value shown, subject to adjustment.

Applicable Market Value of Our Common Stock	Settlement Rate	Value of Common Stock Delivered (Based on the Applicable Market Value Thereof)
Less than \$	shares of our Common Stock	Less than \$1,000
Greater than or equal to \$ to \$	but less than or equal A number of shares of our Common Stock equal to \$1,000, <i>divided by</i> the applicable market value	\$1,000
Greater than \$	shares of our Common Stock	Greater than \$1,000

Early settlement at your election

At any time prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017, you may elect early settlement of any or all of your Purchase Contracts, in which case we will deliver a number of shares of our Common Stock per Purchase Contract equal to the minimum settlement rate, which is

Table of Contents

subject to adjustment as described below under Description of the Purchase Contracts Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates, unless such early settlement occurs in connection with a fundamental change, in which case the provisions described under Early settlement at your election upon a fundamental change below will apply. The market value of our Common Stock on the early settlement date will not affect the early settlement rate. Your right to settle your Purchase Contract prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017 is subject to the delivery of your Purchase Contract.

Upon early settlement of a Purchase Contract that is a component of a Unit at the holder's election, the corresponding share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will remain outstanding and beneficially owned by or registered in the name of, as the case may be, the holder who elected to settle the related Purchase Contract early.

Early settlement at your election upon a fundamental change

At any time prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017, if a fundamental change (as defined herein) occurs, you may settle any or all of your Purchase Contracts early. If you elect to settle your Purchase Contracts early in connection with such fundamental change, you will receive a number of shares of our Common Stock based on the fundamental change early settlement rate as described under Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Settlement Upon a Fundamental Change.

Upon early settlement at the holder's election in connection with a fundamental change of a Purchase Contract that is a component of a Unit, the corresponding share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will remain outstanding and beneficially owned by or registered in the name of, as the case may be, the holder who elected to settle the related Purchase Contract early.

Early mandatory settlement at our election

We may elect to settle all, but not less than all, outstanding Purchase Contracts on or after May 1, 2015 at the early mandatory settlement rate (as defined below) upon a date fixed by us upon not less than five business days' notice (the early mandatory settlement date).

The early mandatory settlement rate will be the maximum settlement rate, unless the daily VWAP of our Common Stock for 20 or more trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the notice date (as defined under Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Mandatory Settlement at Our Election) exceeds 130% of the threshold appreciation price in effect on each such trading day, in which case the early mandatory settlement rate will be the minimum settlement rate.

Table of Contents

If we elect to settle all the Purchase Contracts early, you will have the right to require us to redeem your share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on the redemption date and at the redemption price as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at Option of Holder.

Merger termination redemption

If the Merger Agreement has terminated, we may elect to redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts (a merger termination redemption), for the applicable redemption amount, as described below, by delivering notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015.

If the merger termination stock price is equal to or less than the reference price, the redemption amount will be an amount of cash as described under Description of the Purchase Contracts Merger Termination Redemption. Otherwise, the redemption amount will be a number of shares of our Common Stock equal to the merger redemption rate, calculated in the manner described under Description of the Purchase Contracts Merger Termination Redemption ; *provided, however*, that we may elect to pay cash in lieu of any or all of such shares in an amount equal to the redemption market value thereof.

The redemption market value means the average of the daily VWAPs (as defined below) of our Common Stock for 20 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding the scheduled merger redemption settlement date.

In the event of a merger termination redemption, you will have the right to require us to redeem your Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at Option of Holder.

The Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock

Title of securities

% Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, Series A, par value \$0.25 per share, with a liquidation preference of \$ per share.

Preferred stock installment payments

Each quarterly preferred stock installment payment of \$ per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (except for the first preferred stock installment payment, which will be \$ per share) will be payable in cash, shares of our Common Stock or a combination thereof, at our election, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, and will constitute a dividend payment as well as a payment of the Redemption Amount. On each quarterly preferred stock installment payment date, we will partially reduce the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock until no

Table of Contents

liquidation preference remains. All shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be fully redeemed on the last preferred stock installment payment date. The portion of any preferred stock installment payment that constitutes a dividend will be payable on the relevant preferred stock installment payment date only if our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) declares a dividend with respect to such date and to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, except that we will be required to pay, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, all accumulated dividends (whether or not declared) on the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to the Partial Redemption on such preferred stock installment payment date. Assuming the board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) makes such declarations and subject to the existence of lawfully available funds therefor, the preferred stock installment payments in the aggregate per year will be equivalent to a % cash payment per year with respect to each \$1,000 stated amount of Units, subject to our ability to deliver shares of Common Stock in lieu of part or all of such payments.

Dividends on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be cumulative from the date of original issuance, and will accumulate at a rate of % per annum on the outstanding liquidation preference (after giving effect to any prior Partial Redemptions) of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Dividends will be payable when, as and if declared by our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof), to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, *provided* that any undeclared and unpaid dividends with respect to outstanding liquidation preference (after giving effect to any prior Partial Redemptions) will continue to accumulate. Dividends that are declared will be payable on the preferred stock installment payment dates as part of preferred stock installment payments to holders of record of the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on the immediately preceding February 15, May 15, August 15 or November 15. Accumulations of dividends on shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will not bear interest.

If we elect to effect a preferred stock installment payment by delivering shares of our Common Stock, (i) we will notify holders of such election and, if applicable, the portion of such payment that will be made through delivery of shares no later than the tenth scheduled trading day prior to the relevant preferred stock installment payment date, and (ii) such shares will be valued at 97% of the average of daily VWAPs over the five consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the seventh scheduled trading day immediately preceding the related preferred stock installment payment date.

Table of Contents

Dividends will be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, and, in the case of partial months, the number of days actually elapsed in the relevant period. Preferred stock installment payments will be applied (i) first to all accumulated dividends (whether or not declared) on the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to Partial Redemption on the applicable preferred stock installment payment date, (ii) second to the Redemption Amount and (iii) then to any other declared and unpaid dividends, allocated as set forth on the redemption schedule set forth under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption Schedule.

Preferred stock installment payment dates

Each March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 of each year, commencing on March 1, 2015, with a final preferred stock installment payment date of December 1, 2017.

Ranking of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock

The Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will rank with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution:

senior to all of our Common Stock and to each other class or series of our capital stock issued in the future unless the terms of that class or series of capital stock expressly provide that it ranks senior to, or on a parity with, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock;

on a parity with any class or series of our capital stock issued in the future the terms of which expressly provide that it will rank on a parity with the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock;

junior to each class or series of our capital stock issued in the future the terms of which expressly provide that it will rank senior to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock; and

junior to all of our existing and future indebtedness.

It is possible a bankruptcy court may not respect the priority of the preferred stock. See Risks Relating to this Offering We may not be able to settle or redeem your Purchase Contracts and deliver shares of Common Stock, or make payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, in the event that we file for bankruptcy.

In addition, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, will be structurally subordinated to existing and future indebtedness of our subsidiaries as well as the capital stock of our subsidiaries held by third parties.

As of September 30, 2014, we had total indebtedness of approximately \$1.5 billion in addition to the availability of

Table of Contents

approximately \$652 million under the ABL Facility (subject to a borrowing base and after giving effect to approximately \$5 million of letters of credit outstanding on September 30, 2014). We intend to borrow approximately \$193.0 million under the ABL Facility in connection with closing the Merger. In addition, we also expect to finance the Centerre Acquisition with borrowings from the ABL Facility. We have the ability to, and may incur, additional indebtedness in the future.

See Description of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Ranking below.

Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the option of the holder

If we elect to settle all the Purchase Contracts early or a merger termination redemption occurs, holders of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have the right to require us to redeem their Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for cash, shares of our Common Stock or a combination thereof, at our election, at the redemption price as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at Option of Holder.

Voting rights

Except as specifically required by Delaware law or our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, which will include the certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, the holders of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have no voting rights.

Whenever dividends on shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (i) have not been declared and paid or (ii) have been declared but a sum of cash or number of shares of our Common Stock, as the case may be, sufficient for payment thereof has not been set aside for the benefit of the holders thereof, for six or more dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, the holders of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, voting together as a single class with holders of all other series of our preferred stock of equal rank having similar voting rights, will be entitled at our next special or annual meeting of stockholders to vote for the election of a total of two additional members of our board of directors, subject to applicable exchange listing rules.

We will not, without the affirmative vote or consent of holders of at least two-thirds in voting power of the outstanding shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and all other series of preferred stock of equal rank having similar voting rights, voting together as a single class (1) authorize or create, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of our capital stock ranking senior to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock; (2) amend, alter or repeal the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation so as to adversely affect the rights, powers or preferences of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock; or

Table of Contents

(3) consummate a binding share exchange or reclassification involving shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or a merger or consolidation of us with another entity, or any similar transaction, unless the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (x) in the case of any such merger or consolidation or similar transaction in which we are not the surviving or resulting entity, are converted into or exchanged for preferred securities of the surviving or resulting entity or the direct or indirect parent of such entity or (y) in the case of any other such transaction, (i) remain outstanding or (ii) are converted into or exchanged for (or for the right to receive) preferred securities of the direct or indirect parent of us, with, in each case of clause (x) and (y), rights, powers and preferences that are not less favorable to the holders thereof than the rights, powers and preferences of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock immediately prior to such transaction.

In the event we require a vote or consent of the holders of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, each holder of record of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will initially be entitled to vote according to the aggregate liquidation preference of shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that it owns. Therefore, each holder's voting power will decrease proportionately relative to other series of preferred stock after any Partial Redemptions on each quarterly preferred stock installment payment date. See Redemption Schedule.

See Description of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Voting Rights.

S-23

Table of Contents**Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information****Kindred Healthcare, Inc.**

The table below sets forth Kindred's summary historical consolidated financial information for the periods indicated. The summary historical financial data presented below for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 and as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 have been derived from and should be read in conjunction with Kindred's audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. The summary financial data for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 and as of September 30, 2014 have been derived from and should be read in conjunction with Kindred's unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a basis consistent with our audited consolidated financial statements and include, in the opinion of management, all adjustments of a normal recurring nature to provide a fair statement of the results for the reporting periods presented. Results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results that might be expected for any other interim period or for an entire year.

The summary historical consolidated financial information presented below should be read in conjunction with the information contained in Use of Proceeds, Capitalization and Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information, in each case, included in this prospectus supplement, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto for the year ended December 31, 2013 included in Kindred's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Kindred's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2011	2014	2013
	(in thousands)				
Consolidated operating data:					
Revenues:					
Hospital division	\$ 2,465,560	\$ 2,543,829	\$ 2,227,048	\$ 1,888,066	\$ 1,858,572
Nursing center division	1,070,828	1,071,512	1,085,268	837,718	800,748
Rehabilitation division:					
Skilled nursing rehabilitation services	997,007	1,007,335	766,973	755,286	753,727
Hospital rehabilitation services	286,613	293,580	200,824	224,096	212,596
Care management division	224,927	143,340	60,736	261,876	158,461
Eliminations	(209,350)	(203,454)	(180,741)	(161,023)	(158,195)
Totals	\$ 4,835,585	\$ 4,856,142	\$ 4,160,108	\$ 3,806,019	\$ 3,625,909
Income (loss) from continuing operations:					
Operating income (loss):					
Hospital division	\$ 516,130	\$ 555,333	\$ 452,978	\$ 400,017	\$ 389,342
Nursing center division	132,253	136,923	150,028	111,530	96,668
Rehabilitation division:					
Skilled nursing rehabilitation services	41,913	72,293	54,678	55,862	27,653
Hospital rehabilitation services	73,925	69,745	43,731	58,177	55,920
Care management division	9,963	13,708	3,103	18,551	7,832
Corporate:					
Overhead	(176,495)	(179,063)	(174,800)	(137,588)	(127,938)

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Insurance subsidiary	(1,914)	(2,127)	(2,306)	(1,486)	(1,375)
Impairment charges	(77,193)	(108,953)	(73,554)		(1,066)
Transaction costs	(2,112)	(2,231)	(50,706)	(9,293)	(1,665)
Operating income	516,470	555,628	403,152	495,770	445,371

S-24

Table of Contents

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2011	2014	2013
	(in thousands)				
Rent	(311,526)	(303,564)	(276,540)	(241,449)	(230,605)
Depreciation and amortization	(154,206)	(160,066)	(126,905)	(117,802)	(116,659)
Interest, net	(103,963)	(106,839)	(79,854)	(125,870)	(80,063)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes	(53,225)	(14,841)	(80,147)	10,649	18,044
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(11,319)	30,642	(13,604)	3,582	9,203
Income (loss) from continuing operations	(41,906)	(45,483)	(66,543)	7,067	8,841
(Earnings) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	(3,890)	(1,382)	81	(13,729)	(1,424)
Income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to Kindred	\$ (45,796)	\$ (46,865)	\$ (66,462)	\$ (6,662)	\$ 7,417
Earnings (loss) per common share:					
Basic	\$ (0.88)	\$ (0.91)	\$ (1.44)	\$ (0.12)	\$ 0.14
Diluted	\$ (0.88)	\$ (0.91)	\$ (1.44)	\$ (0.12)	\$ 0.14

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2011	2014	2013
	(in thousands)				
Consolidated cash flows and other financial data:					
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 199,412	\$ 262,562	\$ 153,706	\$ 24,322	\$ 189,217
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Routine capital expenditures	(100,908)	(115,175)	(132,903)	(67,425)	(62,952)
Development capital expenditures	(11,824)	(50,322)	(87,655)	(2,693)	(10,709)
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(224,319)	(178,212)	(715,458)	(24,136)	(39,106)
Acquisition deposit					(14,675)
Sale of assets	250,606	1,260	1,714	22,909	248,700
Other	(39,752)	(20,037)	(3,038)	(7,565)	(39,151)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(126,197)	(362,486)	(937,340)	(78,910)	82,107
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(87,250)	108,370	808,027	100,400	(276,752)

	As of December 31,		As of
	2013	2012	September 30, 2014
	(in thousands)		
Consolidated balance sheet data:			
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 35,972	\$ 50,007	\$ 81,784
Accounts receivable less allowance for loss of \$41,025, \$23,959 and \$57,898, respectively	916,529	1,038,605	980,723
Property and equipment, at cost	926,575	1,143,126	905,968
Total assets	3,945,869	4,237,946	4,024,788
Total liabilities	2,824,653	2,945,102	2,721,334
Total equity	1,121,216	1,292,844	1,303,454

Year ended December 31, Nine months ended
September 30,

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

	2013	2012	2011 (in thousands)	2014	2013
Kindred Adjusted EBITDA(1)	\$ 346,388	\$ 377,615	\$ 254,181	\$ 276,954	\$ 268,519
Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR(1)	657,914	679,488	528,902	518,156	499,124

- (1) Kindred EBITDA represents earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization. Kindred EBITDAR represents earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation, amortization and rent. Kindred Adjusted EBITDA and

S-25

Table of Contents

Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR exclude the effects of impairment charges, litigation costs, one-time bonus costs, facility closing costs, customer bankruptcy costs, severance and retirement costs, acquisition-related expenses and certain other items. Kindred Adjusted EBITDA also excludes the effect of lease cancellation charges. We believe that the presentation of these measurements included in this prospectus supplement provide useful information to investors with which to analyze our operating trends and performance and ability to service and incur debt. Further, we believe these measurements facilitate company-to-company operating performance comparisons by backing out potential differences caused by variations in capital structures, taxation and the age and book depreciation of property and equipment, which may vary for different companies for reasons unrelated to operating performance. In addition, we believe that these measurements are frequently used by securities analysts, investors and other interested parties in their evaluation of companies. These measurements are not measurements of financial performance under GAAP and should not be considered as an alternative to net income as a measure of performance or to net cash provided by operating activities as a measure of liquidity. In addition, other companies may define these measurements differently and, as a result, our measures may not be directly comparable. Furthermore, these measurements have limitations as an analytical tool and you should not consider them in isolation, or as a substitute for analysis of our results reported under GAAP.

These measurements do not reflect:

our cash expenditures, or future requirements, for capital expenditures or contractual commitments;

changes in, or cash requirements for, our working capital needs;

in the case of Kindred EBITDAR and Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR, rent expense or cash requirements necessary to make rent payments;

significant interest expense, or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments, on our debt;

provision for income taxes, which may vary significantly from period to period;

provision for (earnings) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests, which may vary significantly from period to period,

any cash requirements for replacements of assets being depreciated and amortized; and

estimated cost saving synergies of \$70 million that we expect to realize within two years in connection with the Merger.

Because of these limitations, these measurements should not be considered as a measure of discretionary cash available to us to invest in the growth of our business. We compensate for these limitations by relying primarily on our GAAP results and using these measurements on a supplemental basis. You are cautioned not to place an undue reliance on these measurements.

Table of Contents

The following table reconciles Kindred EBITDA, Kindred Adjusted EBITDA, Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA, Kindred EBITDAR, Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR and Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR to income (loss) from continuing operations, which Kindred considers to be the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure, to Kindred EBITDA, Kindred Adjusted EBITDA, Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA, Kindred EBITDAR, Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR and Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR:

	Year ended December 31,			Twelve months ended	Nine months ended	
	2013	2012	2011	September 30, 2014	2014	2013
	(in thousands)					
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ (41,906)	\$ (45,483)	\$ (66,543)	\$ (43,680)	\$ 7,067	\$ 8,841
Depreciation and amortization	154,206	160,066	126,905	155,349	117,802	116,659
Interest, net	103,963	106,839	79,854	149,770	125,870	80,063
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(11,319)	30,642	(13,604)	(16,940)	3,582	9,203
Kindred EBITDA	204,944	252,064	126,612	244,499	254,321	214,766
Impairment charges(1)	76,082	107,899	73,554	76,082		
Litigation costs(2)	30,850	5,000		11,600	4,600	23,850
One-time bonus costs(3)	19,842					19,842
Facility closing costs(4)	6,542		1,490	499		6,043
Customer bankruptcy costs(5)				1,857	1,857	
Severance, retirement and other restructuring costs(6)	6,016	8,730	16,769	10,299	6,636	2,353
Lease cancellation charges(7)		1,691	1,819	247	247	
Transaction costs(8)	2,112	2,231	33,937	9,740	9,293	1,665
Kindred Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 346,388	\$ 377,615	\$ 254,181	354,823	\$ 276,954	\$ 268,519
Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA(9)				163,347		
Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA(10)				\$ 518,170		
Kindred EBITDA	\$ 204,944	\$ 252,064	\$ 126,612	\$ 244,499	\$ 254,321	\$ 214,766
Rent expense	311,526	303,564	276,540	322,370	241,449	230,605
Kindred EBITDAR	\$ 516,470	\$ 555,628	\$ 403,152	\$ 566,869	\$ 495,770	\$ 445,371
Kindred Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 346,388	\$ 377,615	\$ 254,181	\$ 354,823	\$ 276,954	\$ 268,519
Rent expense(11)	311,526	301,873	274,721	322,123	241,202	230,605
Kindred Adjusted EBITDAR	\$ 657,914	\$ 679,488	\$ 528,902	676,946	\$ 518,156	\$ 499,124
Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR(9)				208,068		
Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR(10)				\$ 885,014		

- (1) Various non-cash impairment charges incurred due to events in which the carrying value of certain assets exceeded their estimated fair value.
- (2) Provisions for pending or settled litigation.
- (3) One-time bonus costs paid to employees who do not participate in our incentive compensation program.
- (4) Costs associated with the closing of a TC hospital and a home health location in 2013 and the loss on divestiture of a TC hospital in 2011.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

- (5) Reserve for an allowance for doubtful account related to a customer bankruptcy.
- (6) Severance, retirement and other restructuring costs incurred in connection with the retirement of officers and debt amendment fees in 2013, the closing of a regional office and two TC hospitals and restructuring activities in 2012 and the completion of the merger of RehabCare Group, Inc. in 2011.
- (7) Lease cancellation charges incurred in connection with the closing of a regional office and two TC hospitals in 2012 and the completion of the merger of RehabCare Group, Inc. in 2011.
- (8) Transaction costs associated with acquisition activities consisting primarily of legal and other professional fees.
- (9) See note (1) to Summary Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information Gentiva Health Services, Inc. for a reconciliation of Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR to net income (loss) from continuing operations of Gentiva.

S-27

Table of Contents

- (10) Acquisition Adjusted EBITDA and Acquisition Adjusted EBITDAR do not reflect the estimated cost saving synergies of \$70 million that we expect to realize within two years in connection with the Merger. We cannot assure you that any or all of these synergies will be achieved. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger We may not be able to successfully integrate Gentiva's operations with our own or realize the anticipated benefits of the Merger, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and business prospects and Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger The Merger may not achieve its intended results, including anticipated synergies.
- (11) Rent expense excluding lease cancellation charges noted in (7) above.

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2011	2014	2013
Kindred Operating data:					
Hospital division data:					
Hospitals in operation at end of period	102	102	103	102	102
Licensed beds at end of period	7,320	7,248	7,238	7,360	7,288
Admissions	55,171	57,901	51,075	42,582	41,684
Patient days	1,500,105	1,555,964	1,399,206	1,144,587	1,134,288
Average length of stay	27.2	26.9	27.4	26.9	27.2
Revenues per admission	\$ 44,689	\$ 43,934	\$ 43,604	\$ 44,340	\$ 44,587
Revenues per patient day	\$ 1,644	\$ 1,635	\$ 1,592	\$ 1,650	\$ 1,638
Medicare case mix index (discharged patients only)	1.17	1.17	1.18	1.17	1.17
Average daily census	4,110	4,251	3,833	4,193	4,155
Occupancy %	63.5	66.3	66.2	64.8	64.2
Nursing center division data:					
Facilities in operation at end of period:					
Nursing centers:					
Owned or leased	94	94	95	95	94
Managed	4	4	4	4	4
Assisted living facilities	6	6	6	6	6
Licensed beds at end of period:					
Nursing centers:					
Owned or leased	11,921	11,921	11,927	11,993	11,921
Managed	485	485	485	485	485
Assisted living facilities	341	341	413	341	341
Patient days(a)	3,736,370	3,839,977	3,897,046	2,768,115	2,804,965
Revenues per patient day(a)	\$ 286	\$ 279	\$ 278	\$ 303	\$ 285
Average daily census	10,237	10,492	10,677	10,140	10,275
Admissions(a)	40,538	40,993	40,126	30,643	30,696
Occupancy %(a)	81.4	83.3	84.7	80.3	81.8
Medicare average length of stay(a, b)	31.1	31.1	31.9	29.9	31.0
SRS data:					
Revenue mix:					
Company-operated	11	11	14	12	11
Non-affiliated	89	89	86	88	89
Sites of services (at end of period)	1,806	1,726	1,774	1,896	1,768
Revenues per site	\$ 568,858	\$ 582,864	\$ 538,129	\$ 403,990	\$ 434,151

Table of Contents

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2011	2014	2013
HRS data:					
Revenue mix:					
Company-operated	32	32	37	30	33
Non-affiliated	68	68	63	70	67
Sites of services (at end of period):					
Inpatient rehabilitation units	104	105	102	102	99
Long-term acute care (LTAC) hospitals	121	123	115	117	122
Sub-acute units	10	21	25	10	7
Outpatient units	144	119	115	139	104
Other		5	8		
	379	373	365	368	332
Revenues per site	\$ 831,914	\$ 799,585	\$ 783,412	\$ 599,841	\$ 636,618

(a) Excludes managed facilities.

(b) Computed by dividing total Medicare discharge patient days by total Medicare discharges.

Gentiva Health Services, Inc.

The table below sets forth Gentiva's summary historical consolidated financial information for the periods indicated. The summary historical financial data presented below for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 and as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 have been derived from and should be read in conjunction with Gentiva's audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. The summary financial data for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 and as of September 30, 2014 have been derived from and should be read in conjunction with Gentiva's unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a basis consistent with Gentiva's audited consolidated financial statements and include, in the opinion of Gentiva's management, all adjustments of a normal recurring nature to provide a fair statement of the results for the reporting periods presented. Results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results that might be expected for any other interim period or for an entire year.

The summary historical consolidated financial information presented below should be read in conjunction with the information contained in Capitalization and Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information included in this prospectus supplement, the audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Gentiva's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, and the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in Gentiva's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2013 (Restated)	2012	2011 (Revised)	2014	2013 (Revised)
Consolidated statement of income data:					
Net revenues	\$ 1,726,644	\$ 1,712,804	\$ 1,798,778	\$ 1,483,551	\$ 1,240,507
Cost of services sold	942,180	908,741	948,455	811,077	660,998
Gross profit	784,464	804,063	850,323	672,474	579,509
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(706,227)	(655,766)	(731,299)	(567,722)	(483,243)
Goodwill and other long-lived asset impairment	(612,380)	(19,132)	(643,305)		(210,672)
Gain on sale of assets and businesses, net		8,014	1,061		
Dividend income			8,590		
Interest income	2,704	2,661	2,686	1,899	2,066
Interest expense and other	(113,088)	(92,608)	(91,296)	(75,805)	(68,849)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in net (loss) earnings of CareCentrix Holdings, Inc.	(644,527)	47,232	(603,240)	30,846	(181,189)
Income tax (expense) benefit	39,953	(17,251)	76,123	(12,499)	(2,827)
Equity in net (loss) earnings of CareCentrix Holdings, Inc.		(2,301)	68,381	(490)	
Net income (loss) from continuing operations	(604,574)	27,680	(458,736)	17,857	(184,016)
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(487)	(884)	(641)	(170)	(425)
Net income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to Gentiva shareholders	\$ (605,061)	\$ 26,796	\$ (459,377)	\$ 17,687	\$ (184,441)
Earnings (loss) per share:					
Net income (loss) from continuing operations attributable to Gentiva shareholders:					
Basic	\$ (18.94)	\$ 0.88	\$ (15.14)	\$ 0.49	\$ (5.97)
Diluted	(18.94)	0.87	(15.14)	0.48	(5.97)

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2013 (Restated)	2012	2011 (Revised)	2014	2013 (Revised)
Consolidated statement of cash flow data:					
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 37,105	\$ 125,968	\$ 5,141	\$ 46,039	\$ 18,569
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(377,799)	(24,894)	126,764	(7,264)	(18,344)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	220,599	(58,934)	(71,745)	(11,526)	(23,983)

Table of Contents

	As of December 31,		As of
	2013 (Restated)	2012 (Revised) (in thousands)	September 30, 2014
Consolidated balance sheet data:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 86,957	\$ 207,052	\$ 114,206
Working capital	94,291	226,128	130,016
Total assets	1,253,468	1,508,046	1,225,226
Total debt	1,169,757	935,182	1,156,888
Gentiva shareholders' equity (deficit)	(310,876)	231,422	(289,010)
Common shares outstanding	37,713	32,009	38,273

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended	
	2013 (Restated)	2012	2011 (Revised) (in thousands)	September 30, 2014	2013 (Revised)
Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA(1)	\$ 134,962	\$ 180,547	\$ 199,193	\$ 141,776	\$ 113,391
Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR(1)	177,313	223,659	245,050	174,730	143,975

- (1) Gentiva EBITDA represents earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization. Gentiva EBITDAR represents earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation, amortization and rent. Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR exclude the effects of impairment charges, legal settlements, cost savings initiatives and other restructuring costs, gain on sale of business, dividend income, acquisition and integration costs, and the impact of closed locations. We believe that the presentation of these measurements included in this prospectus supplement provide useful information to investors with which to analyze our operating trends and performance and ability to service and incur debt. Further, we believe these measurements facilitate company-to-company operating performance comparisons by backing out potential differences caused by variations in capital structures, taxation and the age and book depreciation of property and equipment, which may vary for different companies for reasons unrelated to operating performance. In addition, we believe that these measurements are frequently used by securities analysts, investors and other interested parties in their evaluation of companies. These measurements are not measurements of financial performance under GAAP and should not be considered as an alternative to net income as a measure of performance or to net cash flows provided by (used in) operations as a measure of liquidity. In addition, other companies may define these measurements differently and, as a result, our or Gentiva's measures may not be directly comparable. Furthermore, these measurements have limitations as an analytical tool and you should not consider them in isolation, or as a substitute for analysis of our or Gentiva's results reported under GAAP.

These measurements do not reflect:

Gentiva's cash expenditures, or future requirements, for capital expenditures or contractual commitments;

changes in, or cash requirements for, Gentiva's working capital needs;

in the case of Gentiva EBITDAR and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR, rent expense or cash requirements necessary to make rent payments;

significant interest expense, or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments, on Gentiva's debt;

provision for income taxes, which may vary significantly from period to period;

provision for (earnings) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests, which may vary significantly from period to period; and

S-31

Table of Contents

any cash requirements for replacements of assets being depreciated and amortized.

The following table reconciles Gentiva EBITDA, Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA, Gentiva EBITDAR and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR to net income (loss) from continuing operations, which Gentiva considers to be the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure to Gentiva EBITDA, Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA, Gentiva EBITDAR and Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR:

	Year ended December 31,			Twelve months ended	Nine months ended	
	2013 (Restated)	2012	2011 (Revised)	September 30, 2014	2014	2013 (Revised)
	(in thousands)					
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and equity in net (loss) earnings						
CareCentrix Holdings, Inc.	\$ (644,527)	\$ 47,232	\$ (603,240)	\$ (432,492)	\$ 30,846	\$ (181,189)
Interest, net	110,384	89,947	88,610	117,507	73,906	66,783
Depreciation and amortization	24,621	26,580	31,032	31,287	21,207	14,541
Gentiva EBITDA	(509,522)	163,759	(483,598)	(283,698)	125,959	(99,865)
Impairment charges(1)	612,380	19,132	643,305	401,708		210,672
Legal settlements(2)		4,958	26,000			
Cost savings initiatives and other restructuring costs(3)	8,742	1,701	15,258	12,797	4,317	262
Gain on sale of business(4)		(8,014)	(1,061)			
Dividend income(5)			(8,590)			
Acquisition, merger and integration costs(6)	18,797	(989)	7,879	24,941	8,466	2,322
Impact of closed locations(7)	4,565			7,599	3,034	
Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 134,962	\$ 180,547	\$ 199,193	\$ 163,347	\$ 141,776	\$ 113,391
Gentiva EBITDA	\$ (509,522)	\$ 163,759	\$ (483,598)	\$ (283,698)	\$ 125,959	\$ (99,865)
Rent expense(8)	43,370	43,112	45,857	46,253	33,467	30,584
Gentiva EBITDAR	\$ (466,152)	\$ 206,871	\$ (437,741)	\$ (237,445)	\$ 159,426	\$ (69,281)
Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 134,962	\$ 180,547	\$ 199,193	\$ 163,347	\$ 141,776	\$ 113,391
Rent expense(8)	42,351	43,112	45,857	44,721	32,954	30,584
Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR	\$ 177,313	\$ 223,659	\$ 245,050	\$ 208,068	\$ 174,730	\$ 143,975

- (1) Various non-cash charges incurred due to events in which the carrying value of certain assets exceeded their estimated fair value.
- (2) Costs associated with a legal settlement related to a wage and hour lawsuit for the year ended December 31, 2012 and a legal settlement related to a prior acquisition for the year ended December 31, 2011.
- (3) During 2013, Gentiva began a corporate restructuring initiative, referred to as "One Gentiva", to better align its home health, hospice and community care businesses under a common regional management structure. In addition, Gentiva began a branch rationalization initiative to review underperforming branches. As a result of this review, Gentiva closed or consolidated 77 branches through early 2014 and recorded severance and facility lease costs of \$8.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2013.

During 2011 and early 2012, Gentiva began a comprehensive review of its branch structure, support infrastructure and other significant expenditures in order to reduce operating costs. As a result of this effort,

Table of Contents

Gentiva (i) closed or divested 46 home health branches and 13 hospice branches and (ii) significantly reduced staffing levels in regional, area and corporate support functions. In connection with these activities, during 2013, 2012 and 2011, Gentiva recorded charges of \$0.1 million, \$1.7 million and \$15.3 million, respectively.

- (4) During 2012, Gentiva completed the sale of certain hospice operations, a consulting operation and its Louisiana operations and realized a gain from the dispositions. During 2011, Gentiva recorded a gain in connection with the sale of assets associated with various home health and hospice branch dispositions and other owned property.
- (5) Dividend income for 2011 represents a 12% cumulative preferred dividend received in connection with the sale of an investment in CareCentrix Holdings, Inc. in 2011.
- (6) Acquisition, integration and merger-related costs associated with acquisition and merger activities, consisting primarily of severance, debt and lease costs, and legal and professional fees.
- (7) Represents the EBITDA of closed or consolidated locations under One Gentiva to align its home health, hospice and community care businesses under a common regional management structure.
- (8) Rent expense represents lease costs, common area maintenance expenses and equipment lease costs, excluding utilities and certain other costs, and does not include rent expense for closed or consolidated locations in reconciling from Gentiva Adjusted EBITDA to Gentiva Adjusted EBITDAR.

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2013	2012	2011	2014	2013
Gentiva Operating data:					
Home Health:					
Episodes	293,200	287,800	287,600	250,800	213,900
Admissions	199,000	198,000	199,600	163,200	146,700
Episodes per admission	1.47	1.45	1.44	1.54	1.46
Revenue per episode	\$ 2,890	\$ 2,900	\$ 3,050	\$ 2,780	\$ 2,900
Hospice:					
Admissions	50,500	51,500	55,100	36,100	37,500
Average daily census	12,900	13,600	14,000	12,800	12,700
Patient days (in thousands)	4,711	4,959	5,092	3,497	3,468
Revenue per patient day	\$ 152	\$ 154	\$ 154	\$ 148	\$ 154
Average length of stay	100	96	89	105	97
Routine % of revenue	98%	98%	98%	99%	98%
Inpatient % of revenue	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Community Care:					
Billed hours (in thousands)	3,600			12,700	
Revenue per hour	\$ 13	\$	\$	\$ 13	\$

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in the Units involves risks. You should carefully consider the following risk factors as well as the risk factors contained in Kindred's annual and quarterly reports incorporated herein by reference in addition to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in deciding whether to invest in the Units.

*In addition, you should read and consider the risk factors associated with the businesses of Gentiva because these risk factors may also affect the operations and financial results reported by the combined company. See *Additional Risks Relating to Gentiva to Which We Would be Subject Following the Merger if the Merger is Completed*. The risks set forth below under the headings *Risks Relating to Reimbursement and Regulation of Our Business* and *Risks Relating to Our Operations* are applicable to Kindred and Gentiva, and with certain exceptions will be applicable to the combined company following the closing of the Merger. In certain instances, the exposure of our business to certain of these risks could potentially be different or greater for the combined company after the consummation of the Transactions, and we or the combined company may become subject to additional or different risks. The risks discussed below also include forward-looking statements, and actual results may differ substantially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements. See *Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements* in this prospectus supplement.*

Risks Relating to the Merger

There can be no assurance that we will successfully complete the Merger on the terms or timetable currently proposed or at all.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to finance part of the cost of the Merger, if it is completed, but no assurance can be given that the Merger will be completed when expected, on the terms proposed or at all.

The Merger is subject to customary closing conditions, including approval by the Gentiva stockholders, the effectiveness of the related Form S-4, approval of the listing by the NYSE of the Common Stock to be issued in the Merger, the absence of legal prohibitions on the consummation of the Merger, the accuracy of the representations and warranties in the Merger Agreement and the performance by Kindred and Gentiva of their respective obligations under the Merger Agreement. Our obligation to close under the Merger Agreement is also contingent upon the receipt of certain state healthcare and insurance regulatory clearances or approvals (which condition, if not already fulfilled, will be deemed satisfied on February 28, 2015). There can be no assurance that the conditions to closing will be satisfied or waived or that other events will not intervene to delay or prevent the closing of the Merger. A delay in closing, or a failure to complete the Merger, could have a negative impact on our business and on the trading price of our Common Stock. Whether or not we acquire Gentiva, we have incurred, and will continue to incur, substantial nonrecurring transaction costs in connection with the Merger. See *We have incurred, and will continue to incur, significant transaction and Merger-related integration costs in connection with the Merger.*

The completion of this offering is not contingent upon the Merger. If the Merger is not completed, none of the transactions described under *The Transactions*, other than this offering, the concurrent Common Stock Offering, if completed, will occur and the other aspects of Kindred's current capital structure will remain in place as described herein or in the documents incorporated by reference herein. If the Merger is not completed, Kindred will have a right to redeem the Purchase Contract initially issued as part of the Units. See *Failure to complete the Merger could negatively impact our stock price and future business and financial results* and *Risks Relating to this Offering*. If we fail to consummate the Merger, we may redeem the Purchase Contracts for an amount of cash and/or a number of shares of Common Stock with a value that may not adequately compensate you for any lost time value. This offering is not contingent upon completion of the Merger and our management will have broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from this offering if the Merger is not completed. See *Risks Relating to this Offering*. Our

management will have broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from this offering.

S-34

Table of Contents

The Merger may not be consummated if sufficient financing or other sources of capital are not available or for other reasons, and we may become subject to monetary or other damages under the Merger Agreement.

Our ability to complete the Merger is dependent upon the consummation of the Financing Transactions, as described under "The Transactions" Financing Transactions. On October 30, 2014, we entered into an amended and restated commitment letter (the "Commitment Letter") pursuant to which the lenders party thereto committed to provide us with financing to consummate the Merger, including a senior unsecured bridge loan facility (the "Bridge Facility") if and to the extent the proceeds of this offering, the concurrent Common Stock Offering, the Senior Notes Offering and any other offering of debt securities at or prior to the closing of the Merger yields less than \$1.7 billion in gross cash proceeds. The financing commitment for the Bridge Facility, if needed, is subject to certain conditions, including the consummation of the Merger no later than March 31, 2015 and the absence of a Company Material Adverse Effect (as defined in the Commitment Letter) with respect to Gentiva. We cannot assure you that we will be able to satisfy the conditions set forth in the Commitment Letter. The closing of the Merger is not contingent on our ability to obtain sufficient financing under the Bridge Facility or otherwise. If we cannot consummate the Merger for this or any other reason, we may be subject to claims for monetary or other damages under the Merger Agreement as a result of our failure to complete the Merger.

This offering is not contingent upon completion of the Merger and the Merger is subject to certain governmental and regulatory approvals, which, if delayed, denied or granted with unacceptable conditions, may delay or prevent the completion of the Merger, result in additional expenditure of time and resources and reduce the anticipated benefits of the Merger.

Kindred and Gentiva require certain governmental authorizations, consents, orders and approvals, including certain state licensure and regulatory approvals, in connection with the Merger. The failure to obtain such approvals may delay closing until after February 28, 2015, and may reduce the anticipated benefits of the Merger to Kindred and Gentiva stockholders.

Failure to complete the Merger could negatively impact our stock price and future business and financial results.

The Merger Agreement contains certain termination rights for Kindred and Gentiva (including if the Merger is not consummated by March 31, 2015). If the Merger is not completed for any reason, including as a result of Gentiva stockholders failing to approve the Merger Agreement, our ongoing business may be adversely affected and, without realizing any of the benefits of having completed the Merger, we would also be subject to a number of risks, including the following:

we may experience negative reactions from the financial markets, including negative impacts on our stock price;

we may experience negative reactions from our customers, partners and employees;

we will be required to pay certain costs relating to the Merger, whether or not the Merger is completed; and

matters relating to the Merger (including integration planning) will require substantial commitments of time and resources by our management, which would otherwise have been devoted to day-to-day operations and other opportunities.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

In addition to the above risks, we could be subject to litigation related to any failure to complete the Merger or related to any enforcement proceeding commenced against us to perform our obligations under the Merger Agreement. If the Merger is not completed, these risks may materialize and may adversely affect our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

S-35

Table of Contents

We may not be able to successfully integrate Gentiva's operations with our own or realize the anticipated benefits of the Merger, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and business prospects.

We may not be able to successfully integrate Gentiva's operations with our own, and we may not realize all or any of the expected benefits of the Merger as and when planned. The integration of Gentiva's operations with Kindred's will be complex, costly and time consuming. We expect that it will require significant attention from senior management and will impose substantial demands on our operations and personnel, potentially diverting attention from other important pending projects. The difficulties and risks associated with the integration of Gentiva include:

the possibility that we will fail to implement our business plans for the combined company, including as a result of new legislation or regulation in the healthcare industry affecting the timing or costs associated with the operations of the combined company or its integration plan;

possible inconsistencies in the standards, controls, procedures, policies and compensation structures of Kindred and Gentiva;

the possibility that we may have failed to discover liabilities of Gentiva during our due diligence investigation as part of the Merger for which we, as a successor owner, may be responsible;

limitations prior to the completion of the Merger on the ability of management of each of Kindred and Gentiva to work together to develop an integration plan;

the increased scope and complexity of our operations;

the potential loss of key employees and the costs associated with our efforts to retain key employees;

provisions in Kindred's and Gentiva's contracts with third parties that may limit our flexibility to take certain actions;

risks and limitations on our ability to consolidate corporate and administrative infrastructures of the two companies;

obligations that we will have to counterparties of Gentiva that arise as result of the change in control of Gentiva; and

the possibility of unanticipated delays, costs or inefficiencies associated with the integration of Gentiva's operations with Kindred's.

As a result of these difficulties and risks, we may not accomplish the integration of Gentiva's business smoothly, successfully or within our budgetary expectations and anticipated timetable. Accordingly, we may fail to realize some or all of the anticipated benefits of the Merger, such as increase in our scale, diversification, cash flows and operational efficiency and accretion to our earnings per share.

The Merger may not achieve its intended results, including anticipated synergies.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

While we expect the Merger to result in a significant amount of synergies and other financial and operational benefits, we may be unable to realize these synergies or other benefits in the timeframe that we expect or at all. Achieving the anticipated benefits, including synergies, is subject to a number of uncertainties, including whether the businesses acquired can be operated in the manner we intend and whether our costs to finance the Merger and integrate the businesses will be consistent with our expectations. Events outside of our control, including, but not limited to, any conditions imposed by governmental authorities, operating changes or regulatory changes, could also adversely affect our ability to realize the anticipated benefits from the Merger. Thus, the integration may be unpredictable, or subject to delays or changed circumstances, and the acquired businesses may not perform in accordance with our expectations. Further, we will incur implementation costs relative to these anticipated synergies, and our expectations with respect to integration or synergies as a result of

S-36

Table of Contents

the Merger may not materialize. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on our anticipated synergies. See We may not be able to successfully integrate Gentiva's operations with our own or realize the anticipated benefits of the Merger, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and business prospects.

We have incurred, and will continue to incur, significant transaction and Merger-related integration costs in connection with the Merger.

We have incurred and expect to continue to incur a number of costs associated with completing the Merger and integrating the operations of Kindred and Gentiva. Such costs include costs associated with borrowings under or amendments to the Credit Facilities, any premiums in connection with refinancing Gentiva's debt and the payment of certain fees and expenses incurred in connection with the Merger and related Financing Transactions, including legal and other professional advisor fees. The substantial majority of these costs will be non-recurring expenses and will primarily consist of transaction costs related to the Merger, facilities and systems consolidation costs and employment-related costs. Additional unanticipated costs may be incurred in the integration of the businesses of Kindred and Gentiva. Although we expect that the elimination of duplicative costs, as well as the realization of other efficiencies related to the integration of the businesses, may offset incremental transaction and merger-related costs over time, this net benefit may not be achieved in the near term, or at all.

Our actual financial position and results of operations may differ materially from the unaudited pro forma financial information included in this prospectus supplement.

The unaudited pro forma financial information included in this prospectus supplement is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of what our actual financial position or results of operations would have been had the Merger been completed on the dates indicated. This information reflects adjustments, which are based upon preliminary estimates, to allocate the Merger Consideration to Gentiva's identifiable net assets. The Merger Consideration allocation reflected in this prospectus supplement is preliminary, and final allocation of the Merger Consideration will be based upon the actual Merger Consideration and the fair value of the assets and liabilities of Gentiva as of the date of the completion of the Merger. In addition, subsequent to the closing date of the Merger, there may be further refinements of the Merger Consideration allocation as additional information becomes available. Accordingly, the final acquisition accounting adjustments may differ materially from the pro forma adjustments reflected herein. See Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information.

The pendency of the Merger could adversely affect our business, financial results and operations, and the market price of our Common Stock.

The announcement and pendency of the Merger could cause disruptions and create uncertainty surrounding our business and affect the relationships with our customers and employees. In addition, we have diverted, and will continue to divert, significant management resources to complete the Merger, which could have a negative impact on our ability to manage existing operations or pursue alternative strategic transactions, which could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition. As a result of investor perceptions about the terms or benefits of the Merger, the market price of our Common Stock may decline.

Uncertainty about the effect of the Merger on Gentiva's employees and customers may have an adverse effect on Gentiva and, consequently, the combined company.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

The uncertainty created by the pending Merger may impair Gentiva's ability to attract, retain and motivate key personnel until the Merger is completed as current and prospective employees may experience uncertainty about their future roles with the combined company. If key employees of Gentiva depart because of issues relating to the uncertainty and difficulty of integration or a desire not to become our employees, our ability to

S-37

Table of Contents

realize the anticipated benefits of the Merger could be reduced or delayed. In addition, disruptions resulting from the Merger may also affect our relationships with our customers and employees.

We expect to incur substantial additional indebtedness to finance the Merger and the Centerre Acquisition, and may not be able to meet our substantial debt service requirements.

A substantial portion of our cash flows from operations is dedicated to the payment of principal and interest obligations on our outstanding indebtedness. Subject to certain restrictions, we also have the ability to incur substantial additional borrowings. In addition, we intend to incur substantial additional indebtedness in connection with the Merger and the Centerre Acquisition. If we are unable to generate sufficient funds to meet our obligations under our outstanding notes or our credit facilities (including after giving effect to the Merger), we may be required to refinance, restructure or otherwise amend some or all of such obligations, sell assets or raise additional cash through the sale of our equity. We cannot make any assurances that we would be able to obtain such refinancing on terms as favorable as our current financing or that such restructuring, sales of assets or issuances of equity can be accomplished or, if accomplished, would raise sufficient funds to meet these obligations.

Acquiring Gentiva will substantially increase the scale of our Company, which will change the risks to which we are subject.

Gentiva is a large and complex company that will add significantly to the size and scale of our operations if we are successful in closing the Merger. Gentiva reported in its annual report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 that it had approximately \$1.7 billion in net revenues for 2013 and approximately \$1.3 billion in total assets at December 31, 2013. It also reported that it has made numerous acquisitions and operates at approximately 550 locations in 40 states, which could expose us to increased integration, operational, employee management and regulatory risks. Further, after giving effect to the Merger, the percentage of our revenues derived from the Medicare and Medicaid programs will increase. See **Risks Relating to Reimbursement and Regulation of Our Business** Changes in the reimbursement rates or methods or timing of payment from third party payors, including the Medicare and Medicaid programs, or the implementation of other measures to reduce reimbursement for our services and products could result in a substantial reduction in our revenues and operating margins and **Risks Relating to Our Operations** Possible changes in the acuity of residents and patients, as well as payor mix and payment methodologies, may significantly affect our profitability. We may have failed to identify all the risks to which the acquisition of Gentiva may expose us or the effects it may have on the price of our shares or on the long-term value of the Company, including any risks related to Gentiva's compliance with healthcare laws and regulations, contractual obligations and leases and those related to changes in Medicare reimbursement.

Legal proceedings in connection with the Merger could delay or prevent the completion of the Merger.

Purported class action lawsuits have been filed by third parties challenging the proposed Merger and seeking, among other things, to enjoin the completion of the Merger. One of the conditions to the closing of the Merger is that no governmental entity (including any national, state or local governmental authority) having jurisdiction over a party to a Merger Agreement has enacted, issued, enforced or entered any laws or orders that prohibit the completion of the Merger. Because the Merger Agreement contains this condition, if a plaintiff is successful in obtaining an injunction prohibiting completion of the Merger, then the injunction may delay the Merger or prevent the Merger from being completed. In addition, Gentiva and Kindred could incur significant costs or damages in connection with the lawsuits.

Risks Relating to Acquisitions Generally

Any acquisition, investment or strategic alliance that we have made or may make in the future may use significant resources, may be unsuccessful and could expose us to unforeseen liabilities.

Independently of the proposed acquisitions of Gentiva and Centerre, we intend to continue to selectively pursue strategic acquisitions of, investments in, and strategic alliances with, hospitals, IRFs, nursing centers,

S-38

Table of Contents

rehabilitation operations, and home health and hospice operations, particularly where an acquisition may assist us in scaling our operations more rapidly and efficiently than internal growth. Acquisitions, including the Merger and the Centerre acquisition, may involve significant cash expenditures, debt incurrence, additional operating losses, amortization of certain intangible assets of acquired companies, dilutive issuances of equity securities and expenses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Acquisitions, investments and strategic alliances involve numerous risks. These risks include:

limitations on our ability to identify acquisitions that meet our target criteria and complete such acquisitions on reasonable terms and valuations;

limitations on our ability to access equity or capital to fund acquisitions, including difficulty in obtaining financing for acquisitions at a reasonable cost, or that such financing will contain restrictive covenants that limit our operating flexibility or ability to access additional capital when needed;

entry into markets or businesses in which we may have limited or no experience;

difficulties integrating acquired operations, personnel and information systems, and in realizing projected efficiencies and cost savings, particularly in the case of significant acquisitions;

diversion of management's time from existing operations;

potential loss of key employees or customers of acquired companies;

inaccurate assessment of assets and liabilities and exposure to undisclosed or unforeseen liabilities of acquired companies, including liabilities for the failure to comply with healthcare laws;

the possibility that we failed to discover liabilities of an acquired company during our due diligence investigation as part of any acquisition for which we, as a successor owner, may be responsible;

obligations that we may have to joint venture partners and other counterparties of an acquired company that arise as a result of a change in control of an acquired company;

obligations that we have to holders of our debt securities and to our lenders under our existing credit facilities, including our obligations to comply with financial covenants; and

impairment of acquired goodwill and intangible assets.

Acquisitions and other strategic opportunities may negatively impact our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

We continue to seek acquisitions and other strategic opportunities for each of our businesses, particularly where we believe an acquisition or strategic opportunity may assist us in scaling our operations more rapidly and efficiently than internal growth. Accordingly, we are often engaged in evaluating potential transactions and other strategic alternatives, some of which may be significant in size, and we may engage in preliminary discussions that may result in one or more transactions. Our business, short-term and long-term financial position, results of operations and liquidity may be impacted if we announce or complete any such transaction or if we incur substantial costs or other losses in connection with any such transaction, whether or not it is completed. Moreover, although we intend to enter into transactions that enhance long-term shareholder value, our ability to achieve this objective would be subject to integration risks, the ability to retain and attract key personnel, the ability to realize synergies and other risks, all of which would be more material with transactions of significant size.

In addition to acquisitions, we also may pursue strategic opportunities involving the construction of new hospitals or nursing centers. The construction of new facilities involves numerous risks, including construction delays, cost over-runs, and the satisfaction of zoning and other regulatory requirements. We may be unable to operate newly constructed facilities profitably and such facilities may involve significant cash expenditures, debt

Table of Contents

incurrence, additional operating losses, and expenses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

We operate 12 of our facilities and one home health agency through joint ventures with unrelated parties. We are the majority owner of each of those joint ventures. We may enter into additional joint ventures with unrelated parties in the future to acquire, own or operate hospitals, IRFs, nursing centers and/or home health and hospice services. Although, we typically control the day-to-day activities of these joint ventures, the joint venture agreements with our partners often include provisions reserving certain major actions for super-majority approval. Failure to obtain, or delays or substantial time and costs involved in obtaining, our partners' approval rights, if any, could adversely affect our ability to operate such joint ventures, and could have a material adverse effect on such ventures or our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity more generally. Such actions may include entering into a new business activity or ceasing an existing activity, taking on substantial debt, admitting new partners, and terminating the venture. In addition, the joint venture agreements may restrict our ability to derive cash from the joint venture and affect our ability to transfer our interest in the joint venture. We may be required to provide additional capital to a joint venture if our partner defaults on its capital obligations.

We may not be successful in completing our acquisition of Centerre, and even if we are successful, we may fail to realize the anticipated benefits of the acquisition.

On November 11, 2014, we entered into the Centerre Merger Agreement to acquire Centerre. Completion of the Centerre Acquisition is subject to various conditions, including, among others, approval of the Centerre Merger Agreement by the requisite vote of Centerre's stockholders, regulatory approvals, consents from joint venture partners and certain other customary conditions to closing, including the expiration of the waiting period under the HSR Act. In addition, the Centerre Merger Agreement also contains certain termination rights for the Company and Centerre (including if the Centerre Merger is not consummated by March 1, 2015). There can be no assurance that the conditions to closing will be satisfied or waived or that other events will not intervene to delay or prevent the closing of the Centerre Acquisition. A delay in closing, or a failure to complete the Centerre Acquisition, could have a negative impact on our business and on the trading price of our Common Stock. We may not be able to successfully integrate Centerre's operations with our own, and we may be unable to realize any of the expected synergies or other benefits in the timeframe that we expect or at all. Whether or not we acquire Centerre, we have incurred, and will continue to incur, substantial nonrecurring transaction costs in connection with the acquisition.

Risks Relating to this Offering

If we fail to consummate the Merger, we may redeem the Purchase Contracts for an amount of cash and/or a number of shares of Common Stock with a value that may not adequately compensate you for any lost time value.

If the Merger is not consummated for any reason, we may redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by delivering notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015. We will pay a merger redemption amount to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts (as described under "Description of the Purchase Contracts—Merger Termination Redemption"). The merger redemption amount that you receive upon a merger termination redemption may not adequately compensate you for any lost time value of the Purchase Contracts. Upon redemption of the Purchase Contracts included in Units or separate Purchase Contracts in connection upon a merger termination redemption, our Common Stock may incur immediate net tangible book value dilution on a per share basis.

Table of Contents

You will bear the risk that the market value of Common Stock may decline.

The market price for Common Stock has been and may continue to be volatile. As the price of Common Stock on the NYSE constantly changes, it is impossible to predict whether the price of our Common Stock will rise or fall. Trading prices of Common Stock will be influenced by our financial condition, operating results and prospects and by economic, financial and other factors, such as prevailing interest rates, interest rate volatility and changes in our industry and competitors. In addition, general market conditions, including the level of, and fluctuations in, the trading prices of stocks generally, and sales of Common Stock by us in the market, or the perception that such sales could occur, could affect the price of shares of Common Stock. See [The market price of our Common Stock may be volatile, and you could lose all or part of your investment.](#)

The Purchase Contracts, pursuant to which we will deliver to you shares of Common Stock, are initially components of the Units. The number of shares of Common Stock that you will receive upon settlement of a Purchase Contract on the mandatory settlement date (subject to earlier settlement or redemption), whether as a component of a Unit or a separate Purchase Contract, will depend upon the applicable market value, which is equal to the average of the daily VWAPs of Common Stock for the 20 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017. There can be no assurance that the market value of Common Stock received by you will be equal to or greater than the reference price of \$ [_____](#). If the applicable market value of Common Stock is less than the reference price, then the aggregate market value of the Common Stock issued to you on the mandatory settlement date (assuming that the market value is the same as the applicable market value of Common Stock) will be less than the initial purchase price of the Units. Therefore, you assume the entire risk that the market value of Common Stock may decline before the mandatory settlement date, early settlement date, fundamental change early settlement date or early mandatory settlement date, as applicable. Any decline in the market value of Common Stock may be substantial.

Our management will have broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from this offering.

Our management will have broad discretion to direct the net proceeds from this offering, which may include general corporate purposes, and could spend the net proceeds in ways with which you may not agree. General corporate purposes may include, without limitation, working capital, repayment of outstanding indebtedness, general and administrative expenses, capital expenditures and future acquisitions. See [Use of Proceeds](#). Our management's judgments may not result in positive returns on your investment and you will not have an opportunity, as part of your investment decision, to evaluate the economic, financial or other information upon which our management bases its decisions.

The opportunity for equity appreciation provided by an investment in the Units is less than that provided by a direct investment in Common Stock.

The aggregate market value of Common Stock delivered to you upon settlement of a Purchase Contract on the mandatory settlement date generally will exceed the \$1,000 stated amount of each Unit only if the applicable market value of Common Stock exceeds the threshold appreciation price. Therefore, during the period prior to the mandatory settlement date, an investment in a Unit affords less opportunity for equity appreciation than a direct investment in Common Stock. If the applicable market value exceeds the reference price but is less than or equal to the threshold appreciation price, you will realize no equity appreciation on Common Stock above the reference price. Furthermore, if the applicable market value exceeds the threshold appreciation price, you will receive only a portion of the appreciation in the market value of the shares of Common Stock you would have received had you purchased shares of Common Stock with \$1,000 at the public offering price in the concurrent Common Stock Offering. See [Description of the Purchase Contracts](#) [Delivery of Common Stock](#) for a table showing the number of shares of Common Stock that you would receive at various applicable market values.

Table of Contents

The trading prices for the Units, the Purchase Contracts and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be directly affected by the trading prices for Common Stock, the general level of interest rates and our credit quality, each of which is impossible to predict.

It is impossible to predict whether the price of Common Stock, interest rates or our credit quality will rise or fall. Trading prices of the Common Stock will be influenced by general stock market conditions and our operating results and business prospects and other factors described elsewhere in these Risk Factors and Risk Factors sections of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014. In addition, general market conditions, including the level of, and fluctuations in, the trading prices of stocks generally, can affect the price of Common Stock, as can sales by us or our shareholders of Common Stock in the market after the offering of the Units or the perception that those sales could occur.

The market for Common Stock likely will influence, and be influenced by, any market that develops for the Units or the separate Purchase Contracts. For example, investors' anticipation of the distribution into the market of the additional shares of Common Stock issuable upon settlement of the Purchase Contracts could depress the price of Common Stock and increase the volatility of the Common Stock price, which could in turn depress the price of the Units or the separate Purchase Contracts. The price of Common Stock also could be affected by sales of such Common Stock by investors who view the Units as a more attractive means of equity participation in Kindred and by hedging or arbitrage trading activity that is likely to develop involving the Units, separate Purchase Contracts and Common Stock. The arbitrage activity could, in turn, affect the trading prices of the Units, the separate Purchase Contracts and Common Stock.

Recent and future regulatory actions impacting market activities and other events may adversely affect the trading price and liquidity of the Units.

We expect that many investors in, and potential purchasers of, the Units will employ, or seek to employ, an arbitrage strategy with respect to the Units. Investors would typically implement such a strategy by selling short our Common Stock and dynamically adjusting their short position while continuing to hold the Units. Investors may also implement this type of strategy by entering into swaps on our Common Stock in lieu of or in addition to short selling the Common Stock. As a result, any specific rules regulating equity swaps or short selling of securities or other governmental action that restricts or interferes with the ability of market participants to effect short sales or equity swaps with respect to our Common Stock could adversely affect the ability of investors in, or potential purchasers of, the Units to conduct the arbitrage strategy that we believe they will employ, or seek to employ, with respect to the Units. This could, in turn, adversely affect the trading price and liquidity of the Units.

The SEC and other regulatory and self-regulatory authorities have implemented various rules and taken certain actions, and may in the future adopt additional rules or take other actions, that may impact those engaging in short selling activity involving equity securities (including our Common Stock). Such rules and actions include Rule 201 of SEC Regulation SHO, the adoption by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. and the national securities exchanges of a Limit Up-Limit Down program, the imposition of market-wide circuit breakers that halt trading of securities for certain periods following specific market declines, and the implementation of certain regulatory reforms required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. Any governmental or regulatory action that restricts the ability of investors in, or potential purchasers of, the Units to effect short sales of our Common Stock, borrow our Common Stock or enter into swaps on our Common Stock could adversely affect the trading price and the liquidity of the Units.

We may not be able to settle or redeem your Purchase Contracts and deliver shares of Common Stock, or make payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, in the event that we file for bankruptcy.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Pursuant to the terms of the purchase contract agreement, your Purchase Contracts will automatically accelerate upon the occurrence of specified events of our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization. A bankruptcy

S-42

Table of Contents

court may prevent us from delivering Common Stock to you in settlement or redemption of your Purchase Contracts. In such circumstances or if for any other reason the accelerated Purchase Contracts are not settled by the delivery of Common Stock, we expect that your resulting claim for damages will rank equally with the claims of holders of Common Stock, in which case you will only be able to recover damages to the extent holders of our Common Stock receive any recovery. See Description of the Purchase Contracts Consequences of Bankruptcy.

In addition, with respect to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, your claim in the event of our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization will be limited to the liquidation preference of your shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and any accumulated and unpaid dividends. Because of our ability to pay preferred stock installment payments under the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in shares of Common Stock instead of cash, it is possible that a bankruptcy court may rank any claims under the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock equally with the claims of holders of Common Stock. Bankruptcy law and bankruptcy related court orders generally prohibit the payment of pre-bankruptcy obligations by a company that has commenced a bankruptcy case while the case is pending. If Kindred becomes a debtor in a bankruptcy case, so long as the case is pending, you would likely not receive timely preferred stock installment payments under, or, if you exercised your right to require redemption following a merger termination redemption or early mandatory settlement, receive any redemption price on, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of the Units. See Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Consequences of Bankruptcy.

Future issuances or sales of our shares could adversely affect the market price of our Common Stock and the Units.

Future sales of our Common Stock, or securities convertible or exchangeable into shares of our Common Stock, in the public market, whether by us or our existing stockholders, future issuances of additional shares of Common Stock in connection with any future acquisitions or pursuant to employee benefit plans and future issuances of shares of Common Stock upon exercise of options or warrants or settlement of the Purchase Contracts, or the perception that such sales, issuances and/or exercises, conversions or settlements could occur, may adversely affect the market price of our Common Stock and the Units, which could decline significantly. Sales by our existing shareholders might also make it more difficult for us to raise equity capital by selling new Common Stock at a time and price that we deem appropriate.

As part of the Financing Transactions, we are concurrently offering 5,000,000 shares of Common Stock in the concurrent Common Stock Offering. In addition, we will issue additional shares of our Common Stock to Gentiva stockholders as part of the Merger Consideration at the closing of the Merger. We, along with each of our executive officers and directors have agreed to a 60-day lock-up agreement with the underwriters that prohibits the offer, pledge or sale of, or entering into any transaction that is designed to, or might reasonably be expected to, dispose of or transfer, any of our Common Stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our Common Stock, among other restrictions, for a period of 60 days following the date of this prospectus supplement. However, this lock-up agreement is subject to several exceptions, including the concurrent Common Stock Offering and the issuance of our Common Stock to Gentiva stockholders at the closing of the Merger, and the joint book-running managers in their sole discretion may release any of the securities subject to the lock-up, at any time without notice.

We may issue additional Common Stock in the future in connection with capital raisings, acquisitions, strategic transactions, settlement or redemption of the Purchase Contracts included in the Units, our option to pay preferred stock installment payments under the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in shares of Common Stock, or for other purposes. To the extent we issue substantial additional Common Stock, the ownership of our existing stockholders would be diluted and our earnings per share could be reduced, which may negatively affect the market prices for our Common Stock and the Units.

Table of Contents

We may issue additional shares of Common Stock, which may dilute the value of Common Stock but may not trigger an anti-dilution adjustment under the terms of the Purchase Contracts.

The trading price of Common Stock may be adversely affected if we issue additional shares of Common Stock. The number of shares of Common Stock issuable upon settlement or redemption of the Purchase Contracts is subject to adjustment only for certain events, including, but not limited to, the issuance of stock dividends on Common Stock, the issuance of certain rights or warrants, subdivisions, combinations, distributions of capital stock, indebtedness or assets, certain cash dividends and certain issuer tender or exchange offers. The number of shares of Common Stock deliverable upon settlement or redemption is not subject to adjustment for other events that may adversely affect the value of Common Stock, such as employee stock options grants, offerings of Common Stock for cash (including under the concurrent Common Stock Offering), certain exchanges of Common Stock for other Kindred securities or in connection with acquisitions and other transactions. The terms of the Units do not restrict our ability to offer Common Stock in the future or to engage in other transactions that could dilute Common Stock, which may adversely affect the value of the Units and separate Purchase Contracts.

Our issuance of preferred stock may cause the Common Stock price, and therefore cause the market price of the Units, to decline, which may negatively impact your investment.

Our board of directors is authorized to issue series of shares of preferred stock without any action on the part of our stockholders. Our board of directors also has the power, without stockholder approval, to set the terms of any such series of shares of preferred stock that may be issued, including voting rights, conversion rights, dividend rights, preferences over Common Stock with respect to dividends or if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our business and other terms. If we issue cumulative preferred stock in the future that has preference over Common Stock with respect to the payment of dividends or upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, or if we issue preferred stock with voting rights that dilute the voting power of Common Stock, the market price of Common Stock could decrease, which may negatively impact your investment.

You may receive shares of Common Stock or cash upon settlement or redemption of the Purchase Contracts lower in value than the price of Common Stock just prior to the mandatory settlement date or merger redemption settlement date, as the case may be.

Because the applicable market value or redemption market value, as the case may be, of Common Stock is determined over the 20 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017 or the scheduled merger redemption settlement date, as the case may be, the number of shares of Common Stock delivered on the mandatory settlement date or the amount of cash payable in lieu of shares, if applicable, in respect of a merger redemption settlement date, as the case may be, for each Purchase Contract may be greater than or less than the number or amount that would have been delivered or paid based on the price of Common Stock on the last trading day in such 20 consecutive trading day period. In addition, you will bear the risk of fluctuations in the market price of the shares of Common Stock deliverable upon settlement of the Purchase Contracts between the end of such period and the date such shares are delivered.

We have an option to pay all or any portion of a preferred stock installment payment by delivering shares of our Common Stock in lieu of cash, and the shares of Common Stock you receive may have lower value than the preferred stock installment payment that you would have received in cash.

Each quarterly preferred stock installment payment may be paid in cash, shares of our Common Stock or a combination thereof, at our election. If we elect to pay all or any portion of a preferred stock installment payment by delivering shares of our Common Stock, such shares will be valued at 97% of the average daily VWAP over five consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the seventh scheduled trading day immediately preceding the related preferred stock installment payment date. Because the number of shares of Common Stock delivered on a

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

preferred stock installment payment date in lieu of cash is calculated over a five-trading day period and is subject to a 3% discount, the value of the shares you receive may be lower than the preferred stock installment payment that you would have received if we elected to pay in cash. You will also bear the risk of

S-44

Table of Contents

fluctuations in the market price of the shares of Common Stock deliverable on the preferred stock installment payment date between the end of the five-trading day period and the date such shares are delivered.

If you elect to settle your Purchase Contracts early, you may not receive the same return on your investment as purchasers whose Purchase Contracts are settled on the mandatory settlement date.

Holders of the Units or separate Purchase Contracts have the option to settle their Purchase Contracts early at any time beginning on, and including, the business day immediately following the date of initial issuance of the Units until 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017. However, if you settle your Purchase Contracts prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017, you will receive for each Purchase Contract a number of shares of Common Stock equal to the minimum settlement rate, regardless of the then-current market value of Common Stock, unless you elect to settle your Purchase Contracts early in connection with a fundamental change, in which case you will be entitled to settle your Purchase Contracts at the fundamental change early settlement rate, which may be greater than the minimum settlement rate. In either case, you may not receive the same return on your investment as purchasers whose Purchase Contracts are settled on the mandatory settlement date.

Upon issuance of the Units, our Common Stock will incur immediate dilution.

Upon issuance of the Units, which includes a Purchase Contract component, our Common Stock will incur immediate and substantial net tangible book value dilution on a per share basis.

If you purchase the Units in this offering, you will effectively incur immediate and substantial dilution in the book value of the underlying shares of Common Stock.

If you purchase Units in this offering, the value of the underlying shares of Common Stock based on our actual book value will immediately be less than the effective offering price you paid. As a result, investors purchasing the Units in this offering may receive significantly less than the purchase price paid in this offering in the event of liquidation, winding-up or dissolution. Investors will incur additional dilution upon the exercise of stock options or other equity-based awards under our equity incentive plans and the issuance of equity securities in connection with the Merger or other transactions that we may pursue. In addition, if we issue additional equity securities, including options, warrants, preferred stock or convertible securities, in the future to acquired entities and their equity holders, our business associates or other strategic partners, or in follow-on public and private offerings, the newly issued equity securities will further dilute your percentage ownership of us.

The fundamental change early settlement rate may not adequately compensate you.

If a fundamental change occurs and you elect to exercise your fundamental change early settlement right, you will be entitled to settle your Purchase Contracts at the fundamental change early settlement rate. Although the fundamental change early settlement rate takes into account the lost option value of your Purchase Contracts as a result of the early settlement of the Purchase Contracts, this feature may not adequately compensate you for such loss. In addition, in certain circumstances, the fundamental change early settlement rate will be less than the settlement rate that would apply if the applicable market value were equal to the stock price in the fundamental change. See Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Settlement Upon a Fundamental Change.

The Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will not provide holders with the right to require the Company to redeem them upon a fundamental change.

The certificate of designations governing the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock does not provide holders of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock with any right to require us to redeem such holders' shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock upon the occurrence of certain events that would constitute a

S-45

Table of Contents

fundamental change as defined under Description of the Purchase Contracts. Accordingly, holders of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will bear the risk that any such fundamental change occurs and adversely affects our capital structure, credit ratings or the value of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

Until the Purchase Contracts are settled with, or redeemed for, Common Stock, you are not entitled to any rights with respect to Common Stock, but you are subject to all changes made with respect to Common Stock.

Until the date on which you are treated as the record holder of Common Stock (as described below) on account of a redemption or settlement of the Purchase Contracts for or with, as the case may be, Common Stock, you are not entitled to any rights with respect to Common Stock, including voting rights and rights to receive any dividends or other distributions on Common Stock, but you are subject to all changes affecting Common Stock. You will become the record holder of any shares of Common Stock issuable upon settlement or redemption of the Purchase Contracts only as follows:

in the case of (x) settlement of Purchase Contracts on the mandatory settlement date or (y) a merger termination redemption if the merger termination stock price is greater than the reference price (as adjusted) and we elect to pay cash in lieu of any or all shares of Common Stock that would otherwise be included in the merger redemption amount, as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 20 consecutive trading day period during which the applicable market value or redemption market value, as the case may be, is determined;

in the case of settlement of Purchase Contracts in connection with any early settlement at the holder's option, as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the early settlement date;

in the case of settlement of Purchase Contracts following exercise of a holder's fundamental change early settlement right, as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the fundamental change early settlement date;

in the case of settlement of Purchase Contracts following exercise by us of our early mandatory settlement right, as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the notice date; and

in the case of a merger termination redemption where we elect (or are deemed to have elected) to settle the merger redemption amount solely by delivering shares of Common Stock, as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the merger redemption notice date.

For example, in the event that an amendment is proposed to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or amended and restated bylaws requiring stockholder approval and the record date for determining the stockholders of record entitled to vote on the amendment occurs prior to the date specified above on which you are treated as the record holder of the shares of Common Stock, you will not be entitled to vote on the amendment, although you will nevertheless be subject to any changes in the powers, preferences or special rights of Common Stock once you become a stockholder.

We may not be able to pay the preferred stock installment payments, and the failure to do so could adversely affect the trading price of the Units.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Each preferred stock installment payment will consist of a dividend and the payment of the Redemption Amount. The dividend portion of the preferred stock installment payment will be payable on the relevant preferred stock installment payment date only if declared by our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) subject to the existence of lawfully available funds therefor with respect to any such payments in cash, and our board of directors is not obligated to declare dividends on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock even if we have funds available for such purpose, except that we will be required to pay, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, all accumulated dividends (whether or not declared) on the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to Partial Redemption on such preferred stock installment payment date. Similarly, our ability to pay the Redemption Amount on the relevant preferred stock installment payment date will be subject to the existence of lawfully

S-46

Table of Contents

available funds therefor with respect to any such payments in cash, which will be determined by our board of directors in its sole discretion. Our failure to pay preferred stock installment payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in full could adversely affect our stock price and the trading price of the Units.

We may not be able to continue paying a regular dividend and the failure to do so could adversely affect our stock price.

Our ability to continue paying regular dividends is based on many factors, including the success of our operations, the level of demand for our services, the level of payments for our services, changes in healthcare regulations and our liquidity needs that may vary substantially from our estimates. Many of these factors are beyond our control and a change in any such factor could affect our ability to pay or maintain dividends. In addition, the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing our 6.375% Senior Notes due 2022 (existing notes) limit, and the indenture governing the Senior Notes we expect to issue in connection with the Merger is expected to limit, our ability to pay dividends to stockholders and may prevent further dividends if we are in default under any of those agreements. The failure to continue paying regular dividends could adversely affect our stock price.

The market price of our Common Stock may be volatile and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Volatility in the market price of our Common Stock may prevent you from being able to sell your Units, or any shares of Common Stock you receive upon settlement of your Purchase Contract, at or above the price you paid. During the period from January 1, 2014 to November 14, 2014, the trading price on the NYSE of our Common Stock has fluctuated from a high of \$26.81 per share to a low of \$17.59 per share, based on the last reported sales prices. The market price of our Common Stock has fluctuated significantly in the past and could fluctuate significantly following this offering from time to time as a result of many factors, including, but not limited to:

regulatory and/or reimbursement changes applicable to our business;

quarterly or other periodic variations in operating results;

adverse outcomes from litigation and/or government, regulatory or internal investigations;

changes in financial estimates and recommendations by securities analysts;

national, regional and industry-specific economic, financial, business and political conditions;

operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable;

press releases or negative publicity relating to our competitors or us or relating to trends in healthcare;

sales of stock by insiders;

issuance of additional shares of Common Stock by the Company;

changes in our credit ratings;

natural disasters, terrorist attacks and pandemics; and

limitations on our ability to repurchase our Common Stock.

Reduction in the market price of our Common Stock could cause the market price of the Units to decline, and you may not be able to sell the Units at or above the offering price. In addition, broad market and industry factors may adversely affect the market price of our Common Stock, and therefore the Units, regardless of our actual operating performance. In addition, security holders often institute class action litigation following periods of volatility in the price of a company's securities. If the market value of our Common Stock or the Units experiences adverse fluctuations and we become a party to this type of litigation, regardless of the outcome, we could incur substantial legal costs and our management's attention could be diverted from the operation of our business, causing our business to decline.

S-47

Table of Contents

The secondary market for the Units, the Purchase Contracts and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock may be illiquid.

We will apply to list the Units on the NYSE, subject to satisfaction of its minimum listing standards with respect to the Units. However, we cannot assure you that the Units will be approved for listing. If the Units are approved for listing, we expect that the Units will begin trading on the NYSE within 30 calendar days after the Units are first issued. In addition, the underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Units, but the underwriters are not obligated to do so. However, listing on the NYSE does not guarantee that a trading market will develop, and the underwriters may discontinue market making at any time in their sole discretion without prior notice to Unit holders. Accordingly we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market will develop for the Units (or, if developed, that a liquid trading market will be maintained), that you will be able to sell Units at a particular time or that the prices you receive when you sell will be favorable.

Beginning on the business day immediately succeeding the date of initial issuance of the Units, purchasers of Units will be able to separate each Unit into a Purchase Contract and shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. We are unable to predict how the separate Purchase Contracts or the separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will trade in the secondary market if at all, or whether that market, if any, will be liquid or illiquid. We do not intend to apply to list the separate Purchase Contracts or the separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on any securities exchange or automated inter-dealer quotation system, but we may apply to list such separate Purchase Contracts and separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in the future as described herein. If (i) a sufficient number of Units are separated into separate Purchase Contracts and separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and traded separately such that applicable listing requirements are met and (ii) a sufficient number of holders of such separate Purchase Contracts and separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock request that we list such separate Purchase Contracts and separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, we may endeavor to list such separate Purchase Contracts and separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on an exchange of our choosing (which may or may not be the NYSE) subject to applicable listing requirements. However, even if we do so apply to list such separate Purchase Contracts or separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, we cannot assure you that such securities will be approved for listing.

The purchase contract agreement will not be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act, and the obligations of the purchase contract agent are limited.

The purchase contract agreement between us and the purchase contract agent will not be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the Trust Indenture Act), and the purchase contract agent will not be required to qualify as a trustee under the Trust Indenture Act. Thus, you will not have the benefit of the protection of the Trust Indenture Act with respect to the purchase contract agreement or the purchase contract agent. The protections generally afforded the holder of a security issued under an indenture that has been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act include:

disqualification of the indenture trustee for conflicting interests, as defined under the Trust Indenture Act;

provisions preventing a trustee that is also a creditor of the issuer from improving its own credit position at the expense of the security holders immediately prior to or after a default under such indenture; and

the requirement that the indenture trustee deliver reports at least annually with respect to certain matters concerning the indenture trustee and the securities.

The Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will rank junior to all of our consolidated liabilities.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

The Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be junior to all of our consolidated indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables). Accordingly, in the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our assets will be available to pay obligations on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock only after all of our

S-48

Table of Contents

obligations under any indebtedness and other liabilities have been paid. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up, there may not be sufficient assets remaining, after paying our indebtedness and other liabilities, to pay any amounts due to the holders of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock then outstanding. As of September 30, 2014, we had a total of approximately \$1.5 billion of outstanding indebtedness, including long-term debt and short-term debt. The completion of the Merger will significantly increase our aggregate indebtedness. See Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information. We have the ability to, and may incur, additional indebtedness in the future.

We may issue additional series of preferred stock that rank equally to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as to dividend payments and liquidation preference without the consent of the holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation (including the certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock) does not prohibit us from issuing additional series of preferred stock that would rank equally to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as to dividend payments and liquidation preference or require that we obtain the consent of any holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for any such issuance. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that we have the authority to issue 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, including the 150,000 shares (or 172,500 shares if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full) of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock being offered by this prospectus supplement. The issuances of other series of preferred stock could have the effect of reducing the amounts available to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in the event of our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution. Such issuances may also reduce preferred stock installment payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock if we do not have sufficient funds to make such payments and the amounts payable on all outstanding parity preferred stock.

Common Stock underlying the Purchase Contracts is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and preferred stock.

Shares of Common Stock are equity interests in us and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of Common Stock will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and to other non-equity claims against us and our assets available to satisfy claims against us, including in a liquidation. Additionally, holders of Common Stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of holders of our preferred stock. Our board of directors is authorized to issue classes or series of preferred stock without any action on the part of our stockholders and we are permitted to incur additional debt. Upon liquidation, lenders and holders of our debt securities and preferred stock would receive distributions of our available assets prior to holders of our Common Stock.

As a holder of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, you will have no voting rights except under limited circumstances.

As a holder of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, you will have no voting rights, except with respect to certain amendments to the terms of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, in the case of certain dividend arrearages, in certain other limited circumstances and except as specifically required by Delaware law. You will have no right to vote for any members of our board of directors except in the case of certain dividend arrearages.

If dividends on any shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (i) have not been declared and paid or (ii) have been declared but a sum of cash or number of shares of our Common Stock sufficient for payment thereof has not been set aside for the benefit of the holders thereof, for the equivalent of six or more dividend periods, whether or not for consecutive dividend periods, the holders of shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, voting together as a single class with holders of any and all other series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and having similar voting rights, will be entitled to elect a total of two additional members of our board of directors, subject to the terms

Table of Contents

and limitations described in the section of this prospectus supplement entitled "Description of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock - Voting Rights."

In certain circumstances holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have the right to vote with respect to (i) issuance or increase in the amount of any class or series of our capital stock ranking senior to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, (ii) certain amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation that adversely affect the rights, powers or preferences of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or (iii) in connection with a binding share exchange, reclassifications, mergers or consolidation transactions. See "Description of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock - Voting Rights."

The U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the Units are uncertain.

The Units are a complex and novel form of financial instrument. No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly addresses the characterization of the Units or instruments similar to the Units for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the Units are not certain. No ruling is being requested from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), and the IRS or a court may take a contrary view to the positions described under "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations." Consequently, no assurance can be given that the IRS will agree with the treatment of the Units, the Purchase Contract and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock described therein, or that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of those described therein.

Alternative treatments of the Units, the Purchase Contracts or the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock could result in U.S. federal income tax and withholding tax consequences that are materially less favorable to an investor in the Units. For example, if the components of a Unit were treated as a single instrument, each preferred stock installment payment may be treated as income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in which case U.S. holders generally would be required to treat such amounts as ordinary income and amounts paid to non-U.S. holders would be subject to U.S. withholding tax. Even if the components of a Unit are respected as separate instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a Redemption Amount may be considered a distribution in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that is treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes, to the extent of our earnings and profits, in which case U.S. holders generally would be required to treat such amounts as ordinary income and amounts paid to non-U.S. holders would be subject to U.S. withholding tax.

Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax considerations discussed under "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" and the potential alternative tax characterizations of the Units.

You may be subject to tax upon an adjustment to the settlement rate of the Purchase Contracts or if we elect to pay a preferred stock installment payment in shares of our Common Stock even though you do not receive a corresponding cash distribution.

The settlement rate of the Purchase Contracts will be adjusted in certain circumstances. An adjustment to the settlement rate of a Purchase Contract might, and in the case of an adjustment to the settlement rate of a Purchase Contract as a result of an increase in our dividend on Common Stock will, result in a taxable deemed or constructive stock distribution to the holder of a Purchase Contract for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Such distribution will be a taxable dividend to you to the extent of our earnings and profits, even though you will receive no cash.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

In addition, if we elect to pay some or all of a preferred stock installment payment in the form of Common Stock, it may similarly result in a taxable deemed stock distribution treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

S-50

Table of Contents

If you are a non-U.S. holder, a deemed or constructive dividend would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax (currently at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty), which may be withheld from shares of Common Stock or sales proceeds subsequently paid or credited to you or from other assets that you hold with a broker or other withholding agent. See Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Risks Relating to Reimbursement and Regulation of Our Business

Healthcare reform has initiated significant changes to the United States healthcare system.

Various healthcare reform provisions became law upon enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Healthcare Education and Reconciliation Act (collectively, the ACA). The reforms contained in the ACA have impacted each of our businesses in some manner. Several of the reforms are very significant and could ultimately change the nature of our services, the methods of payment for our services and the underlying regulatory environment. The reforms include the possible modifications to the conditions of qualification for payment, bundling payments to cover both acute and post-acute care and the imposition of enrollment limitations on new providers. The ACA also provides for: (1) reductions to the annual market basket payment updates for LTAC hospitals, IRFs, home health agencies and hospice providers, which could result in lower reimbursement than in the preceding year; (2) additional annual productivity adjustment reductions to the annual market basket payment update as determined by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for LTAC hospitals, IRFs, and nursing centers (beginning in federal fiscal year 2012), home health agencies (beginning in federal fiscal year 2015) and hospice providers (beginning in federal fiscal year 2013); (3) new transparency, reporting and certification requirements for nursing centers, including disclosures regarding organizational structure, officers, directors, trustees, managing employees and financial, clinical and other related data; (4) a quality reporting system for hospitals (including LTAC hospitals and IRFs) beginning in federal fiscal year 2014; and (5) reductions in Medicare payments to hospitals (including LTAC hospitals and IRFs) beginning in federal fiscal year 2014 for failure to meet certain quality reporting standards or to comply with standards in new value based purchasing demonstration project programs.

In addition, a primary goal of healthcare reform is to reduce costs, which includes reductions in the reimbursement paid to us and other healthcare providers. Moreover, healthcare reform could negatively impact insurance companies, other third party payors, our customers, as well as other healthcare providers, which may in turn negatively impact our business. As such, healthcare reforms and changes resulting from the ACA, as well as other similar healthcare reforms, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Further, the ACA mandates changes to home health and hospice benefits under Medicare. For home health, the ACA mandates creation of a value-based purchasing program, development of quality measures, a decrease in home health reimbursement beginning with federal fiscal year 2014 that will be phased-in over a four-year period, and a reduction in the outlier cap. In addition, the ACA requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to test different models for delivery of care, some of which would involve home health services. It also requires the Secretary to establish a national pilot program for integrated care for patients with certain conditions, bundling payment for acute hospital care, physician services, outpatient hospital services (including emergency department services), and post-acute care services, which would include home health. The ACA further directs the Secretary to rebase payments for home health, which will result in a decrease in home health reimbursement beginning in 2014 that will be phased-in over a four-year period. The Secretary is also required to conduct a study to evaluate cost and quality of care among efficient home health agencies regarding access to care and treating Medicare beneficiaries with varying severity levels of illness and provide a report to Congress. Beginning October 1, 2012, the annual market basket rate increase for hospice providers was reduced by a formula that caused payment rates to be lower than in the prior year.

Table of Contents

Changes in the reimbursement rates or methods or timing of payment from third party payors, including the Medicare and Medicaid programs, or the implementation of other measures to reduce reimbursement for our services and products could result in a substantial reduction in our revenues and operating margins.

We depend on reimbursement from third party payors, including the Medicare and Medicaid programs, for a substantial portion of our revenues. For the year ended December 31, 2013, we derived approximately 51% of our total revenues (before eliminations) from the Medicare and Medicaid programs and the balance from other third party payors, such as commercial insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations and contracted providers. After the Merger, the percentage of our revenues derived from the Medicare and Medicaid programs will increase. The Medicare and Medicaid programs are highly regulated and subject to frequent and substantial changes. See Part I Item 1 Business Governmental Regulation of Kindred's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Congress continues to discuss deficit reduction measures, leading to a high degree of uncertainty regarding potential reforms to governmental healthcare programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. These discussions, along with other continuing efforts to reform governmental healthcare programs, both as part of the ACA and otherwise, could result in major changes in the healthcare delivery and reimbursement system on a national and state level. Potential reforms include changes directly impacting the government and private reimbursement systems for each of our businesses. Reforms or other changes to the payment systems, including modifications to the conditions of qualification for payment, the imposition of enrollment limitations on new providers, or bundling payments to cover acute and post-acute care or services provided to dually eligible Medicare and Medicaid patients may be proposed or could be adopted by Congress or CMS in the future.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 (as amended by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (the Taxpayer Relief Act)) instituted an automatic 2% reduction on each claim submitted to Medicare beginning April 1, 2013.

The Taxpayer Relief Act also reduces Medicare payments by an additional 25% for subsequent procedures when multiple therapy services are provided on the same day. We believe that the new rules related to multiple therapy services have reduced our Medicare revenues by \$25 million to \$30 million on an annual basis.

On August 1, 2012, CMS issued final rules (the 2012 CMS Rules) which, among other things, reduced Medicare reimbursement to our TC hospitals in 2013 and beyond by imposing a budget neutrality adjustment and modifying the short-stay outlier rules. Effective December 29, 2012, the 2012 CMS Rules: (1) began a three-year phase-in of a 3.75% budget neutrality adjustment, which will reduce LTAC hospital rates by approximately 1.3% in each of 2013, 2014 and 2015; and (2) restored a payment reduction that will limit payments for very short-stay outliers that will reduce our TC hospital payments by approximately 0.5%.

On July 29, 2011, CMS issued final rules (the 2011 CMS Rules) which, among other things, significantly reduced Medicare payments to nursing centers and changed the reimbursement for the provision of group rehabilitation therapy services to Medicare beneficiaries beginning October 1, 2011. CMS projected the impact of these changes would result in an 11.1% decrease in payments to nursing centers. In addition to these rate changes, the 2011 CMS Rules introduced additional changes to resource utilization grouping (RUG) calculations along with adding additional patient assessments. Under the 2011 CMS Rules, group therapy is defined as therapy sessions with four patients who are performing similar therapy activities. In addition, for purposes of assigning patients to RUGs IV payment categories, the minutes of group therapy are divided by four with 25% of the minutes being allocated to each patient. The 2011 CMS Rules also clarify the circumstances for reporting breaks in care of three or more days of therapy and also implement a new change of therapy assessment that is designed to allocate the patient to the RUG level that represents the treatment provided in the last seven days. Both changes produced alterations in the RUG scores billed for the patient and generated additional assessments. The 2011 CMS Rules reduced our revenues on an annual basis by approximately \$100 million in our nursing center business and negatively impacted our rehabilitation therapy business by approximately \$50 million.

Table of Contents

On November 22, 2013, CMS issued final regulations regarding Medicare payment rates for home health agencies effective January 1, 2014. These final regulations implement a net 1.05% reduction consisting of a 2.3% market basket inflation increase, less (1) a 0.62% ICD-9 grouper refinement, and (2) a 2.73% rebasing adjustment mandated under the ACA. Rebasing the rates includes adjustments to the 60-day episode and per visit payment rates, the non-routine medical supply conversion factor and low utilization payment factors. The rebasing is expected to reduce payment rates by 2.8% in each of the next four years, beginning January 1, 2014.

On October 30, 2014, CMS issued final regulations regarding Medicare payment rates for home health agencies effective January 1, 2015. These final regulations implement a net 0.3% reduction consisting of a 2.6% market basket inflation increase, less (1) a 0.5% productivity adjustment, and (2) a 2.4% rebasing adjustment mandated under the ACA.

On August 4, 2014, CMS issued final regulations regarding Medicare payment rates for hospice providers effective October 1, 2014. These final regulations implement a net market basket increase of 2.1% consisting of: (1) a 2.9% market basket inflation increase, less (2) offsets to the standard payment conversion factor mandated by the ACA of: (a) a 0.5% adjustment to account for the effect of a productivity adjustment, and (b) 0.3% as required by statute. In addition, CMS continued the phase-out of the wage index budget neutrality adjustment. CMS has projected the impact of these changes will result in a 1.4% increase in payments to hospice providers.

In February 2012, Congress passed the Job Creation Act which provides for reductions in reimbursement of Medicare bad debts at our hospitals and nursing centers. For the hospitals, the bad debt reimbursement rate for all bad debts was lowered to 65% effective for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 2012. For the nursing centers, the Job Creation Act provides for a phase-in of the reduction in the rate of reimbursement for bad debts of patients that are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The rate of reimbursement for bad debts for these dually eligible patients was reduced from 88% to 76% in October 2013 and will be reduced to 65% for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 2014. The rate of reimbursement for bad debts for patients not dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid was reduced from 70% to 65%, effective with cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 2012. Approximately 90% of our Medicare bad debt reimbursements incurred at our nursing centers are associated with patients that are dually eligible.

Weak economic conditions also could adversely affect the budgets of individual states and of the federal government. This could result in attempts to reduce or eliminate payments for federal and state healthcare programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, and could result in an increase in taxes and assessments on our activities. In addition, private third party payors are continuing their efforts to control healthcare costs through direct contracts with healthcare providers, increased utilization review and greater enrollment in managed care programs and preferred provider organizations. These private payors increasingly are demanding discounted fee structures and are requesting that healthcare providers assume more financial risk.

Though we cannot predict what reform proposals will be adopted or finally implemented, healthcare reform and regulations may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity through, among other things, decreasing funds available for our services or increasing operating costs. We could be affected adversely by the continuing efforts of governmental and private third party payors to contain healthcare costs. We cannot assure you that reimbursement payments under governmental and private third party payor programs, including Medicare supplemental insurance policies, will remain at levels comparable to present levels or will be sufficient to cover the costs allocable to patients eligible for reimbursement pursuant to these programs. Future changes in third party payor reimbursement rates or methods, including the Medicare and Medicaid programs, or the implementation of other measures to reduce reimbursement for our services and products could result in a material reduction in our revenues. Our operating margins continue to be under pressure because of reduced Medicare reimbursement, deterioration in pricing flexibility, changes in payor mix, changes in length of stay and growth in operating expenses in excess of increases in payments by third party payors. In addition, as a result of competitive pressures, our ability to maintain operating margins through price increases to private patients or commercial payors remains limited.

Table of Contents

These results could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

The implementation of new patient criteria for LTAC hospitals under the various legislative changes impacting LTAC hospitals that Congress adopted as part of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (the LTAC Legislation) will reduce the population of patients eligible for Long-Term Acute Care Prospective Payment System (LTAC PPS) and change the basis upon which we are paid which could adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

The LTAC Legislation creates new Medicare criteria and payment rules for LTAC hospitals. Under the new criteria, LTAC hospitals treating patients with at least a three-day prior stay in an acute care hospital intensive care unit and patients on prolonged mechanical ventilation admitted from an acute care hospital will continue to receive payment under LTAC PPS. Other patients will continue to have access to LTAC care, whether they are admitted to LTAC hospitals from acute care hospitals or directly from other settings or the community. LTAC hospitals will be paid at a site-neutral rate for these patients, based on the lesser of per diem Medicare rates paid for patients with the same diagnoses under the prospective payment system for general short-term acute care hospitals (IPPS) or LTAC costs.

The effective date of the new patient criteria is October 1, 2015, followed by a two-year phase-in period tied to each LTAC hospital's cost reporting period. During the phase-in period, payment for patients receiving the site neutral rate will be based 50% on the current LTAC PPS and 50% on the new site neutral rate. Nearly all of our TC hospitals (which are certified as LTAC hospitals under the Medicare program) have a cost reporting period starting on September 1 of each year. Accordingly, the phase-in will not begin for most of our hospitals until September 1, 2016 and full implementation of the new criteria will not begin until September 1, 2018.

We continue to analyze Medicare and internal data to estimate the number of our cases that will continue to be paid under the LTAC PPS rate. At this time, we estimate that approximately 40% of our current LTAC patients will be paid at the site neutral rate under the new criteria once it is fully phased-in. The site-neutral payment rates will be based on the lesser of per diem Medicare rates paid for patients with the same diagnoses under IPPS or LTAC costs. There can be no assurance that these site neutral payments will not be materially less than the payments currently provided under LTAC PPS.

The additional patient criteria imposed by LTAC Legislation will reduce the population of patients eligible for LTAC PPS and change the basis upon which we are paid for other patients. In addition, the LTAC Legislation will be subject to additional governmental regulations and the interpretation and enforcement of those regulations. These changes could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

We conduct business in a heavily regulated industry, and changes in regulations, the enforcement of these regulations or violations of regulations may result in increased costs or sanctions that reduce our revenues and profitability.

In the ordinary course of our business, we are subject regularly to inquiries and audits by federal and state agencies that oversee applicable healthcare program participation and payment regulations. We also are subject to government investigations. We believe that the regulatory environment surrounding most segments of the healthcare industry will remain intense.

The extensive federal, state and local regulations affecting the healthcare industry include, but are not limited to, regulations relating to licensure, conduct of operations, ownership of facilities, addition of facilities, allowable costs, services and prices for services, facility staffing

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

requirements, qualifications and licensure of staff, environmental and occupational health and safety, and the confidentiality and security of health-related information. In particular, various laws, including the anti-kickback, anti-fraud and abuse amendments codified

S-54

Table of Contents

under the Social Security Act, prohibit certain business practices and relationships that might affect the provision and cost of healthcare services reimbursable under Medicare and Medicaid, including the payment or receipt of remuneration for the referral of patients whose care will be paid by Medicare or other governmental programs. Sanctions for violating the anti-kickback, anti-fraud and abuse amendments under the Social Security Act include criminal penalties, civil sanctions, fines and possible exclusion from government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. See Part I Item 1 Business Governmental Regulation of Kindred's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Federal and state governments continue to pursue intensive enforcement policies resulting in a significant number of inspections, audits, citations of regulatory deficiencies and other regulatory sanctions including demands for refund of overpayments, terminations from the Medicare and Medicaid programs, bans on Medicare and Medicaid payments for new admissions and civil monetary penalties or criminal penalties. Audits under the CMS Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) and other audits evaluating the medical necessity of services provided are expected to further intensify the regulatory environment surrounding the healthcare industry as third party firms engaged by CMS commence extensive reviews of claims data and medical and other records to identify improper payments to healthcare providers under the Medicare program. If we fail to comply with the extensive laws, regulations and prohibitions applicable to our businesses, we could become ineligible to receive government program reimbursement, suffer civil or criminal penalties or be required to make significant changes to our operations. In addition, we could be forced to expend considerable resources responding to investigations, audits or other enforcement actions related to these laws, regulations or prohibitions. Furthermore, should we lose the licenses for one or more of our facilities as a result of regulatory action or otherwise, we could be in default under our master lease agreements with Ventas (Master Lease Agreements), the Credit Facilities and indenture governing our existing notes. Failure of our staff to satisfy applicable licensure requirements, or of our hospitals, IRFs, nursing centers, our rehabilitation operations, and home health and hospice operations, to satisfy applicable licensure and certification requirements could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

We are unable to predict the future course of federal, state and local regulation or legislation, including Medicare and Medicaid statutes and regulations, or the intensity of federal and state enforcement actions. Changes in the regulatory framework, including those associated with healthcare reform, and sanctions from various enforcement actions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

We face and are currently subject to reviews, audits and investigations under our contracts with federal and state government agencies and other payors, and these reviews, audits and investigations could have adverse findings that may negatively impact our business.

As a result of our participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, we face and are currently subject to various governmental reviews, audits and investigations to verify our compliance with these programs and applicable laws and regulations. An increasing level of governmental and private resources is being devoted to the investigation of allegations of fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and federal and state regulatory authorities are taking an increasingly strict view of the requirements imposed on healthcare providers by the Social Security Act, the Medicare and Medicaid programs and other applicable laws. We are routinely subject to audits under various government programs, including the RAC program, in which third party firms engaged by CMS conduct extensive reviews of claims data and medical and other records to identify potential improper payments to healthcare providers under the Medicare program. In addition, we, like other hospital and nursing center operators and rehabilitation therapy service providers, are subject to ongoing investigations by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (the OIG), the United States Department of Justice (the DOJ) and state attorneys general into the billing of rehabilitation and other services provided to Medicare and Medicaid patients, including whether rehabilitation therapy services were properly documented and billed, whether services provided were medically necessary and general compliance with conditions of participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Private pay sources such as third party insurance and managed care

Table of Contents

entities also often reserve the right to conduct audits. Our costs to respond to and defend reviews, audits and investigations are significant and are likely to increase in the current enforcement environment. These audits and investigations may require us to refund or retroactively adjust amounts that have been paid under the relevant government program or from other payors. Moreover, an adverse review, audit or investigation also could result in other adverse consequences, particularly if the underlying conduct is found to be pervasive or systemic. These consequences include:

state or federal agencies imposing fines, penalties and other sanctions on us;

loss of our right to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs or one or more third party payor networks;

indemnity claims asserted by customers and others for which we provide services; and

damage to our reputation in various markets, which could adversely affect our ability to attract patients, residents and employees.

If they were to occur, these consequences could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity. See Note 20 to Kindred's audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013, included in Kindred's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014. See Note 16 to Gentiva's audited consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 and Note 14 to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, in each case, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

We are subject to extensive and complex federal and state government laws and regulations which govern and restrict our relationships with physicians and other referral sources.

Section 1128B of the Social Security Act (the Anti-Kickback Statute), Section 1877 of the Social Security Act (the Stark Law), the Federal False Claims Act (the FCA) and similar state laws materially restrict our relationships with physicians and other referral sources. We have a variety of financial relationships with physicians and others who either refer or influence the referral of patients to our healthcare facilities, and these laws govern those relationships. The OIG has enacted safe harbor regulations that outline practices deemed protected from prosecution under the Anti-Kickback Statute. While we endeavor to comply with the safe harbors, most of our current arrangements, including with physicians and other referral sources, may not qualify for safe harbor protection. Failure to qualify for a safe harbor does not mean the arrangement necessarily violates the Anti-Kickback Statute, but may subject the arrangement to greater scrutiny. However, we cannot offer assurance that practices outside of a safe harbor will not be found to violate the Anti-Kickback Statute. Allegations of violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute may be brought under federal civil monetary penalty laws, which require a lower burden of proof than other fraud and abuse laws, including the Anti-Kickback Statute.

Our financial relationships with referring physicians and their immediate family members must comply with the Stark Law by meeting an exception. We attempt to structure our relationships to meet an exception to the Stark Law, but the regulations implementing the exceptions are detailed and complex, and we cannot provide assurance that every relationship complies fully with the Stark Law. Unlike the Anti-Kickback Statute, failure to meet an exception under the Stark Law results in a violation of the Stark Law, even if such violation is technical in nature.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Additionally, if we violate the Anti-Kickback Statute or the Stark Law, or if we improperly bill for our services, we may be found to violate the FCA, either under a suit brought by the government or by a private person under a *qui tam*, or whistleblower, lawsuit.

If we fail to comply with the Anti-Kickback Statute, the Stark Law, the FCA or other applicable laws and regulations, we could be subject to liabilities, including civil penalties (including the loss of our licenses to operate one or more facilities or healthcare activities), exclusion of one or more facilities or healthcare activities from participation in the Medicare, Medicaid and other federal and state healthcare programs and, for violations of certain laws, regulations and criminal penalties.

S-56

Table of Contents

We do not always have the benefit of significant regulatory or judicial interpretation of these laws and regulations. In the future, different interpretations or enforcement of these laws and regulations could subject our current or past practices to allegations of impropriety or illegality or could require us to make changes in our facilities, equipment, personnel, services, capital expenditure programs and operating expenses. A determination that we have violated these laws, or the public announcement that we are being investigated for possible violations of these laws, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity, and our business reputation could suffer significantly. In addition, other legislation or regulations at the federal or state level may be adopted that adversely affect our business.

Future cost containment initiatives undertaken by third party payors may limit our revenues and profitability.

Initiatives undertaken by major insurers and managed care companies to contain healthcare costs or to respond to healthcare reform could affect the profitability of our services. These payors attempt to control healthcare costs by contracting with providers of healthcare to obtain services on a discounted basis. We believe that this trend will continue and intensify and may further limit reimbursements for healthcare services. If insurers or managed care companies from whom we receive substantial payments reduce the amounts they pay for services or limit access to our services, our profit margins may decline, or we may lose patients if we choose not to renew our contracts with these insurers at lower rates. These results could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Further consolidation of managed care organizations and other third party payors may adversely affect our profits.

Managed care organizations and other third party payors have continued to consolidate in order to enhance their ability to influence the delivery and cost structure of healthcare services. Consequently, the healthcare needs of a large percentage of the United States population are increasingly served by a smaller number of managed care organizations. These organizations generally enter into service agreements with a limited number of providers for needed services. In addition, third party payors, including managed care payors, increasingly are demanding discounted fee structures. To the extent that these organizations terminate us as a preferred provider, engage our competitors as a preferred or exclusive provider or demand discounted fee structures, our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity could be materially and adversely affected.

If our TC hospitals fail to maintain their certification as LTAC hospitals, our revenues and profitability could decline.

If our TC hospitals, satellite TC facilities or HIHs fail to meet or maintain the standards for certification as LTAC hospitals, such as average minimum length of patient stay, they will receive payments under IPPS rather than payment under the system applicable to LTAC hospitals. Payments at rates applicable to general acute care hospitals would result in our TC hospitals receiving less Medicare reimbursement than they currently receive for patient services and our profitability would decline. To maintain certification under LTAC PPS, the average length of stay of Medicare patients must be greater than 25 days. Medicare Advantage patients are included with Medicare fee-for-service patients in order to determine compliance with the 25 day average length of stay requirements. Under the LTAC Legislation, the average Medicare 25-day length of stay rule will remain in effect for patients paid for under the new Medicare LTAC payment system. However, for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 2015, the 25-day requirement will not apply to patients receiving the site neutral rate or to Medicare Advantage patients treated in LTAC hospitals.

Beginning in 2020, the LTAC Legislation requires that at least 50% of our patients must be paid under the new LTAC payment system to maintain Medicare certification as a LTAC hospital. Under the new criteria, LTAC hospitals treating patients with at least a three-day prior stay in an acute care hospital intensive care unit and patients on prolonged mechanical ventilation admitted from an acute care hospital will continue to receive payment under LTAC PPS.

Table of Contents

The failure of one or more of our TC hospitals to maintain its Medicare certification as a LTAC hospital could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Expiration of the moratorium imposed on certain federal regulations otherwise applicable to LTAC hospitals, including HIHs and satellite hospitals, could have an adverse effect on our future revenues and profitability.

CMS has regulations governing payments to LTAC hospitals that are co-located with another hospital, such as a HIH. The rules generally limit Medicare payments to the HIH if the Medicare admissions to the HIH from its co-located hospital exceed 25% of the total Medicare discharges for the HIH's cost reporting period. There are limited exceptions for admissions from rural hospitals, urban single hospitals and hospitals that generate more than 25% of the Medicare discharges in a metropolitan statistical area (MSA Dominant hospitals). Patients transferred after they have reached the short-term acute care outlier payment status are not counted toward the admission threshold. Patients admitted prior to meeting the admission threshold, as well as Medicare patients admitted from a non co-located hospital, are eligible for the full payment under LTAC PPS. If the HIH's admissions from the co-located hospital exceed the limit in a cost reporting period, Medicare will pay the lesser of: (1) the amount payable under LTAC PPS or (2) the amount payable under IPPS, which likely will reduce our revenues for such admissions.

In 2007, CMS issued regulations which expanded the 25 Percent Rule to all LTAC hospitals, regardless of whether they are co-located with another hospital. Under these regulations, all LTAC hospitals were to be paid LTAC PPS rates for admissions from a single referral source up to 25% of aggregate Medicare admissions. Patients reaching high cost outlier status in the short-term hospital were not to be counted when computing the 25% limit. Admissions beyond the 25% threshold are to be paid at a lower amount based upon IPPS rates.

Since 2007, various legislative enactments have created moratoriums on the expansion of the 25 Percent Rule to freestanding LTAC hospitals. The LTAC Legislation extends the moratorium on the expansion of the 25 Percent Rule to LTAC hospitals certified prior to October 1, 2004 for four years. LTAC hospitals certified after October 1, 2004 continue to be ineligible for relief from the 25 Percent Rule. Freestanding LTAC hospitals will not be subject to the 25 Percent Rule payment adjustment until cost reporting periods beginning on or after July 1, 2016. In addition, for cost reporting periods beginning before October 1, 2016: (1) LTAC hospitals may admit up to 50% of their patients from a co-located hospital and still be paid according to LTAC PPS; and (2) LTAC hospitals that are co-located with an urban single hospital or a MSA Dominant hospital may admit up to 75% of their patients from such urban single or MSA Dominant hospital and still be paid according to LTAC PPS. The LTAC Legislation further provides that co-located LTAC hospitals certified on or before September 30, 1995 are exempt from the provisions of the 25 Percent Rule. The LTAC Legislation also mandates that the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (the HHS) report to Congress by July 1, 2015 on whether the 25 Percent Rule should continue to be applied.

Since these rules are complex and are based upon the volume of Medicare admissions and the source of those admissions, we cannot predict with any certainty the impact on our future revenues or operations from these regulations. If the 25 Percent Rule is ultimately fully implemented, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

The moratorium on the Medicare certification of new LTAC hospitals and beds in existing LTAC hospitals limits our ability to increase LTAC hospital bed capacity, expand into new areas or increase services in existing areas we serve.

The LTAC Legislation, as amended by the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, imposes a moratorium from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017 on the establishment and classification of new LTAC hospitals, LTAC satellite facilities and LTAC beds in existing LTAC hospitals or satellite hospitals, subject to certain exceptions. This moratorium limits our ability to increase LTAC bed capacity, expand into new areas or increase bed capacity in existing markets that we serve.

Table of Contents

Healthcare reform and other regulations could adversely affect the liquidity of our customers, which could have an adverse effect on their ability to make timely payments to us for our products and services.

The ACA and other laws and regulations that limit or restrict Medicare and Medicaid payments to our customers could adversely impact the liquidity of our customers, resulting in their inability to pay us, or to timely pay us, for our products and services. In addition, if our customers fail to comply with applicable laws and regulations they could be subject to possible sanctions, including loss of licensure or eligibility to participate in reimbursement programs, as well as civil and criminal penalties. These developments could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

If we do not manage admissions in the IRFs that we operate or manage in compliance with a 60% threshold, reimbursement for services rendered by us in these facilities will be based upon less favorable rates.

IRFs are subject to a requirement that 60% or more of the patients admitted to the facilities have one or more of 13 specific conditions in order to qualify for the inpatient rehabilitation facility prospectus payment system. If that compliance threshold is not maintained, the IRF will be reimbursed at the lower prospective payment system applicable to acute care hospitals. That may lead to reduced revenue in the IRFs that we operate or manage and also may lead customers of IRFs to attempt to renegotiate the terms of their contracts or terminate their contracts, in either case adversely affecting the projected revenues and profitability we expect.

If we are found to have violated laws protecting the confidentiality of patient health information, we could be subject to civil or criminal penalties, which could increase our liabilities and harm our reputation or our business.

There are a number of federal and state laws protecting the confidentiality of certain patient health information, including patient records, and restricting the use and disclosure of that protected information. In particular, the privacy and security rules under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) protect medical records and other personal health information by limiting their use and disclosure, giving individuals the right to access, amend and seek accounting of their own health information and limiting most uses and disclosures of health information to the minimum amount reasonably necessary to accomplish the intended purpose. If we are found to be in violation of the privacy or security rules under HIPAA or other federal or state laws protecting the confidentiality of patient health information, we could be subject to sanctions and civil or criminal penalties, which could increase our liabilities, harm our reputation and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Risks Relating to Kindred s Indebtedness

Our indebtedness could adversely affect our cash flow and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations.

We have a substantial amount of indebtedness. As of September 30, 2014, we had total indebtedness of approximately \$1.5 billion in addition to the availability of approximately \$652 million under the ABL Facility (subject to a borrowing base and after giving effect to approximately \$5 million of letters of credit outstanding on September 30, 2014). The completion of the Merger and the Centerre Acquisition will significantly increase our aggregate indebtedness. See Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information. Our substantial amount of indebtedness could have important consequences. For example it could:

make it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our indebtedness;

increase our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;

expose us to fluctuations in the interest rate environment because the interest rates under the Credit Facilities are variable;

S-59

Table of Contents

require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to make payments on our indebtedness, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, dividends and other general corporate purposes;

limit our ability to borrow additional funds for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general purposes;

limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate, which may place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt; and

restrict us from pursuing business opportunities.

Our indebtedness may restrict our current and future operations, which could adversely affect our ability to respond to changes in our business and manage our operations.

The terms of the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes include a number of restrictive covenants that impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us and our restricted subsidiaries, including restrictions on our and our restricted subsidiaries ability to, among other things:

incur additional indebtedness;

create liens;

consolidate or merge;

sell assets, including capital stock of our subsidiaries;

engage in transactions with our affiliates;

pay dividends on our capital stock or redeem, repurchase or retire our capital stock or indebtedness; and

make investments, loans, advances and acquisitions.

The terms of the Credit Facilities also include certain additional restrictive covenants that impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us and our restricted subsidiaries, including restrictions on our and our restricted subsidiaries ability to, among other things:

engage in business other than relating to owning, operating or managing healthcare facilities;

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

enter into sale and lease-back transactions;

modify certain agreements;

make or incur capital expenditures; and

hold cash and temporary cash investments outside of collateral accounts.

In addition, the Credit Facilities require us to comply with financial covenants, including a maximum leverage ratio and a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio.

Our ability to comply with these agreements may be affected by events beyond our control, including prevailing economic, financial and industry conditions. These covenants could have an adverse effect on our business by limiting our ability to take advantage of financing, merger and acquisition or other opportunities. The breach of any of these covenants or restrictions could result in a default under the Credit Facilities or the indenture governing the existing notes.

S-60

Table of Contents

Our failure to comply with the agreements relating to our outstanding indebtedness, including as a result of events beyond our control, could result in an event of default that could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

If there were an event of default under any of the agreements relating to our outstanding indebtedness, including the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes, we may not be able to incur additional indebtedness under the Credit Facilities and the holders of the defaulted debt could cause all amounts outstanding with respect to that debt to be due and payable immediately. We cannot assure you that our assets or cash flow would be sufficient to fully repay borrowings under our outstanding debt instruments if accelerated upon an event of default, which could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue to operate as a going concern. Further, if we are unable to repay, refinance or restructure our secured debt, the holders of such debt could proceed against the collateral securing that indebtedness. In addition, any event of default or declaration of acceleration under one debt instrument also could result in an event of default under one or more of our other debt instruments or under the Master Lease Agreements. Moreover, counterparties to some of our contracts material to our business may have the right to amend or terminate those contracts if we have an event of default or a declaration of acceleration under certain of our indebtedness, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

We, including our subsidiaries, have the ability to incur substantially more indebtedness, including senior secured indebtedness, which could further increase the risks associated with our leverage.

Subject to the restrictions in the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes, we, including our subsidiaries, have the ability to incur significant additional indebtedness. In addition, after giving effect to the Merger and related Financing Transactions, we will have the ability to incur additional indebtedness. See Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information. As of September 30, 2014:

we had \$991 million of senior secured indebtedness under the Credit Facilities;

we had \$500 million of senior unsecured indebtedness under the existing notes;

we had approximately \$652 million available for borrowing under the ABL Facility (subject to a borrowing base and after giving effect to approximately \$5 million of letters of credit outstanding on September 30, 2014) which, if borrowed, would be senior secured indebtedness; and

subject to our compliance with certain covenants and other conditions, we have the option to incur certain additional secured indebtedness and/or additional unsecured indebtedness which would rank pari passu with the existing notes. The completion of the Merger and the Centerre Acquisition would significantly increase our aggregate indebtedness.

Although the terms of the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes include restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, these restrictions are subject to a number of important exceptions, and indebtedness incurred in compliance with these restrictions could be substantial. If we incur significant additional indebtedness, the related risks that we face could increase.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to pay rents related to our leased properties and service all of our indebtedness and may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness, which may not be successful.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

A substantial portion of our cash flows from operations is dedicated to the payment of rents related to our leased properties, as well as principal and interest obligations on our outstanding indebtedness. Our ability to generate cash depends on many factors beyond our control, and any failure to meet our debt service obligations could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our ability to make payments on and to refinance our indebtedness and to fund working capital needs and planned capital expenditures will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. This, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, business, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control.

S-61

Table of Contents

If our business does not generate sufficient cash flow from operations or if future borrowings are not available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay our indebtedness or to fund our other liquidity needs, we may need to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness on or before the maturity thereof, sell assets, reduce or delay capital investments or seek to raise additional capital, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our operations. In addition, we may not be able to effect any of these actions, if necessary, on commercially reasonable terms or at all. The terms of existing or future debt instruments may limit or prevent us from taking any of these actions. Our ability to restructure or refinance our indebtedness will depend on the condition of the capital markets and our financial condition at such time. Any refinancing of our debt could be at higher interest rates and may require us to comply with more onerous covenants, which could further restrict our business operations. In addition, any failure to make scheduled payments of interest and principal on our outstanding indebtedness would likely result in a reduction of our credit rating, which could harm our ability to incur additional indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Our inability to generate sufficient cash flow to satisfy our debt service obligations, or to refinance or restructure our obligations on commercially reasonable terms or at all, would have an adverse effect, which could be material, on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

In addition, our Master Lease Agreements and/or our outstanding indebtedness:

require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow to payments on our rent and interest obligations, thereby reducing the availability of cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate activities, including cash dividends;

require us to pledge as collateral substantially all of our assets;

require us to maintain a certain defined fixed coverage ratio above a specified level and a certain defined total indebtedness ratio below a specified level, thereby reducing our financial flexibility;

require us to limit the amount of capital expenditures we can incur in any fiscal year; and

restrict our ability to discontinue the operation of any leased property despite its level of profitability and otherwise restrict our operational flexibility.

These provisions:

could have a material adverse effect on our ability to withstand competitive pressures or adverse economic conditions (including adverse regulatory changes);

could adversely affect our ability to make material acquisitions, obtain future financing or take advantage of business opportunities that may arise;

could increase our vulnerability to a downturn in general economic conditions or in our business; and

could adversely affect our ability to continue to make cash dividends.

An increase in interest rates would increase the cost of servicing our debt and could reduce our profitability.

Borrowings under the Credit Facilities bear interest at variable rates. Interest rate changes could affect the amount of our interest payments, and accordingly, our future earnings and cash flows, assuming other factors are held constant. Pursuant to the terms of the Credit Facilities, we have entered into an interest rate swap that fixes a portion of our interest rate interest payments in order to reduce interest rate volatility; however, any interest rate swaps we enter into do not fully mitigate our interest rate risk. As a result, an increase in interest rates, whether because of an increase in market interest rates or an increase in our own cost of borrowing, would increase the cost of servicing our debt and could materially reduce our profitability. For example, a change of one-eighth percent in the interest rates for the Credit Facilities would increase or decrease annual interest expense by approximately \$1 million.

S-62

Table of Contents

Prior to the completion of the Merger and subject to market and other conditions, we plan to offer the Senior Notes, which will bear a fixed or floating interest rate to be determined at the time of the Senior Notes Offering. Interest rates vary depending on market conditions and may change materially from time to time based on factors we cannot control. We are unable to predict with certainty the interest rate on the Senior Notes, which may be significantly higher than anticipated, including in comparison to the interest rates on our existing indebtedness.

Our failure to pay rent or otherwise comply with the provisions of any of our Master Lease Agreements could materially adversely affect our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

As of September 30, 2014, we lease 38 of our TC hospitals and 45 of our nursing centers from Ventas under our Master Lease Agreements. Our failure to pay the rent or otherwise comply with the provisions of any of our Master Lease Agreements would result in an Event of Default under such Master Lease Agreement and also could result in a default under the Credit Facilities and, if repayment of the borrowings under the Credit Facilities were accelerated, also under the indenture governing the existing notes. Upon an Event of Default, remedies available to Ventas include, without limitation, terminating such Master Lease Agreement, repossessing and reletting the leased properties and requiring us to remain liable for all obligations under such Master Lease Agreement, including the difference between the rent under such Master Lease Agreement and the rent payable as a result of reletting the leased properties, or requiring us to pay the net present value of the rent due for the balance of the term of such Master Lease Agreement. The exercise of such remedies would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

For additional information on the Master Lease Agreements, see Part I Item 1 Business Master Lease Agreements in Kindred's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Repayment of our indebtedness is dependent on cash flow generated by our subsidiaries.

Our subsidiaries own a significant portion of our assets and conduct a significant portion of our operations. Accordingly, repayment of our indebtedness is dependent, to a significant extent, on the generation of cash flow by our subsidiaries and their ability to make such cash available to us, by dividend, debt repayment or otherwise. Certain of our subsidiaries may not be able to, or may not be permitted to, make distributions to enable us to make payments in respect of our indebtedness. Each subsidiary is a distinct legal entity and, under certain circumstances, legal and contractual restrictions may limit our ability to obtain cash from our subsidiaries. In the event that we do not receive distributions from our subsidiaries, we may be unable to make required principal and interest payments on our outstanding indebtedness.

Risks Relating to Kindred's Capital and Liquidity

The condition of the financial markets, including volatility and weakness in the equity, capital and credit markets, could limit the availability and terms of debt and equity financing sources to fund the capital and liquidity requirements of our businesses.

Financial markets experienced significant disruptions over the past several years. These disruptions impacted liquidity in the debt markets, making financing terms for borrowers less attractive and, in certain cases, significantly reduced the availability of certain types of debt financing. Despite the instability over the past several years within the financial markets nationally and globally, we have not experienced any individual lender limitations to extend credit under the Credit Facilities. However, the obligations of each of the lending institutions in the ABL Facility are separate and the availability of future borrowings under the ABL Facility could be impacted by volatility and disruptions in the

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

financial credit markets or other events. We cannot assure you that a prolonged downturn in the credit markets or other circumstances will not impact our ability to access or to refinance the Credit Facilities. Our inability to access or refinance the Credit Facilities would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

S-63

Table of Contents

The Credit Facilities are collateralized by substantially all of our assets including certain owned real property and is guaranteed by substantially all of our subsidiaries. The terms of the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes include financial covenants and certain other provisions that limit acquisitions and annual capital expenditures. We were in compliance with the terms of the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes at September 30, 2014. However, a downturn in operating earnings or events beyond our control could impair our ability to comply with the covenants contained within the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes. If we anticipated a potential financial or other covenant violation, however, we would seek relief from our lenders for the Credit Facilities and the holders of the existing notes, which likely would include costs to us, and such relief may not be on terms as favorable as those in the Credit Facilities or the existing notes, as applicable. Under these circumstances, there is also the potential that our lenders under the Credit Facilities or the holders of the existing notes would not grant relief to us. A default due to the violation of a financial or other covenant contained within the Credit Facilities, the indenture governing the existing notes or the occurrence of an Event of Default under the Master Lease Agreements could require us to immediately repay all amounts then outstanding under the Credit Facilities and the existing notes.

If we have future capital needs that cannot be funded from operating cash flows, any future issuances of equity securities may dilute the value of our Common Stock and any additional issuances of debt may increase our leverage.

Though we anticipate that the cash amounts generated internally, together with amounts available under the Credit Facilities, will be sufficient to implement our business plan for the foreseeable future, we may need additional capital if a substantial acquisition or other growth opportunity becomes available or if unexpected events occur or opportunities arise. We cannot assure you that additional capital will be available, or available on terms favorable to us. If capital is not available, we may not be able to fund internal or external business expansion or respond to competitive pressures or other market conditions. If available, we may obtain additional capital through the public or private sale of debt or equity securities. However, our ability to access the public debt or equity capital markets, on terms favorable to us or at all, may be limited by further disruptions in these markets or other events. If we sell equity securities, the transaction could be dilutive to our existing shareholders. Furthermore, these securities could have rights, preferences and privileges more favorable than those of our Common Stock. If we incur additional debt, our leverage may increase and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Disruptions in the financial markets could negatively impact our investment portfolio.

We hold a substantial investment portfolio in our limited purpose insurance subsidiary. Investments held in our limited purpose insurance subsidiary consist principally of cash and cash equivalents, debt securities, equities and certificates of deposit that are held to satisfy the payment of claims and expenses related to professional liability and workers compensation risks. Our investment policy governing insurance subsidiary investments precludes the investment portfolio managers from selling any security at a loss without prior authorization from us. The investment managers also limit the exposure to any one issue, issuer or type of investment. We intend, and have the ability, to hold insurance subsidiary investments for a long duration without the necessity of selling securities to fund the underwriting needs of our insurance subsidiary. This ability to hold securities allows sufficient time for recovery of temporary declines in the market value of equity securities and the par value of debt securities as of their stated maturity date. We cannot assure you, however, that we will recover declines in the market value of our investments. There is a continuing risk that declines in fair value may occur and additional material realized losses from sales or other-than-temporary impairments may be recorded in the future. Furthermore, we cannot assure you that declines in the market value of our investments will not require us to further capitalize our limited purpose insurance subsidiary or otherwise have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Table of Contents

Risks Relating to Our Operations

Significant legal actions could subject us to increased operating costs and substantial uninsured liabilities, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

We incur significant costs to investigate and defend against a variety of claims, including professional liability, wage and hour, and minimum staffing claims, among others, particularly in our hospital and nursing center operations. In addition to large compensatory claims, plaintiffs attorneys are increasingly seeking, and have sometimes been successful in obtaining, significant fines, punitive damages and attorneys' fees. Furthermore, there are continuing efforts to limit the ability of healthcare providers to utilize arbitration as a process to resolve these claims. As a result of these factors, our defense costs and potential liability exposure are significant, unpredictable, and likely to increase.

We also are subject to lawsuits under the FCA and comparable state laws for submitting fraudulent bills for services to the Medicare and Medicaid programs and other federal and state healthcare programs. These lawsuits, which may be initiated by whistleblowers, can involve significant monetary damages, fines, attorneys' fees and the award of bounties to private *qui tam* plaintiffs who successfully bring these suits and to the government programs. We also are subject to payment obligations under contracts we enter into with our rehabilitation division customers to indemnify them against claim denials associated with our services.

While we are able to insure against certain of these costs and liabilities, such as our professional liability risks described below, we are not able to do so in many other cases. In the absence of insurance proceeds, we must fund these costs and liabilities from operating cash flows, which can reduce our operating margins and our funds available for investment in our business, and otherwise limit our operating and financial flexibility.

We insure a substantial portion of our professional liability risks primarily through our limited purpose insurance subsidiary. Provisions for loss for our professional liability risks are based upon management's best available information including actuarially determined estimates. The allowance for professional liability risks includes an estimate of the expected cost to settle reported claims and an amount, based upon past experiences, for losses incurred but not reported. These liabilities are necessarily based upon estimates and, while management believes that the provision for loss is adequate, the ultimate liability may be in excess of, or less than, the amounts recorded. Changes in the number of professional liability claims and the cost to settle these claims significantly impact the allowance for professional liability risks. A relatively small variance between our estimated and actual number of claims or average cost per claim could have a material impact, either favorable or unfavorable, on the adequacy of the allowance for professional liability risks. Differences between the ultimate claims costs and our historical provisions for loss and actuarial assumptions and estimates could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity. See Note 20 to Kindred's audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013, included in Kindred's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014. See Note 16 to Gentiva's audited consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 and Note 14 to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, in each case, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

If we are unable to obtain insurance, or if insurance becomes more costly for us to obtain, our business may be adversely affected.

We insure a substantial portion of our professional liability risks primarily through our limited purpose insurance subsidiary. Our limited purpose insurance subsidiary covers losses up to specified limits per occurrence. On a per claim basis, coverage for losses in excess of those insured by the limited purpose insurance subsidiary are maintained through unaffiliated commercial reinsurance carriers. Our limited purpose insurance subsidiary insures all claims in all states up to a per occurrence limit without the benefit of any aggregate stop loss limit. We maintain

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

professional and general liability insurance in amounts and coverage that management believes are sufficient for our operations. However, our insurance may not cover all claims against us or the full

S-65

Table of Contents

extent of our liability nor continue to be available at a reasonable cost. Moreover, the cost of reinsurance coverage maintained with unaffiliated commercial insurance carriers is costly and may continue to increase. There can be no assurances that in the future reinsurance will be available at a reasonable price or that we will be able to maintain adequate levels of professional and general liability insurance coverage. If we are unable to maintain adequate insurance coverage or are required to pay punitive damages that are uninsured, we may be exposed to substantial liabilities, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Federal and state employment-related laws and regulations could increase our cost of doing business and subject us to significant back pay awards, fines and lawsuits.

Our operations are subject to a variety of federal and state employment-related laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act which governs such matters as minimum wages, overtime pay, compensable time, recordkeeping and other working conditions, the Americans with Disabilities Act and similar state laws that provide civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities in the context of employment, public accommodations and other areas, the National Labor Relations Act, regulations of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, regulations of the Office of Civil Rights, regulations of state attorneys general, federal and state wage and hour laws, family leave mandates and a variety of similar laws enacted by the federal and state governments that govern these and other employment-related matters. Because labor represents such a large portion of our operating costs, compliance with these evolving federal and state laws and regulations could substantially increase our cost of doing business while failure to do so could subject us to significant back pay awards, fines and lawsuits. We are currently subject to employee-related claims, class action and other lawsuits and proceedings in connection with our operations, including, but not limited to, those related to alleged wrongful discharge, illegal discrimination and violations of equal employment and federal and state wage and hour laws. These claims, lawsuits and proceedings are in various stages of adjudication or investigation and involve a wide variety of claims and potential outcomes. In addition, federal proposals to introduce a system of mandated health insurance and flexible work time and other similar initiatives could, if implemented, adversely affect our operations. Our failure to comply with federal and state employment-related laws and regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Certain events or circumstances could result in the impairment of our assets or other charges, including, without limitation, impairments of goodwill and identifiable intangible assets that result in material charges to earnings.

Kindred reviews the carrying value of certain long-lived assets, finite lived intangible assets and indefinite-lived intangible assets with respect to any events or circumstances that indicate an impairment or an adjustment to the amortization period may be necessary, such as when the market value of our Common Stock is below book equity value. On an ongoing basis, we also evaluate, based upon the fair value of our reporting units, whether the carrying value of our goodwill is impaired. If circumstances suggest that the recorded amounts of any of these assets cannot be recovered based upon estimated future cash flows, the carrying values of such assets are reduced to fair value. If the carrying value of any of these assets is impaired, we may incur a material charge to earnings. The acquisition of Gentiva, if completed, will result in a significant increase in goodwill and identifiable intangible assets.

During 2013, we determined that pretax impairment charges aggregating \$77 million were necessary, which included \$76 million of goodwill and \$1 million of property and equipment. The goodwill impairment charge was directly related to a Medicare rebasing adjustment for payments to home health providers which will reduce the payment rate by 2.8% in each of the next four years beginning on January 1, 2014. The property and equipment impairment charge was related to the 2011 CMS Rules, which significantly reduced Medicare payments to our skilled nursing rehabilitation services operating segment and our nursing centers.

During 2012, we determined that pretax impairment charges aggregating \$109 million were necessary, which included \$108 million of goodwill and \$1 million of property and equipment. These charges were directly

Table of Contents

related to the Taxpayer Relief Act and the 2011 CMS Rules, which significantly reduced Medicare payments to our skilled nursing rehabilitation services operating segment and our nursing centers.

In the fourth quarter 2011, we incurred a pretax impairment charge of \$54 million, of which \$38 million was reclassified to discontinued operations, on the value of the certificates of need intangible assets of certain hospitals and co-located nursing centers in Massachusetts. See note 1 of the notes to consolidated financial statements incorporated herein by reference.

During 2011, we also determined that pretax impairment charges aggregating \$57 million were necessary, which included \$52 million of goodwill and \$5 million of property and equipment. These charges were directly related to the 2011 CMS Rules.

Future adverse changes in the operating environment and related key assumptions used to determine the fair value of our reporting units and indefinite-lived intangible assets or a decline in the value of our Common Stock may result in future impairment charges for a portion or all of these assets. Moreover, the value of our goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets could be negatively impacted by potential healthcare reforms. Any such impairment charges could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations.

We could experience significant increases to our operating costs due to shortages of qualified nurses, therapists, home health and hospice employees and other healthcare professionals or union activity.

The market for qualified nurses, therapists, clinical associates, home health and hospice employees and other healthcare professionals is highly competitive. We, like other healthcare providers, have experienced difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified personnel such as nurses, certified nurse s assistants, nurse s aides, therapists, home health and hospice employees and other providers of healthcare services. Our hospitals, nursing centers and home health and hospice operations are particularly dependent on nurses and other employees for patient care. Our rehabilitation division continues to seek qualified therapists to fill open positions. As the demand for home health services and hospice services continues to exceed the supply of available and qualified staff, home health operators and their competitors have been forced to offer more attractive wage and benefit packages to these professionals. The difficulty we have experienced in hiring and retaining qualified personnel has increased our average wage rates and may force us to increase our use of contract personnel.

In addition, healthcare providers are experiencing a high level of union activity across the country. At September 30, 2014, approximately 2,300 of the employees at 26 of our facilities were unionized. Though we cannot predict the degree to which we will be affected by future union activity, there are continuing legislative proposals that could result in increased union activity. We could experience an increase in labor and other costs from such union activity. Furthermore, we could experience a disruption of our operations if our employees were to engage in a strike or other work stoppage.

We expect to continue to experience increases in our labor costs primarily due to higher wages and greater benefits required to attract and retain qualified healthcare personnel. Salaries, wages and benefits were approximately 61% of our consolidated revenues for the year ended December 31, 2013. Our ability to manage labor costs will significantly affect our future operating results.

We could experience significant legal actions, fines and increases in our operating costs if we fail to comply with state minimum staffing requirements.

Various states in which we operate hospitals and nursing centers have established minimum staffing requirements or may establish minimum staffing requirements in the future. Staffing requirements in some states are not contingent upon any additional appropriation of state funds in any budget act or other statute. Our ability to satisfy such staffing requirements will, among other things, depend upon our ability to attract and retain qualified healthcare professionals.

S-67

Table of Contents

While we seek to comply with all applicable staffing requirements, the regulations in this area are complex and we may experience compliance issues from time to time. Failure to comply with such minimum staffing requirements may result in one or more facilities failing to meet the conditions of participation under relevant federal and state healthcare programs and the imposition of fines or other sanctions. Private litigation involving these matters also has become more common, and certain of Kindred's facilities are the subject of litigation involving claims brought in 2010 that Kindred did not meet relevant staffing requirements from time to time since 2006.

Moreover, a portion of the staffing costs we incur is funded by states through Medicaid program appropriations or otherwise. If states do not appropriate sufficient additional funds to pay for any additional operating costs resulting from such minimum staffing requirements, our profitability may be materially adversely affected.

If we lose our key management personnel, we may not be able to successfully manage our business and achieve our objectives.

Our future success depends in large part upon the leadership and performance of our executive management team and key employees and our ability to retain and motivate these individuals. Competition for these individuals is intense and there can be no assurance that we will retain our key officers and employees or that we can attract or retain other highly qualified individuals in the future. If we lose the services of one or more of our key officers or employees, or if one or more of them decides to join a competitor or otherwise compete directly or indirectly with us, we may not be able to successfully manage our business, achieve our business objectives or replace them with similarly qualified personnel. If we lose key personnel, we may be unable to replace them with personnel of comparable experience, reputation in the industry or skills. The loss of any of our key officers or employees could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

If we fail to attract patients and compete effectively with other healthcare providers or if our referral sources fail to view us as an attractive post-acute healthcare provider, our revenues and profitability may decline.

The post-acute healthcare services industry is highly competitive. Our hospitals face competition from healthcare providers that provide services comparable to those offered by our hospitals. Many competing hospitals are larger and more established than our hospitals. We may experience increased competition from existing hospitals, as well as hospitals converted, in whole or in part, to specialized care facilities. Our nursing centers compete on a local and regional basis with other nursing centers and post-acute healthcare providers. Some of our competitors operate newer facilities and may offer services not provided by us or are operated by entities having greater financial and other resources than us. Our rehabilitation and care management divisions compete with national, regional and local rehabilitation, home health, hospice and community care service providers within our markets. Several of these competitors may have greater financial and other resources than us, may be more established in the markets in which we compete and may be willing to provide services at lower prices. We cannot assure you that increased competition in the future will not adversely affect our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

In addition, we rely significantly on appropriate referrals from physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers in the communities in which we deliver our services to attract appropriate patients and residents. Our referral sources are not obligated to refer business to us and may refer business to other healthcare providers. We believe many of our referral sources refer patients and residents to us as a result of the quality of our patient services and our efforts to establish and build a relationship with them. If any of our facilities fail to achieve or maintain a reputation for providing high quality care, or are perceived to provide a lower quality of care than comparable facilities within the same geographic area, or customers of our rehabilitation therapy, home health and hospice services perceive that they could receive higher quality services from other providers, our ability to

Table of Contents

attract and retain patients and customers could be adversely affected. We believe that the perception of our quality of care by potential residents or patients or their families seeking our services is influenced by a variety of factors, including physician and other healthcare professional referrals, community information and referral services, newspapers and other print and electronic media, results of patient surveys, recommendations from family and friends, and published quality care statistics compiled by CMS or other industry data. If we lose, or fail to maintain, existing relationships with our referral resources, fail to develop new relationships or if we are perceived by our referral sources for any reason as not providing high quality patient care, our patient volumes and the quality of our patient mix could suffer and our revenue and profitability could decline.

Failure to maintain the security and functionality of our information systems, or to defend a cyber security attack, could adversely affect our business, financial position, results of operation and liquidity.

We are dependent on the proper function and availability of our information systems and related software programs. Though we have taken steps to protect the safety and security of our information systems and the patient health information and other data maintained within those systems, there can be no assurance that our safety and security measures and disaster recovery plan will prevent damage, interruption or breach of our information systems and operations.

As a result of our acquisition activities, we have acquired additional information systems. We have been taking steps to reduce the number of systems we operate, have upgraded and expanded our information systems capabilities, and are gradually migrating to fewer information systems. Our information systems require an ongoing commitment of significant resources to maintain, protect and enhance existing systems and develop new systems to keep pace with continuing changes in technology, evolving industry and regulatory standards, and changing customer preferences.

In addition, certain software supporting our business and information systems are licensed to us by independent software developers. Our inability, or the inability of these developers, to continue to maintain and upgrade our information systems and software could disrupt or reduce the efficiency of our operations. In addition, costs and potential problems and interruptions associated with the implementation of new or upgraded systems and technology or with maintenance or adequate support of existing systems also could disrupt or reduce the efficiency of our operations.

A cyber security attack that bypasses our information systems security could cause a security breach which may lead to a material disruption to our information systems infrastructure or business and may involve a loss of business or patient health information. If a cyber security attack were to be successful, it could result in the theft, destructions, loss, misappropriation or release of confidential information or intellectual property, and could cause operational or business delays that may impact materially our ability to provide various healthcare services. Any successful cyber security attack also could result in negative publicity which could damage our reputation or brand with our patients, referral sources, payors or other third parties and could subject us to penalties under HIPAA and other federal and state privacy laws.

Failure to maintain the security and functionality of our information systems and related software, or to defend a cyber security attack, could expose us to a number of adverse consequences, the vast majority of which are not insurable, including but not limited to disruptions in our operations, regulatory and other civil and criminal penalties, breach of patient health information, loss of customers, disputes with payors and increased operating expense, which either individually or in the aggregate could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

We have limited operational and strategic flexibility since we lease a substantial number of our facilities.

We lease a substantial number of our facilities from Ventas and other third parties. Under our leases, we generally are required to operate continuously our leased properties as a provider of healthcare services. In

S-69

Table of Contents

addition, these leases generally limit or restrict our ability to assign the lease to another party. Our failure to comply with these lease provisions would result in an event of default under the leases and subject us to material damages, including potential defaults under the Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes. Given these restrictions, we may be forced to continue operating unprofitable facilities to avoid defaults under our leases. See Part I Item 1 Business Master Lease Agreements in Kindred's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Possible changes in the acuity of residents and patients, as well as payor mix and payment methodologies, may significantly affect our profitability.

The sources and amount of our revenues are determined by a number of factors, including the occupancy rates of our facilities, the length of stay, the payor mix of residents and patients, rates of reimbursement among payors and patient acuity. Changes in patient acuity as well as payor mix among private pay, Medicare and Medicaid may significantly affect our profitability. In particular, any significant decrease in our population of high acuity patients or any significant increase in our Medicaid population could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity, especially if state Medicaid programs continue to limit, or more aggressively seek limits on, reimbursement rates.

We may be unable to reduce costs to offset completely any decreases in our revenues.

Reduced levels of occupancy in our facilities and reductions in reimbursements from Medicare, Medicaid or other payors would adversely impact our revenues and liquidity. We may be unable to put in place corresponding reductions in costs in response to declines in census or other revenue shortfalls. The inability to timely adjust our operations to address a decrease in our revenues could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

We are exposed to the credit risk of our payors and customers which in the future may cause us to make larger allowances for doubtful accounts or incur bad debt write-offs.

Due to weak economic conditions, recent Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement reductions and other factors, commercial payors and customers may default on their payments to us and individual patients may default on co-payments and deductibles for which they are responsible under the terms of either commercial insurance programs or Medicare. Although we review the credit risk of our commercial payors and customers regularly, such risks may arise from events or circumstances that are difficult to anticipate or control, such as a general economic downturn or changes in Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement. If our payors or customers default on their payments to us in the future, we may have to record higher provisions for allowances for doubtful accounts or incur bad debt write-offs, both of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

An economic downturn, state budget pressures, sustained unemployment and continued deficit spending by the federal government may result in a reduction in reimbursement and covered services.

An economic downturn could have a detrimental effect on our revenues. Historically, state budget pressures have translated into reductions in state spending. Given that Medicaid outlays are a significant component of state budgets, we can expect continuing cost containment pressures on Medicaid outlays for our services in the states in which we or the combined company operate. In addition, an economic downturn, coupled

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

with sustained unemployment, may also impact the number of enrollees in managed care programs as well as the profitability of managed care companies, which could result in reduced reimbursement rates.

The existing federal deficit, as well as deficit spending by federal and state governments as the result of adverse developments in the economy or other reasons, can lead to continuing pressure to reduce governmental expenditures for other purposes, including government-funded programs in which we participate, such as Medicare and Medicaid. Such actions in turn may adversely affect the combined company's results of operations.

S-70

Table of Contents

Delays in collection of our accounts receivable could adversely affect our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Prompt billing and collection are important factors in our liquidity. Billing and collection of our accounts receivable are subject to the complex regulations that govern Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and rules imposed by non-government payors. Our inability, or the inability of our customers, to bill and collect on a timely basis pursuant to these regulations and rules could subject us to payment delays that could negatively impact our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity. In addition, we may experience delays in reimbursement as a result of the failure to receive prompt approvals related to change of ownership applications for acquired or other facilities or from delays caused by our or other third parties' information system failures. Significant delays in billing and/or collections may adversely affect the borrowing base under the ABL Facility, potentially limiting the availability of funds under the ABL Facility.

Terrorist attacks, pandemics or natural disasters could negatively impact our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Terrorist attacks, pandemics, or acts of nature, such as floods, fires, hurricanes, tornadoes or earthquakes, may cause damage or disruption to us, our employees and our facilities, which could have an adverse impact on our residents and patients. In order to provide care for our residents and patients, we are dependent upon consistent and reliable delivery of food, pharmaceuticals, power and other products to our facilities and the availability of employees to provide services at our facilities. If the delivery of goods or the ability of employees to reach our facilities were interrupted due to a natural disaster, pandemic or a terrorist attack, it could have a significant negative impact on our business. Furthermore, the impact, or impending threat, of a natural disaster has in the past and may in the future require that we evacuate one or more facilities, which would be costly and would involve substantial risks to our operations and potentially to our residents and patients. The impact of natural disasters, pandemics and terrorist attacks is inherently uncertain. Such events could severely damage or destroy one or more of our facilities, harm our business, reputation and financial performance or otherwise have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Climate change poses both regulatory and physical risks that could adversely impact our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Climate change could have a potential economic impact on us and climate change mitigation programs and regulations could increase our costs. Energy costs could be higher as a result of climate change regulations. Our costs could increase if utility companies pass on their costs, such as those associated with carbon taxes, emission cap and trade programs, or renewable portfolio standards. In addition, climate change may increase the frequency or intensity of natural disasters. As such, we cannot assure you that climate change will not adversely impact our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

The inability or failure of management in the future to conclude that we maintain effective internal control over financial reporting, or the inability of our independent registered public accounting firm to issue a report of our internal control over financial reporting, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

We report annually on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting, and our independent registered public accounting firm also must audit the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting on an annual basis. If we fail to have, or management or our independent registered public accounting firm is unable to conclude that we maintain, effective internal controls and procedures for financial reporting, we could be unable to provide timely and reliable financial information which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity. Different interpretations of accounting principles or changes in generally accepted accounting principles could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Table of Contents

Generally accepted accounting principles are complex, continually evolving and changing and may be subject to varied interpretation by third parties, including the SEC. Such varied interpretations could result from differing views related to specific facts and circumstances. Differences in interpretation of generally accepted accounting principles or changes in generally accepted accounting principles could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity.

Additional Risks Relating to Gentiva to Which We Would be Subject Following the Merger if the Merger is Completed

If Gentiva is unable to maintain relationships with existing patient referral sources or to establish new referral sources, its growth and profitability could be adversely affected.

Gentiva's success is heavily dependent on referrals from physicians, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult care centers, hospitals, managed care companies, insurance companies and other patient referral sources in the communities where Gentiva's home health, hospice and community care locations serve, as well as on Gentiva's ability to maintain good relations with these referral sources. Gentiva's referral sources are not contractually obligated to refer patients to Gentiva and may refer their patients to other home health, hospice or community care providers, or not at all. Gentiva's growth and profitability depend significantly on its ability to provide good patient and family care, to establish and maintain close working relationships with these patient referral sources and to increase awareness and acceptance of home health, hospice and community care by Gentiva's referral sources and their patients. We cannot assure you that Gentiva will be able to maintain its existing referral source relationships or that it will be able to develop and maintain new relationships in existing or new markets. Gentiva's loss of existing relationships or its failure to develop new relationships could adversely affect its ability to expand Gentiva's operations and operate profitably. Moreover, we cannot assure you that awareness or acceptance of home health, hospice and community care will increase. See Note 7 to Gentiva's audited consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 and Note 6 to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, in each case, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

If Gentiva fails to comply with the terms of Gentiva's Corporate Integrity Agreement, it could subject Gentiva to substantial monetary penalties or suspension or termination from participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Gentiva entered into a five-year Corporate Integrity Agreement (CIA) with the Office of Inspector General of the OIG, which became effective on February 15, 2012, concurrent with the execution of a settlement agreement with the United States, acting through the DOJ and on behalf of the OIG. The CIA imposes certain compliance, auditing (including by an independent review organization), self-reporting and training requirements with which Gentiva must comply. If Gentiva fails to comply with the terms of its CIA, it could subject Gentiva to substantial monetary penalties and/or suspension or termination from participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The imposition of monetary penalties would adversely affect Gentiva's profitability. For example, in connection with the auditing imposed by the CIA, Gentiva has recognized negative adjustments to its revenues due to repayments. A suspension or termination of participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs would have a material adverse effect on Gentiva's profitability and financial condition. See Note 7 to Gentiva's audited consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 and Note 6 to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, in each case, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Gentiva is subject to certain ongoing investigations, and Gentiva is subject to periodic audits and requests for information by the Medicare and Medicaid programs or government agencies, which have various rights and remedies against Gentiva if they assert that Gentiva has overcharged the programs or failed to comply with program requirements.

The operations of Gentiva's home health business and hospice business are subject to federal and state laws prohibiting fraud by healthcare providers, including laws containing criminal provisions, which prohibit filing false claims or making false statements in order to receive payment or obtain certification under Medicare and Medicaid programs, or failing to refund overpayments or improper payments. Violation of these criminal provisions is a felony punishable by imprisonment and/or fines. Gentiva may also be subject to fines and treble damage claims if it violates the civil provisions that prohibit knowingly filing a false claim or knowingly using false statements to obtain payment. State and federal governments are devoting increased attention and resources to anti-fraud initiatives against healthcare providers. The ACA, HIPAA and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 expanded the penalties for healthcare fraud, including broader provisions for the exclusion of providers from Medicare and Medicaid programs and other federal and state healthcare programs.

Additionally, the ACA requires providers, such as home health agencies and hospice providers, to notify the Secretary of the HHS, fiscal intermediary, contractor or other appropriate person of any overpayment and the reason for the overpayment, and to return the overpayment, within the later of 60 days from the time the overpayment is identified or the due date of the provider's cost report. Failure to comply may result in prosecution under the FCA and exclusion from participation in Medicare, Medicaid and other federal and state health care programs.

CMS has contracted with various Third Party Administrators (TPAs) including RACs, Zone Program Integrity Contractors and others to perform post-payment reviews of healthcare providers. For example, in January 2010, CMS announced that it has approved two issues for the RACs to begin reviewing with respect to hospice providers. These initial hospice reviews focus on durable medical equipment services and other Medicare Part A and B services provided to hospice patients that are related to a patient's terminal prognosis and the financial obligation of the hospice provider to determine whether the hospice provider arranged for and paid for the services as required. Various states have also begun to engage TPAs to conduct post-payment reviews of Medicaid claims data. We expect in the future that CMS and the states will likely expand the scope of the reviews conducted by the TPAs. We cannot predict whether reviews by TPAs of Gentiva's home health and hospice programs reimbursement claims will result in material recoupments, which could have a material adverse effect on Gentiva's financial condition and results of operations.

Although Gentiva believes it has established policies and procedures that are sufficient to help ensure that Gentiva will operate in substantial compliance with anti-fraud and abuse requirements, in the future, different interpretations or enforcement of laws, rules and regulations governing the healthcare industry could subject Gentiva's current business practices to allegations of impropriety or illegality or could require Gentiva to make changes in its facilities, equipment, personnel, services and capital expenditure programs, increase its operating expenses and distract its management. If Gentiva fails to comply with these extensive laws and government regulations, Gentiva could become ineligible to receive government program payments, suffer civil and criminal penalties or be required to make significant changes to Gentiva's operations. In addition, Gentiva could be forced to expend considerable resources responding to an investigation or other enforcement action under these laws or regulations. See Note 16 to Gentiva's audited consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 and Note 14 to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included in Gentiva's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, in each case, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Many states have certificate of need laws or other regulatory provisions that may adversely impact Gentiva's ability to expand into new markets and thereby limit its ability to grow and to increase its net patient service revenue.

Many states have enacted certificate of need laws that require prior state approval to open new healthcare facilities or expand services at existing facilities. Those laws require some form of state agency review or approval before a hospice may add new services or undertake significant capital expenditures. New York has additional barriers to entry. New York places restrictions on the corporate ownership of hospices. Accordingly, Gentiva's ability to operate in New York is restricted. These laws could adversely affect Gentiva's ability to expand into new markets and to expand its services and facilities in existing markets.

Further consolidation of managed care organizations and other third-party payers may adversely affect Gentiva's profits.

Managed care organizations and other third-party payers have continued to consolidate in order to enhance their ability to influence the delivery of healthcare services. Consequently, the healthcare needs of a large percentage of the United States population are increasingly served by a smaller number of managed care organizations. These organizations generally enter into service agreements with a limited number of providers for needed services. To the extent that such organizations terminate Gentiva as a preferred provider and/or engage Gentiva's competitors as preferred or exclusive providers, Gentiva's business could be adversely affected. In addition, private payers, including managed care payers, could seek to negotiate additional discounted fee structures or the assumption by healthcare providers of all or a portion of the financial risk through prepaid capitation arrangements, thereby potentially reducing Gentiva's profitability.

Possible changes in the case-mix of patients, as well as payer mix and payment methodologies, may have a material adverse effect on Gentiva's profitability.

The sources and amounts of Gentiva's patient revenues will be determined by a number of factors, including the mix of patients and the rates of reimbursement among payers. Changes in the case-mix of the patients as well as payer mix among private pay, Medicare and Medicaid may significantly affect Gentiva's profitability. In particular, any significant increase in Gentiva's Medicaid population or decrease in Medicaid payments could have a material adverse effect on Gentiva's financial position, results of operations and cash flow, especially if states operating these programs continue to limit, or more aggressively seek limits on, reimbursement rates or service levels.

The accuracy and timeliness of Gentiva's financial reports as well as its business could be negatively impacted if it is unable to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting.

Maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting is necessary for Gentiva to produce reliable financial statements and to comply with its reporting obligations under the federal securities laws. Gentiva has concluded that effective controls were not maintained over the accounting for goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. Specifically, Gentiva's controls were not effectively designed and did not operate at the appropriate level of precision to ensure completeness and accuracy of assumptions used in its valuation models for goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets and to reassess the lives of indefinite-lived intangible assets related to closed or consolidated branches. These control deficiencies resulted in the restatement of its consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013 and the quarter ended March 31, 2014 and the revision of its consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 and the quarters ended March 31, 2013, June 30, 2013 and September 30, 2013. Additionally, these control deficiencies could result in misstatements of the aforementioned accounts and disclosures that would result in a material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements that would not be prevented or detected. Accordingly, Gentiva's management concluded that these control deficiencies constitute a material weakness. If Gentiva is unable to effectively remediate this material weakness or is otherwise unable to maintain adequate internal controls over financial reporting in

the future, it may not be able to prepare reliable financial statements and

S-74

Table of Contents

comply with its reporting obligations on a timely basis, which could materially adversely affect its business and subject Gentiva to legal and regulatory action.

There are risks of business disruption associated with new business systems and technology initiatives.

Gentiva began the implementation of a new electronic medical records system in Gentiva's home health business, in 2013, with a relatively small vendor. Implementation disruptions or the failure of new systems and technology initiatives to operate in accordance with expectations could have a material adverse impact on Gentiva's financial results and operations.

Effective October 1, 2015, Gentiva, as well as all other entities covered by the HIPAA, are required to report medical diagnoses under new ICD-10-CM coding diagnosis codes, which replace the current ICD-9CM coding diagnosis codes. ICD-10 codes, which are alphanumeric and contain 3 to 7 characters, are entirely different from ICD-9 codes, which are mostly numeric and contain 3 to 5 digits. If claims are not reported properly under ICD-10-CM, there can be a delay in the processing and payment of such claims, or a denial of such claims, which can have a material adverse effect on Gentiva's financial position and results of operations.

Gentiva has risks related to obligations under its insurance programs.

Gentiva is obligated for certain costs under various insurance programs, including employee health and welfare, workers' compensation, automobile and professional liability. Gentiva may be subject to workers' compensation claims and lawsuits alleging negligence or other similar legal claims. Gentiva maintains various insurance programs to cover these risks with insurance policies subject to substantial deductibles and retention amounts. Gentiva also may be subject to exposure relating to employment law and other related matters for which it does not maintain insurance coverage. We believe that Gentiva's present insurance coverage and reserves are sufficient to cover currently estimated exposures; however, should Gentiva experience a significant increase in losses resulting from workers' compensation, professional liability or employee health and welfare claims, the resulting increase in provisions and/or required reserves could negatively affect Gentiva's profitability.

An adverse ruling against Gentiva in certain litigation could have an adverse effect on its financial condition and results of operations.

Gentiva is involved in litigation incidental to the conduct of its business, including a collective and class action lawsuit alleging violations by Gentiva of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act and a putative shareholder class action lawsuit alleging violations by Gentiva of the Securities Act, and Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and may be subject to additional lawsuits in the future. The damages claimed against Gentiva in such litigation are substantial.

We cannot assure you that Gentiva will prevail in the pending cases. In addition to the possibility of an adverse outcome, such litigation is costly to manage, investigate and defend, and the related defense costs, diversion of management's time and related publicity may adversely affect the conduct of Gentiva's business and the results of Gentiva's operations.

Approximately 20 percent of Gentiva's hospice revenues are derived from patients who reside in skilled nursing facilities. Changes in the laws and regulations regarding payments for hospice services and room and board provided to hospice patients residing in skilled nursing facilities could reduce Gentiva's net patient service revenue and profitability.

For hospice patients receiving nursing home care under certain state Medicaid programs who elect hospice care under Medicare or Medicaid, the state must pay, in addition to the applicable Medicare or Medicaid hospice per diem rate, an amount equal to at least 95% of the Medicaid per diem skilled nursing facility rate for room

S-75

Table of Contents

and board furnished to the patient by the skilled nursing facility. The reduction or elimination of Medicare payments for hospice patients residing in skilled nursing facilities would significantly reduce Gentiva's net patient service revenue and profitability. In addition, changes in the way skilled nursing facilities are reimbursed for room and board services provided to hospice patients residing in skilled nursing facilities could affect Gentiva's ability to obtain referrals from skilled nursing facilities. A reduction in referrals from skilled nursing facilities would adversely affect Gentiva's net patient service revenue and profitability.

Competition among home healthcare, hospice and community care services companies is intense.

The home health, hospice and community care services industry is highly competitive. Gentiva competes with a variety of other companies in providing home health, hospice and community care services, some of which may have greater financial and other resources and may be more established in their respective communities. Competing companies may offer newer or different services from those offered by Gentiva and may thereby attract customers who are presently receiving Gentiva's home health or hospice services.

In many areas in which Gentiva's home health, hospice and community care programs are located, Gentiva competes with a large number of organizations, including community-based home health and hospice providers; national and regional companies; and hospital-based home health agencies, hospice and palliative care programs.

Some of Gentiva's current and potential competitors have or may obtain significantly greater marketing and financial resources than Gentiva has or may obtain. Relatively few barriers to entry exist in Gentiva's local markets. Accordingly, other companies, including hospitals and other healthcare organizations that are not currently providing competing services, may expand their services to include home health services, hospice care, community care services or similar services. Gentiva may encounter increased competition in the future that could negatively impact patient referrals to Gentiva, limit its ability to maintain or increase its market position and adversely affect Gentiva's profitability.

Table of Contents

NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the proposed Merger (including financing of the proposed transaction and the benefits, results, effects and timing of a transaction), all statements regarding our (and the combined company's) expected future financial position, results of operations, cash flows, dividends, financing plans, business strategy, budgets, capital expenditures, competitive positions, growth opportunities, plans and objectives of management, and statements containing the words such as anticipate, approximate, believe, plan, estimate, expect, project, would, should, will, intend, may, potential, upside, and other similar expressions. Statements in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference concerning the business outlook or future economic performance, anticipated profitability, revenues, expenses, dividends or other financial items, and product or services line growth of the Company (and the combined businesses of the Company and Gentiva), together with other statements that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements that are estimates reflecting the best judgment of the Company based upon currently available information.

Such forward-looking statements are inherently uncertain, and stockholders and other potential investors must recognize that actual results may differ materially from our expectations as a result of a variety of factors, including, without limitation, those discussed below. Such forward-looking statements are based upon management's current expectations and include known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which we are unable to predict or control, which may cause our actual results, performance or plans with respect to Gentiva to differ materially from any future results, performance or plans expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors discussed below and detailed from time to time in our filings with the SEC.

Risks and uncertainties related to the proposed Merger include, but are not limited to, the risk that Gentiva's stockholders do not approve the Merger, potential adverse reactions or changes to business relationships resulting from the announcement or completion of the Merger, uncertainties as to the timing of the Merger, adverse effects on our stock price resulting from the announcement or completion of the Merger, competitive responses to the announcement or completion of the Merger, the risk that healthcare regulatory, licensure or other approvals and financing required for the completion of the Merger are not obtained or are obtained subject to terms and conditions that are not anticipated, costs and difficulties related to the integration of Gentiva's businesses and operations with our businesses and operations, the inability to obtain, or delays in obtaining, cost savings and synergies from the Merger, uncertainties as to whether the completion of the Merger or any transaction will have the accretive effect on our earnings or cash flows that we expect, unexpected costs, liabilities, charges or expenses resulting from the Merger, litigation relating to the Merger, the inability to retain key personnel, and any changes in general economic and/or industry-specific conditions.

In addition to the factors set forth above, other factors that may affect our plans, results or stock price include, without limitation:

the impact of healthcare reform, which will initiate significant changes to the United States healthcare system, including potential material changes to the delivery of healthcare services and the reimbursement paid for such services by the government or other third party payors, including reforms resulting from the ACA or future deficit reduction measures adopted at the federal or state level. Healthcare reform is affecting each of our businesses in some manner. Potential future efforts in the U.S. Congress to repeal, amend, modify or retract funding for various aspects of the ACA create additional uncertainty about the ultimate impact of the ACA on us and the healthcare industry. Due to the substantial regulatory changes that will need to be implemented by CMS and others, and the numerous processes required to implement these reforms, we cannot predict which healthcare initiatives will be implemented at the

Table of Contents

federal or state level, the timing of any such reforms, or the effect such reforms or any other future legislation or regulation will have on our business, financial position, results of operations and liquidity,

our ability to adjust to the new patient criteria for LTAC hospitals under the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013, which will reduce the population of patients eligible for the Company's hospital services and change the basis upon which we are paid,

the impact of final rules issued by CMS on August 1, 2012, which, among other things, reduced Medicare reimbursement to our TC hospitals in 2013 and beyond by imposing a budget neutrality adjustment and modifying the short-stay outlier rules,

the impact of the final rules issued by CMS in July 2011, which significantly reduced Medicare reimbursement to our nursing centers and changed payments for the provision of group therapy services effective October 1, 2011,

the impact of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (as amended by the Taxpayer Relief Act) which instituted an automatic 2% reduction on each claim submitted to Medicare beginning April 1, 2013,

the costs of defending and insuring against alleged professional liability and other claims and investigations (including those related to pending investigations and whistleblower and wage and hour class action lawsuits against us) and our ability to predict the estimated costs and reserves related to such claims and investigations, including the impact of differences in actuarial assumptions and estimates compared to eventual outcomes,

the impact of the Taxpayer Relief Act which, among other things, reduces Medicare payments by an additional 25% for subsequent procedures when multiple therapy services are provided on the same day. At this time, we believe that the rules related to multiple therapy services will reduce our Medicare revenues by \$25 million to \$30 million on an annual basis,

changes in the reimbursement rates or the methods or timing of payment from third party payors, including commercial payors and the Medicare and Medicaid programs, changes arising from and related to the Medicare prospective payment system for LTAC hospitals, including potential changes in the Medicare payment rules, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, and changes in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for our TC hospitals, nursing centers, IRFs and home health and hospice operations, and the expiration of the Medicare Part B therapy cap exception process,

the effects of additional legislative changes and government regulations, interpretation of regulations and changes in the nature and enforcement of regulations governing the healthcare industry,

the ability of our hospitals and nursing centers to adjust to medical necessity reviews,

the impact of our significant level of indebtedness on our funding costs, operating flexibility and ability to fund ongoing operations, development capital expenditures or other strategic acquisitions with additional borrowings,

our ability to successfully redeploy our capital and proceeds of asset sales in pursuit of our business strategy and pursue our development activities, including through acquisitions, and successfully integrate new operations, including the realization of anticipated revenues, economies of scale, cost savings and productivity gains associated with such operations, as and when planned, including the potential impact of unanticipated issues, expenses and liabilities associated with those activities,

our ability to pay a dividend as, when and if declared by the board of directors, in compliance with applicable laws and our debt and other contractual arrangements,

the failure of our facilities to meet applicable licensure and certification requirements,

the further consolidation and cost containment efforts of managed care organizations and other third party payors,

S-78

Table of Contents

our ability to meet our rental and debt service obligations,

our ability to operate pursuant to the terms of our debt obligations, and comply with our covenants thereunder, and our ability to operate pursuant to our master lease agreements with Ventas,

the condition of the financial markets, including volatility and weakness in the equity, capital and credit markets, which could limit the availability and terms of debt and equity financing sources to fund the requirements of our businesses, or which could negatively impact our investment portfolio,

our ability to control costs, particularly labor and employee benefit costs,

our ability to successfully reduce (by divestiture of operations or otherwise) our exposure to professional liability and other claims,

our obligations under various laws to self-report suspected violations of law by us to various government agencies, including any associated obligation to refund overpayments to government payors, fines and other sanctions,

national, regional and industry-specific economic, financial, business and political conditions, including their effect on the availability and cost of labor, credit, materials and other services,

increased operating costs due to shortages in qualified nurses, therapists and other healthcare personnel,

our ability to attract and retain key executives and other healthcare personnel,

our ability to successfully dispose of unprofitable facilities,

events or circumstances which could result in the impairment of an asset or other charges, such as the impact of the Medicare reimbursement regulations that resulted in us recording significant impairment charges in the last three fiscal years,

the outcome of any inquiries into Gentiva's operations and business practices by governmental authorities,

compliance with any corporate integrity agreement affecting Gentiva's operations,

ability of customers to pay for services,

business disruption due to severe weather conditions, natural disasters, pandemic outbreaks, terrorist acts or cyber attacks,

availability, effectiveness, stability and security of Gentiva's information technology systems,

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

changes in GAAP principles or practices, and changes in tax accounting or tax laws (or authoritative interpretations relating to any of these matters) and

our ability to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting.

Many of these factors are beyond our control. We caution you that any forward-looking statements made by us are not guarantees of future performance. We disclaim any obligation to update any such factors or to announce publicly the results of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements to reflect future events or developments.

You should carefully consider the risks that are described in the Risk Factors section, as well as other risks and uncertainties described under Risk Factors sections in Kindred's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and Kindred's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, as such discussion may be amended or updated in other reports filed by us with the SEC, before making any investment decision with respect to our securities. If any of these trends, risks, assumptions or uncertainties actually occurs or continues, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected, the trading prices of our securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment. All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.

S-79

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that our net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ _____, after deducting estimated underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses (\$ _____ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase 22,500 additional Units in full). If the Merger is completed, we intend to use the net proceeds of this offering, combined with proceeds from the other Financing Transactions, if completed, to fund the Cash Consideration for the Merger, to repay Gentiva's existing debt and to pay related fees and expenses. If the Merger is not completed, we may use the net proceeds from this offering to redeem the Purchase Contracts and (if required) the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or for general corporate purposes, which may include the financing of potential acquisitions or paying down our existing indebtedness. Pending use, the net proceeds may be invested temporarily in short-term marketable securities or applied to repay short-term debt. Our management will have broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds, and the purposes for which the net proceeds are used may change from those described above.

If the Merger is not consummated, we may at our option redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by issuing a redemption notice within the five business days following May 1, 2015. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we will pay a merger redemption amount to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we may be required by the holders thereof to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the redemption price set forth in the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the Option of the Holder. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger There can be no assurance that we will successfully complete the Merger on the terms or timetable currently proposed or at all.

If the Merger is completed, the existing Gentiva debt that we plan to repay using the proceeds from this offering and the other Financing Transactions includes: (i) a six-year \$670 million Term Loan B facility, which is subject to mandatory principal payments of \$6.7 million per year, payable in equal quarterly installments, with the remaining balance of the original \$670 million loan payable on October 18, 2019, (ii) a five-year \$155 million Term Loan C facility, which is subject to annual mandatory principal payments, payable in equal quarterly installments, of \$11.6 million for 2014 and increasing each year through the maturity date of the loan, October 18, 2018, (iii) a five-year \$100 million revolving credit facility maturing on October 18, 2018 and (iv) \$325 million aggregate principal amount of 11.5% Senior Notes due 2018. As of September 30, 2014, the interest rate on Gentiva's Term Loan B borrowings was 6.5%, on its Term Loan C borrowings was 5.75% and on its revolving credit borrowings was 4.77%. Gentiva's 11.5% Senior Notes bear interest at a rate of 11.5% per annum and mature on September 1, 2018.

See The Transactions Sources and Uses for a table outlining the sources and uses of funds for the Transactions. See also Underwriting.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF OUR COMMON STOCK**

Our Common Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol KND. The following table sets forth on a per share basis the high and low sale prices for our common stock as reported on the NYSE during the periods indicated.

	Share Price Range	
	High	Low
2014		
Fourth Quarter (through November 14)	\$ 22.12	\$ 19.15
Third Quarter	\$ 24.94	\$ 18.80
Second Quarter	\$ 26.81	\$ 21.74
First Quarter	\$ 23.57	\$ 17.59
2013		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 20.51	\$ 13.13
Third Quarter	\$ 16.63	\$ 12.50
Second Quarter	\$ 14.49	\$ 9.75
First Quarter	\$ 11.74	\$ 10.21
2012		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 12.13	\$ 9.68
Third Quarter	\$ 12.76	\$ 8.80
Second Quarter	\$ 10.87	\$ 7.60
First Quarter	\$ 13.62	\$ 8.63

DIVIDEND POLICY

Our Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes contain, and the indenture governing the Senior Notes to be issued pursuant to the Senior Notes Offering will likely contain, covenants that limit, among other things, our ability to pay dividends. Any determination to pay dividends in the future will be dependent upon our results of operations, financial position, our liquidity needs, compliance with our Credit Facilities and the indenture governing the existing notes, restrictions imposed by applicable laws and other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors.

Under the terms of the existing notes, we may pay dividends pursuant to specified exceptions including, but not limited to, the payment of a dividend on Common Stock of up to \$30 million in any calendar year (with any unused amounts carried over to succeeding fiscal years but subject to a maximum of \$60 million in any calendar year). Under our Credit Facilities, we may also pay dividends pursuant to specified exceptions, including, but not limited to, the payment of a dividend on Common Stock of up to \$30 million in any fiscal year (with any unused amounts carried over only to the immediately succeeding fiscal year). Other exceptions in the existing notes and the Credit Facilities may allow us to pay additional dividends on Common Stock. See Note 9 Long-Term Debt of the notes to condensed consolidated financial statements included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014.

On August 5, 2013, we announced that our board of directors had approved the initiation of a quarterly cash dividend to our stockholders. Since the third quarter of 2013, we have paid a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.12 per share of our Common Stock. Future declarations of quarterly dividends will be subject to the approval of our board of directors.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and our consolidated capitalization as of September 30, 2014:

on an actual basis; and

on an as adjusted basis to give effect to the receipt of net proceeds from this offering and the concurrent Common Stock Offering (assuming no full or partial exercise of the underwriters' options to purchase additional Units or shares of our Common Stock).

The capitalization table below does not give effect to the Financing Transactions, other than the offering and sale of the Units and the concurrent Common Stock Offering, or to the Merger, the Centerre Acquisition or any other acquisitions. As discussed in The Transactions, we intend to raise between \$1.3 billion and \$1.4 billion in an offering of Senior Notes and to borrow approximately \$193 million under the ABL Facility. We also plan to fund the Centerre Acquisition with borrowings under the ABL Facility, if the Centerre Acquisition is completed. Part of the net proceeds from this offering and proceeds from the other Financing Transactions will be used to reduce Gentiva's existing debt. See Use of Proceeds and Underwriting.

You should read this information together with Summary Consolidated Financial Information and our historical consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014, and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. See also Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information.

	As of September 30, 2014 (in thousands)	
	Actual	As Adjusted(8)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 81,784	\$
Long-term debt (including current portion of long-term debt):		
ABL Facility(1)		
Term Loan Facility(2)	990,891	990,891
6.375% Senior Notes due 2022	500,000	500,000
Units(3)		
Other(4)	3,778	3,778
Total long-term debt (including current portion of long-term debt)(5)	1,494,669	
Equity:		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common Stock, \$0.25 par value(6)	16,153	
Preferred stock, \$0.25 par value(3)		
Capital in excess of par value(7)	1,357,134	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(905)	(905)
Accumulated deficit	(112,044)	(112,044)
Noncontrolling interest	43,116	43,116
Total equity	1,303,454	

Total capitalization \$ 2,798,123 \$

- (1) Available borrowings, after giving effect to approximately \$5 million of letters of credit outstanding on September 30, 2014, are approximately \$652 million at September 30, 2014 on a limited borrowing base capacity of approximately \$657 million. We expect to borrow approximately \$193 million under the ABL Facility to fund part of the cost of the Merger. See The Transactions The Financing Transactions Credit

S-82

Table of Contents

- Facilities. We also expect to finance the Centerre Acquisition with borrowings from the ABL Facility. See Summary Recent Developments.
- (2) Includes original issue discount of \$6.6 million.
 - (3) Each Unit includes a share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Approximately % of the stated amount of the Units will be represented by the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. For accounting purposes, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock is recorded as long-term debt due to the mandatory redemption feature.
 - (4) Kindred's other debt consists primarily of a bank note on a medical office building.
 - (5) We expect to issue between \$1.3 billion and \$1.4 billion aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes in the Senior Notes Offering. See The Transactions The Financing Transactions Senior Notes Offering.
 - (6) These amounts do not include shares of our Common Stock subject to outstanding stock options or shares of Common Stock issuable in connection with:

the settlement of the Purchase Contracts that are a component of the Units offered hereby;

future grants under our director and employee stock plans; and

the conversion of certain of Gentiva's outstanding stock options, restricted stock awards and deferred share units as described under The Transactions Gentiva Stock Options and Other Awards.

- (7) Each Unit includes a Purchase Contract. We will account for the Purchase Contracts that are components of the Units as equity and will record the initial fair value of these Purchase Contracts, net of the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses allocated to the Purchase Contracts, as capital in excess of par value. The exact amount we record as capital in excess of par value will not be determined until our determination of the final offering expenses. Approximately % of the stated amount of the Units will be represented by the Purchase Contracts. If the Merger is not consummated, we may redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by issuing a redemption notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we will pay a merger redemption amount to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash and/or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we may be required by the holders thereof to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the redemption price for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the Option of the Holder.
- (8) We estimate that the net proceeds to us from this offering will be approximately \$ after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated offering expenses payable by us. If the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional Units in full, we estimate the net proceeds to us will be approximately \$ after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated offering expenses payable by us. We estimate that the net proceeds to us from the concurrent Common Stock Offering will be approximately \$ after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated offering expenses payable by us. If the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares of Common Stock in full, we estimate the net proceeds to us will be approximately \$ after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated offering expenses payable by us. If the Merger is not completed, we may use the net proceeds from this offering to redeem the Purchase Contracts and (if required) the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or for general corporate purposes, which may include the financing of potential acquisitions or paying down our existing indebtedness. If the Merger is not consummated, we may redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by issuing a redemption notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we will pay a merger redemption amount to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash and/or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we may be required by the holders thereof to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the redemption price for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the Option of the Holder.

Table of Contents

THE TRANSACTIONS

The following is a description of the Merger Agreement, the Financing Transactions and related documents. Copies of the Merger Agreement and the Voting and Support Agreement are included as exhibits to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 9, 2014, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. The following description of the Merger and the transactions contemplated thereby does not purport to be a complete description.

Overview

On October 9, 2014, Kindred and Gentiva jointly announced their entry into an agreement under which Kindred will acquire Gentiva and its subsidiaries for \$14.50 in cash and 0.257 share of our Common Stock per Gentiva Share. The following transactions are expected to occur in connection with the Merger:

the Units will be offered hereby;

shares of Common Stock will be offered in the concurrent Common Stock Offering;

notes will be offered in the Senior Notes Offering; and

our Credit Facilities will be amended in the Credit Facilities Amendments.

The net proceeds from the concurrent Common Stock Offering, this offering and the Senior Notes Offering and the borrowings under the ABL Facility will be used to (a) fund the Cash Consideration payable pursuant to the Merger Agreement, (b) repay Gentiva's existing indebtedness and (c) pay related transaction fees and expenses. See [Use of Proceeds](#) and [The Transactions Sources and Uses](#).

This offering is not contingent upon completion of the Merger. If the Merger is not completed, none of the transactions described below will occur, other than this offering and the concurrent Common Stock Offering, if completed, and the other pieces of our current capital structure will remain in place as described herein and in the documents incorporated by reference herein. If the Merger is completed, we intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, the concurrent Common Stock Offering, if completed, and the Senior Notes Offering, if completed, as described under [Use of Proceeds](#). If the Merger is not consummated, we may redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by issuing a redemption notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015. We will pay a redemption price to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we may be required by the holders thereof to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the redemption price as described under [Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the Option of the Holder](#). See [Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger](#).

Merger Agreement

On October 9, 2014, we entered into the Merger Agreement, providing for the acquisition of Gentiva by Kindred. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, which has been unanimously approved by the board of directors of the respective parties, Merger Sub will be merged with and into Gentiva, with Gentiva continuing as the surviving company in the Merger and a wholly owned subsidiary of Kindred.

At the effective time of the Merger, each Gentiva share issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger (other than shares held by Kindred, Gentiva and their respective wholly-owned subsidiaries (which will be cancelled) and shares that are owned by stockholders who have properly exercised and perfected a demand for appraisal rights under Delaware law), including each deferred share unit, will be

S-84

Table of Contents

converted into the right to receive (i) \$14.50 in cash, without interest and (ii) 0.257 shares of a validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable share of our Common Stock.

The Merger Agreement contains customary representations and warranties for a transaction of this type. The Merger Agreement also contains customary covenants, including, among others, covenants (i) providing for each of Kindred and Gentiva and their respective subsidiaries to conduct its business in the ordinary course consistent with past practice and not to take certain actions without the other's consent and (ii) for each of the parties to use reasonable best efforts to cause the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement to be consummated. Additionally, the Merger Agreement provides for customary pre-closing covenants of Gentiva, including covenants not to solicit proposals relating to alternative transactions or, subject to certain exceptions, enter into discussions concerning or provide information in connection with alternative transactions, covenants to call and hold a meeting of Gentiva stockholders and a covenant to recommend that Gentiva's stockholders adopt the Merger Agreement, subject to applicable fiduciary duties.

Consummation of the Merger is subject to various conditions, including, among others, adoption of the Merger Agreement by the requisite vote of Gentiva's stockholders and certain other customary closing conditions.

The Merger Agreement also contains certain termination rights for Kindred and Gentiva (including if the Merger is not consummated by March 31, 2015) and provides that upon termination of the Merger Agreement under specified circumstances, including, among others, following a change in recommendation of the Gentiva board of directors or Gentiva's termination of the Merger Agreement to enter into a written definitive agreement for a superior proposal, Gentiva will be required to pay Kindred a termination fee of \$32.5 million.

Voting and Support Agreement

In connection with the parties' entry into the Merger Agreement, Kindred entered into a Voting and Support Agreement, dated October 9, 2014 (the "Voting Agreement"), with each of the directors and executive officers of Gentiva as set forth on a schedule thereto (the "Gentiva Parties"), pursuant to which each Gentiva Party has agreed, among other things, to: (i) vote its beneficially owned shares of Gentiva Shares in favor of (a) the Merger, (b) any proposal to postpone or adjourn a meeting of Gentiva stockholders in the event there are not sufficient votes to adopt the Merger Agreement and (c) against any proposals for an alternative business combination transaction or which would be reasonably likely to prevent, materially impede or materially delay the Merger; and (ii) comply with certain restrictions on the disposition of such shares, in each case subject to the terms and conditions contained therein. The Voting Agreement will terminate with respect to any Gentiva Party upon the earliest to occur of (i) the consummation of the Merger, (ii) the termination of the Merger Agreement pursuant to and in compliance with its terms and (iii) the entry without the prior written consent of such Gentiva Party into any amendment or modification of the Merger Agreement, or any written waiver of Gentiva's rights under the Merger Agreement, in each case, which results in a decrease in, or change in the composition of, the Merger Consideration or an extension of the March 31, 2015 deadline or which is otherwise adverse to any of the Gentiva Parties in any material respect.

Gentiva Stock Options and Other Awards

Each option to purchase Gentiva Shares (a "Gentiva Option") that is outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger with a per share exercise price below the sum of (1) the product of the Stock Consideration (multiplied by the average closing price per share of our Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading days prior to the closing date (the "Kindred Closing Price")) and (2) the Cash Consideration that is or will become vested as a result of the Merger, will be cancelled and converted into the right to receive an amount in cash equal to the product of (i) the aggregate number of Gentiva Shares subject to such Gentiva Option, multiplied by (ii) the Cash Consideration plus the value of the

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Stock Consideration (based on the Kindred Closing Price), over the exercise price, less any withholding taxes. Each Gentiva Option that is outstanding

S-85

Table of Contents

immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger with a per share exercise price at or above the sum of the (1) value of the Stock Consideration (based on the Kindred Closing Price) and (2) the Cash Consideration or that will not vest as a result of the Merger will be converted into an option to purchase a number of shares of Common Stock determined by multiplying the number of Gentiva Shares subject to such Gentiva Option by a fraction, the numerator of which is the sum of (i) the product of the Stock Consideration multiplied by the Kindred Closing Price and (ii) the Cash Consideration and the denominator of which is the Kindred Closing Price.

Each Gentiva performance cash award that will become vested as a result of the Merger will be accelerated and the recipient thereof will receive an amount in cash equal to the target amount of such cash award (unless such performance cash award provides for the accelerated vesting of such award at the maximum level, in which case the recipient thereof will receive an amount in cash equal to the maximum amount of such cash award), subject to withholding taxes. Each Gentiva performance cash award that will not vest as a result of the Merger will be converted into the right to receive a Kindred cash award, subject to the vesting conditions of such performance cash award prior to the effective time of the Merger.

Each outstanding restricted Gentiva Share that will vest as a result of the Merger and each outstanding Gentiva deferred share unit will receive Merger Consideration, subject to withholding taxes. Each outstanding restricted Gentiva Share that will not vest as a result of the Merger will receive Merger Consideration in the form of a restricted Kindred cash award and restricted Common Stock, in each case subject to the vesting conditions of such restricted shares prior to the effective time of the Merger.

Refinancing of Gentiva's Existing Indebtedness

In connection with the Merger, we expect to repay Gentiva's existing indebtedness (outstanding balances as of September 30, 2014), including:

\$665 million under Gentiva's Term Loan B facility;

\$146 million under Gentiva's Term Loan C facility;

\$27 million under Gentiva's revolving credit facility; and

\$325 million aggregate principal amount of Gentiva's 11.5% Senior Notes due 2018 (including \$19 million make-whole premium for early redemption and accrued interest of \$8 million).

For descriptions of the indebtedness being repaid, see Gentiva's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014, and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014, and the consolidated financial statements and the related notes included therein.

The Financing Transactions

Credit Facilities Amendments

We have entered into the ABL Amendment to, among other items, modify certain provisions to permit the issuance of Senior Notes into an escrow account. Upon the completion of the Merger and the satisfaction of certain other conditions, the ABL Amendment provides for a further amendment and restatement of the ABL Facility to, among other items, modify certain provisions related to the incurrence of debt and the making of acquisitions, investments and restricted payments.

Concurrently with or following the offering of the Units, we also intend to enter into the Term Loan Amendment to, among other items, modify certain provisions to permit the issuance of Senior Notes into an escrow account, increase the applicable margin on the term loans, temporarily increase the maximum total leverage ratio permitted under the financial maintenance covenants and modify certain provisions related to the

Table of Contents

incurrence of debt and the making of acquisitions, investments and restricted payments. As the final terms of the Term Loan Amendment have not been agreed upon, they may differ from those set forth herein.

Concurrent Common Stock Offering

In the concurrent Common Stock Offering, pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement, we are offering to sell 5,000,000 shares of our Common Stock (or 5,750,000 shares, if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase up to an additional 750,000 shares of Common Stock in full) for cash. We estimate that the net proceeds of the concurrent Common Stock Offering, after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated offering expenses, will be approximately \$ (or approximately \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase additional shares with respect to such offering in full), although there can be no assurance that the concurrent Common Stock Offering will be completed. The completion of this offering is not contingent on the completion of the concurrent Common Stock Offering and the concurrent Common Stock Offering is not contingent on the completion of this offering.

Senior Notes Offering

Prior to the completion of the Merger and subject to market and other conditions, we plan to offer between \$1.3 billion and \$1.4 billion aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes in a private placement. We expect the Senior Notes to be issued initially by the Escrow Issuer, and we plan to deposit the net proceeds from the Senior Notes Offering, together with any additional amount sufficient to fund the redemption price and any accrued interest, in an escrow account until the Merger is completed. If the Merger is completed, the Escrow Issuer will be merged into Kindred, and as a result we will assume the Escrow Issuer's obligations under the Senior Notes and the Senior Notes will be guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis by each of our domestic 100% owned restricted subsidiaries that guarantee the Credit Facilities. If the Merger is not completed, the Escrow Issuer will redeem all of the Senior Notes at a redemption price to be specified in the indenture governing the Senior Notes. The indenture governing the Senior Notes is expected to contain customary covenants, including, among others, covenants that restrict our ability and our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or redeem or repurchase our capital stock. The foregoing description and any other information regarding the Senior Notes Offering is included herein solely for informational purposes. There can be no assurance that we will commence or complete the Senior Notes Offering. If commenced, the Senior Notes Offering will not be registered with the SEC, and the Senior Notes will be sold privately by means of a confidential offering memorandum and not by means of this or any other prospectus supplement. The Senior Notes will not be registered under the Securities Act or any state securities laws, and may not be offered or sold in the United States or to U.S. persons unless registered under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws or an exemption from such registration as available.

Sources and Uses

We estimate that the net proceeds to us from the sale of 150,000 Units we are offering pursuant to this prospectus supplement will be approximately \$ (\$ if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase 22,500 additional Units in full). If the Merger is completed, we intend to use the net proceeds of this offering, the concurrent Common Stock Offering, if completed, and the Senior Notes Offering, if completed, together with borrowings under the ABL Facility, to fund the Cash Consideration for the Merger, to repay Gentiva's existing debt and to pay related fees and expenses. This offering is not contingent on completion of the Merger. If the Merger is not completed, we may use the net proceeds from this offering to redeem the Purchase Contracts and (if required) the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or for general corporate purposes, which may include the financing of potential acquisitions or paying down our existing indebtedness. If the Merger is not completed, we may redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by issuing a redemption notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015. If we elect to redeem the

Table of Contents

Purchase Contracts, we will pay a merger redemption amount to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we may be required by the holders thereof to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the redemption price as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the Option of the Holder.

The following table outlines the sources and uses of funds for the Transactions, as if the Transactions were completed on September 30, 2014 (the assumed closing date of the Merger for purposes of the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information contained in

Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information), assuming no full or partial exercise by the underwriters of their option to purchase additional Units with respect to this offering or additional shares of Common Stock in the concurrent Common Stock Offering. The table assumes we complete the Merger and consummate the Financing Transactions simultaneously, although this offering and the concurrent Common Stock Offering are expected to occur before completion of the Merger and the Senior Notes Offering is expected to occur after the completion of this offering and the concurrent Common Stock Offering and before the completion of the Merger. The actual amounts may vary from estimated amounts depending on the actual closing date of the Merger, and any additional proceeds will be used to finance other potential acquisitions or for general corporate purposes, including paying down our existing indebtedness. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger There can be no assurance that we will successfully complete the Merger on the terms or timetable currently proposed or at all and Use of Proceeds. You should read the following together with the information included under the headings The Transactions, Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information and Use of Proceeds.

Sources of funds	(in millions)	Uses of funds	(in millions)
Units offered hereby ⁽¹⁾	\$ 150	Cash Consideration for Gentiva's outstanding shares ⁽⁶⁾	\$ 553
Concurrent Common Stock Offering ⁽²⁾	100	Repayment of Gentiva's debt ⁽⁷⁾	1,190
Senior Notes Offering ⁽³⁾	1,350	Transaction fees and expenses ⁽⁸⁾	172
ABL Facility ⁽⁴⁾	193		
Cash on hand	122	Equity consideration to Gentiva shareholders ⁽⁵⁾	198
Equity consideration to Gentiva shareholders ⁽⁵⁾	198		
Total sources of funds	\$ 2,113	Total uses of funds	\$ 2,113

- (1) This offering is not contingent upon completion of the Merger. If the Merger is not completed, we may use the proceeds from this offering to redeem the Purchase Contracts and (if required) the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or for general corporate purposes, which may include the financing of potential acquisitions or paying down our existing indebtedness. If the Merger is not completed, we may redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts by issuing a redemption notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we will pay a merger redemption amount to be determined based on the Common Stock price at that time in cash and/or in shares of Common Stock in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Contracts. If we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts, we may be required by the holders thereof to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the redemption price for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at the Option of the Holder.
- (2) Concurrently with this offering, pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement, we are offering 5,000,000 shares of our Common Stock (or 5,750,000 shares, if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase up to an additional 750,000 shares of Common Stock in full). Calculated based on an assumed public offering price of \$20.00, and assumes no full or partial exercise by the underwriters of their over-allotment option to purchase additional shares. The concurrent Common Stock Offering is not

Table of Contents

- contingent on completion of the Merger. The completion of this offering is not contingent on the completion of the concurrent Common Stock Offering, and the completion of the concurrent Common Stock Offering is not contingent on the completion of this offering.
- (3) Prior to the completion of the Merger and subject to market and other conditions, we plan to offer between \$1.3 billion and \$1.4 billion aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes in a private placement. There is no assurance that we will commence or complete the Senior Notes Offering. If commenced, the Senior Notes Offering will not be registered with the SEC, and the Senior Notes will be sold privately by means of a confidential offering memorandum and not by means of this prospectus supplement. We expect the Senior Notes to be issued initially by the Escrow Issuer, which will be merged into Kindred if the Merger is completed. If the Merger is not completed, the Escrow Issuer will redeem all of the Senior Notes at a redemption price to be specified in the indenture governing the Senior Notes. See The Financing Transactions Senior Notes Offering.
- (4) We also expect to finance the Centerre Acquisition with borrowings from the ABL Facility. See Summary Recent Developments.
- (5) Each share of Gentiva common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger (subject to certain exceptions) will be converted into the right to receive 0.257 of a share of Common Stock and \$14.50 in cash, without interest. No fractional shares of Common Stock will be issued in the Merger and Gentiva stockholders will receive cash in lieu of fractional shares. The Merger Agreement also provides for the vesting and conversion of certain Gentiva stock options and the vesting and lapse of restrictions on certain Gentiva restricted shares. The value of the equity consideration portion of the Merger Consideration is subject to change based upon changes in the market price of Kindred Common Stock for the 10 trading days prior to the date the Merger is consummated.
- (6) Represents the cash payment of \$14.50 per share for Gentiva's outstanding shares, assuming 37,328,005 outstanding Gentiva Shares as of November 13, 2014 and cash payment of certain Gentiva Options outstanding as of November 13, 2014 based upon a weighted average intrinsic value of \$6.59 per outstanding stock option (using the closing price of Common Stock on November 13, 2014). Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, Gentiva stockholders will receive Cash Consideration of \$14.50 per Gentiva Share and Stock Consideration of 0.257 share of our Common Stock per Gentiva Share. Holders of Gentiva Options, restricted Gentiva Shares and Gentiva deferred share units may also receive an amount in cash equal to the Cash Consideration, subject to certain conditions set forth in Gentiva Stock Options and Other Awards.
- (7) Represents repayment of outstanding borrowings as of September 30, 2014 comprised of \$665 million under Gentiva's Term Loan B facility, \$146 million under Gentiva's Term Loan C facility and \$27 million under Gentiva's revolving credit facility and redemption of \$325 million aggregate principal amount of Gentiva's 11.5% Senior Notes due 2018 (including \$19 million make-whole premium for early redemption and accrued interest of \$8 million).
- (8) Includes estimated fees and expenses related to the Transactions, including underwriting discounts and commissions, legal, accounting and advisory fees, fees associated with the Financing Transactions and other transaction costs.

Table of Contents

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is based upon the historical consolidated financial information of Kindred and Gentiva incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, and has been prepared to reflect the Merger in which Kindred will acquire all of the outstanding common stock of Gentiva. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet is presented as if the Merger and the related Financing Transactions (the Gentiva Transaction) had occurred on September 30, 2014. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the year ended December 31, 2013 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 were prepared assuming the Gentiva Transaction and other events described below occurred on January 1, 2013. The historical consolidated financial information has been adjusted to give effect to estimated pro forma events that are (1) directly attributable to the Merger, (2) factually supportable and (3) with respect to the statements of operations, expected to have a continuing impact on the combined results of operations. The historical consolidated financial statements of Gentiva have been adjusted to reflect certain reclassifications to conform to Kindred's financial statement presentation.

In addition to those pro forma adjustments directly linked to the Gentiva Transaction, the unaudited pro forma results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2013 include pro forma adjustments related to Gentiva's acquisition of Harden (the Harden Acquisition), and the unaudited pro forma results of operations for both the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2014 include pro forma adjustments related to the effect of Kindred's refinancing of certain debt obligations that occurred in April 2014 (the April 2014 Refinancing) and Kindred's common stock offering in June 2014 (the June 2014 Equity Offering).

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of the consolidated financial position or results of operations in future periods or the results that actually would have been realized had Kindred and Gentiva been a combined company during the periods specified or the other transactions as previously described. See The Transactions and Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information was derived from and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information and the following historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes of Kindred and Gentiva for the applicable periods, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement:

Historical financial statements and related notes of Kindred for the year ended December 31, 2013, included in Kindred's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, included in Kindred's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on November 7, 2014.

Historical financial statements and related notes of Gentiva for the year ended December 31, 2013, included in Gentiva's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, included in Gentiva's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014.

Historical financial statements of Harden for the year ended December 31, 2012 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, included in Gentiva's Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on December 23, 2013, including any related pro forma adjustments presented in the Form 8-K/A filing.

This offering is not contingent upon completion of the Merger and therefore, investors should refer to Kindred's historical financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement when evaluating an investment in the Units. See Use of Proceeds and Capitalization.

Table of Contents

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared using the acquisition method of accounting under existing GAAP. The acquisition accounting for certain items, including property and equipment, identifiable intangible assets, leasehold interests and noncontrolling interests, are preliminary and dependent upon certain valuations and other studies that have not been finalized and are subject to subsequent adjustments. For purposes of this unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, the Merger Consideration has been preliminary allocated to the tangible and intangible assets being acquired and liabilities being assumed based upon current estimates of fair value. Any excess of the Merger Consideration over the fair value of Gentiva's identifiable net assets will be recorded as goodwill. The final allocation is dependent on the aforementioned valuations and other analysis that cannot be completed prior to the completion of the Merger. The actual amounts recorded at the completion of the Merger may differ materially from the information and those differences could have a material impact on the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information and the combined company's future results of operations and financial performance. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations do not include expenses and certain write-offs related to debt refinancing that we expect to incur in connection with the Gentiva Transaction, which are estimated to be approximately \$157 million as of the date of this prospectus supplement. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations do not reflect the cost of any integration activities or benefits from synergies that may be derived from any integration activities.

Table of Contents**Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and Gentiva Health Services, Inc.****Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Balance Sheet**

As of September 30, 2014

(in thousands)

	Historical			Pro Forma Adjustments		Pro forma combined
	Kindred	Gentiva	Reclassifications	Merger related financing(k)	Allocation of Merger Consideration	
ASSETS						
Current assets:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 81,784	\$ 114,206	\$	\$ (1,915,058)	\$	\$ 73,495
				1,792,563		
Cash-restricted	2,390					2,390
Insurance subsidiary investments	95,425					95,425
Accounts receivable less allowance for loss	980,723	285,718	(47,919)(a)			1,224,380
			5,858(b)			
Inventories	25,952					25,952
Deferred tax assets	57,577	24,270				81,847
Income taxes	35,779		11,435(c)	46,967		94,181
Other	42,727	48,776	(5,858)(b)			74,210
			(11,435)(c)			
	1,322,357	472,970	(47,919)	(75,528)		1,671,880
Property and equipment, net	905,968	42,048			16,830(l)	964,846
Goodwill	995,240	374,024			(374,024)(l)	2,384,072
					1,388,832(l)	
Intangible assets less accumulated amortization	405,900	247,033			92,431(l)	745,364
Notes receivable from third party		25,000				25,000
Assets held for sale	2,222					2,222
Insurance subsidiary investments	158,394					158,394
Investment in Gentiva				751,479	(751,479)(m)	
Other	234,707	64,151		873	(1,190)(n)	303,659
				29,558		
				(24,440)		
Total Assets	\$ 4,024,788	\$ 1,225,226	\$ (47,919)	\$ 681,942	\$ 371,400	\$ 6,255,437
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY						
Current liabilities:						
Accounts payable	\$ 158,397	\$ 16,370	\$	\$	\$	\$ 174,767
Salaries, wages and other compensation	346,957	45,736	12,823(d)			473,376
			67,860(e)			
Deferred revenue		47,919	(47,919)(a)			
Due to third party payors	47,320		17,640(f)			64,960
Professional liability risks	66,974		10,402(g)			77,376
Other accrued liabilities	138,620		46,216(h)		(3,601)(o)	200,297
			19,014(i)			
			48(j)			
Medicare liabilities		17,640	(17,640)(f)			
Obligations under insurance programs		78,310	(10,402)(g)			
			(67,860)(e)			
			(48)(j)			
Accrued nursing home costs		19,014	(19,014)(i)			

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Long-term debt due within one year	10,233	51,138	(51,138)	19,928		
			9,695			
Accrued interest expense		7,788	(7,788)			
Other		59,039	(12,823)(d)			
			(46,216)(h)			
	768,501	342,954	(47,919)	(49,231)	(3,601)	1,010,704
Long-term debt	1,484,436	1,105,750	(1,124,450)	18,700(l)		3,046,386
			1,350,000			
			19,388			
			192,562			
Professional liability risks	243,496					243,496
Deferred tax liabilities	7,683	6,264		60,148(l)		74,095
Deferred credits and other liabilities	217,218	55,456	(7,741)	7,143(l)		272,076
Equity:						
Stockholders' equity:						
Common stock, par value	16,153	3,827	1,228	(3,827)(p)		19,779
			2,398			
Capital in excess of par value	1,357,134	466,777	98,772	(466,777)(p)		1,764,863
			195,917			
			120,917			
			(3,627)			
			(4,250)			
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(905)					(905)
Treasury stock		(19,165)		19,165(p)		
Accumulated deficit	(112,044)	(740,449)	(109,941)	740,449(p)		(221,985)
	1,260,338	(289,010)	301,414	289,010		1,561,752
Noncontrolling interests	43,116	3,812				46,928
Total equity	1,303,454	(285,198)	301,414	289,010		1,608,680
Total liabilities and equity	\$ 4,024,788	\$ 1,225,226	\$ (47,919)	\$ 681,942	\$ 371,400	\$ 6,255,437

See accompanying Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information

Table of Contents**Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and Gentiva Health Services, Inc.****Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations****For the year ended December 31, 2013****(in thousands, except per share amounts)**

	Historical		Gentiva Adjustments			Pro Forma Adjustments			Pro forma combined
	Kindred	Gentiva	Reclassifications	Harden Acquisition	After giving effect to reclassifications and Harden Acquisition	April 2014 Refinancing(y)	Merger related financing	Allocation of Merger Consideration	
Revenues	\$ 4,835,585	\$ 1,726,644	\$	\$ 355,480	\$ 2,082,124	\$	\$	\$	\$ 6,917,709
Cost of services sold		942,180	(942,180)						
	4,835,585	784,464	942,180	355,480	2,082,124				6,917,709
Salaries, wages and benefits	2,954,663		773,500	289,399	1,536,994				4,491,657
			474,095						
Supplies	322,941		85,259	15,010	107,834				430,775
			7,565						
Rent	311,526		43,370	8,957	52,327			(1,453)(v)	362,400
Other operating expenses	965,760		82,713	19,548	259,049				1,224,809
			156,788						
Other (income) expense	(1,442)		496	1,194	1,690				248
Impairment charges	77,193	612,380			612,380				689,573
Depreciation and amortization	154,206		708	6,582	31,203			(9,304)(t)	179,754
			23,913					3,649(u)	
Interest expense	108,009	113,088		8,787	121,875	(107,130)	(121,875)(aa)		203,483
						94,048	108,556(aa)		
Investment income	(4,046)	(2,704)		(32)	(2,736)				(6,782)
Selling, general and administrative		706,227	(706,227)						
	4,888,810	1,428,991	942,180	349,445	2,720,616	(13,082)	(13,319)	(7,108)	7,575,917
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes	(53,225)	(644,527)		6,035	(638,492)	13,082	13,319	7,108	(658,208)
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(11,319)	(39,953)		1,872	(38,081)	5,148(s)	5,241(s)	2,797(s)	(36,214)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	(41,906)	(604,574)		4,163	(600,411)	7,934	8,078	4,311	(621,994)
Earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests	(3,890)	(487)			(487)				(4,377)
Income (loss) attributable to Kindred from	\$ (45,796)	\$ (605,061)	\$	\$ 4,163	\$ (600,898)	\$ 7,934	\$ 8,078	\$ 4,311	\$ (626,371)

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

continuing
operations

Earnings (loss) per common share from continuing operations:			
Basic	\$(0.88)	\$(18.94)	\$(7.58)(w)
Diluted	\$(0.88)	\$(18.94)	\$(7.58)(w)
Shares used in computing earnings (loss) per common share:			
Basic	52,249	31,954	30,368(w) 82,617
Diluted	52,249	31,954	30,368(w) 82,617

See accompanying Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information

S-93

Table of Contents**Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and Gentiva Health Services, Inc.****Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations****For the nine months ended September 30, 2014****(in thousands, except per share amounts)**

	Historical		Reclassifications(r)	Pro Forma Adjustments			Pro forma combined
	Kindred	Gentiva		April 2014 Refinancing(z)	Merger related financing	Allocation of merger consideration	
Revenues	\$ 3,806,019	\$ 1,483,551	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 5,289,570
Cost of services sold		811,077	(811,077)				
	3,806,019	672,474	811,077				5,289,570
Salaries, wages and benefits	2,300,567		682,472				3,372,115
			389,076				
Supplies	242,176		68,062				313,927
			3,689				
Rent	241,449		33,467			(1,090)(v)	273,826
Other operating expenses	768,247		60,096		(5,279)(x)		941,758
			120,997		(2,303)(x)		
Other (income) expense	(741)	490	(267)				(518)
Depreciation and amortization	117,802		447			(5,287)(t)	130,325
			20,760			(3,397)(u)	
Interest expense	128,845	75,805		(82,087)	81,091(aa)		151,428
				23,579	(75,805)(aa)		
Investment income	(2,975)	(1,899)					(4,874)
Selling, general and administrative		567,722	(567,722)				
	3,795,370	642,118	811,077	(58,508)	(2,296)	(9,774)	5,177,987
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	10,649	30,356		58,508	2,296	9,774	111,583
Provision for income taxes	3,582	12,499		23,023(s)	904(s)	3,900(s)	43,908
Income from continuing operations	7,067	17,857		35,485	1,392	5,874	67,675
Earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests	(13,729)	(170)					(13,899)
Income (loss) attributable to Kindred from continuing operations	\$ (6,662)	\$ 17,687	\$	\$ 35,485	\$ 1,392	\$ 5,874	\$ 53,776

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Earnings (loss) per
common share from
continuing operations:

Basic	(\$0.12)	\$	0.49		\$0.63(w)
Diluted	(\$0.12)	\$	0.48		\$0.62(w)

Shares used in
computing earnings
(loss) per common
share:

Basic	56,443	36,285		26,928(w)	83,371
Diluted	56,443	37,052		28,219(w)	84,662

See accompanying Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information

S-94

Table of Contents

Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information

Note 1 Basis Of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the authoritative guidance for business combinations using the acquisition method of accounting.

The accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information presents the pro forma combined financial position and results of operations based upon the historical audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013 and unaudited financial statements as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, after giving effect to the Gentiva Transaction, the Harden Acquisition, the April 2014 Refinancing and the June 2014 Equity Offering. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect the cost of any integration activities or benefits from synergies that may be derived from any integration activities, nor does the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations include the effects of any items directly attributable to these transactions that are not expected to have a continuing impact on the combined results of operations. The effects of the April 2014 Refinancing, the June 2014 Equity Offering and the Harden Acquisition have been shown separately as these transactions have already occurred.

The accompanying unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet gives effect to the Gentiva Transaction as if the acquisition and related financing have been consummated on September 30, 2014, and includes estimated pro forma adjustments for the preliminary valuations of assets acquired and liabilities assumed. These adjustments are subject to further revision as additional information becomes available. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations give effect to all of the above transactions as if they had been consummated on January 1, 2013.

Note 2 Preliminary Allocation of Merger Consideration

On October 9, 2014, Kindred entered into the Merger Agreement with Gentiva, providing for Kindred's acquisition of all of the outstanding Gentiva Shares. Each Gentiva Share outstanding immediately prior to the effective time (subject to certain exceptions) will be converted into the right to receive \$14.50 in cash, without interest and 0.257 of a share of Common Stock. No fractional shares of Common Stock will be issued in the Merger and Gentiva stockholders will receive cash in lieu of fractional shares. The value of the equity consideration portion of the preliminary Merger Consideration is subject to change based upon changes in the market price of Common Stock prior to closing. The total value of the transaction, including the assumption and refinancing of Gentiva long-term debt and financing and transaction costs, is approximately \$2.1 billion.

Upon completion of the Merger, Gentiva stockholders will own approximately 12% of Kindred's outstanding Common Stock assuming 4.9 million shares issued during the Common Stock offering and 9.6 million shares issued directly to Gentiva stockholders.

Kindred has obtained a financing commitment from the various lenders in connection with the Merger. These funds, along with the proposed issuance of Common Stock and the Units in the public market, and existing cash balances are expected to be sufficient to fund the Cash Consideration to Gentiva stockholders, refinance Gentiva's revolving credit, term loan facilities and notes, and pay transaction costs. Subject to certain conditions, Kindred expects to have in place approximately \$3.6 billion of long-term financing, of which \$3.1 billion is expected to be

outstanding upon the consummation of the Merger.

Each Unit is comprised of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and a Purchase Contract. The Purchase Contracts were recorded as capital in excess of par value, net of issuance costs, and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock have been recorded as long-term debt due to the mandatory redemption feature. Issuance costs associated with the debt component were recorded as deferred financing costs and are being amortized using the

S-95

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

effective interest rate method over the term of the instrument. Proceeds from the issuance of the Units were allocated to equity and debt based on the relative fair values of the respective components of each Unit. Dividends on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock are treated as interest expense as the preferred stock is classified as debt.

An estimate of the Merger Consideration paid to Gentiva stockholders at the effective time and a preliminary allocation of the Merger Consideration to the assets to be acquired and the liabilities to be assumed follows (in thousands, except per share and per option amounts):

Estimate of Merger Consideration:	
Cash Consideration:	
Shares eligible at November 13, 2014 for Merger Consideration	37,328
Cash Consideration	\$ 14.50
	541,256
Gentiva employee stock options outstanding as of November 13, 2014	1,807
Weighted average intrinsic value per outstanding Gentiva stock option as of November 13, 2014	\$ 6.59
Cash buyout of stock options	11,908
Total Cash Consideration	553,164
Kindred equity consideration:	
Gentiva common stock and unvested restricted stock outstanding as of November 13, 2014	37,328
Exchange ratio	0.257
Assumed Common Stock to be issued	9,593
Kindred closing price per share as of November 13, 2014	\$ 20.36
Stock based equity consideration	195,313
Fair value of replacement stock options	3,002
Total equity consideration	198,315
Total Merger Consideration	\$ 751,479

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

Allocation of Merger Consideration to assets acquired and liabilities assumed:

	Historical balances of Gentiva as of September 30, 2014	Fair value adjustments	Allocation of Merger Consideration
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 114,206	\$	\$ 114,206
Accounts receivable	285,718		285,718
Deferred tax assets	24,270		24,270
Other current assets	48,776		48,776
Property and equipment	42,048	16,830	58,878
Identifiable intangible assets	247,033	92,431	339,464
Other assets	89,151	(1,190)	87,961
Current portion of long-term debt	(51,138)		(51,138)
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	(291,816)	3,601	(288,215)
Long-term debt, less current portion	(1,105,750)	(18,700)	(1,124,450)
Deferred tax liabilities	(6,264)	(60,148)	(66,412)
Other liabilities	(55,456)	(7,143)	(62,599)
Noncontrolling interests	(3,812)		(3,812)
Total identifiable net assets	(663,034)		(637,353)
Goodwill	374,024		1,388,832
Net assets	\$ (289,010)		\$ 751,479

A change of \$1 in the price of Common Stock would increase or decrease the equity consideration including unvested employee restricted shares and employee stock option consideration, by approximately \$10 million, which would result in a corresponding adjustment to goodwill.

The final Merger Consideration allocation for certain items, including property and equipment, identifiable intangible assets, leasehold interests, debt and noncontrolling interests, are preliminary and dependent upon certain valuations and other studies that have not been finalized and are subject to subsequent adjustments. The actual amounts recorded at the completion of the Merger may differ materially from the information presented herein.

Note 3 Reclassification and Pro Forma Adjustments

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information includes the following reclassification adjustments to conform the Gentiva balance sheet and statements of operations to Kindred's presentation, and pro forma adjustments to give effect to the April 2014 Refinancing and the Gentiva Transaction.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

In addition, the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2013 includes pro forma adjustments to incorporate the operating results of Harden for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 as the acquisition of Harden was not consummated by Gentiva until October 18, 2013. These adjustments were included in order to incorporate a full year of Harden's operations into Gentiva's statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2013 and should be read in conjunction with Gentiva's Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on December 23, 2013.

S-97

Table of Contents

Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)

Unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet adjustments

- a) To reclassify \$47.9 million of Gentiva deferred revenue to accounts receivable.
- b) To reclassify \$5.9 million of Gentiva third party receivables from other current assets to accounts receivable.
- c) To reclassify \$11.4 million of Gentiva income tax receivables from other current assets to income taxes.
- d) To reclassify \$12.8 million of Gentiva accrued incentive compensation from other accrued expenses to salaries, wages and other compensation.
- e) To reclassify \$67.9 million of Gentiva workers compensation and health liabilities from obligations under insurance programs to salaries, wages and other compensation.
- f) To reclassify \$17.6 million of Gentiva Medicare liabilities to due to third party payors.
- g) To reclassify \$10.4 million of Gentiva professional liability risks from obligations under insurance programs to professional liability risks.
- h) To reclassify \$46.2 million of Gentiva other current liabilities to other accrued liabilities.
- i) To reclassify \$19.0 million of Gentiva accruals from accrued nursing home costs to other accrued liabilities.
- j) To reclassify \$0.05 million of Gentiva accruals from obligations under insurance programs to other accrued liabilities
- k) Concurrently, and in connection with entering into the Merger Agreement, Kindred has entered into a Commitment Letter with various lenders pursuant to which Kindred received committed financing, including the Bridge Facility of up to \$1.7 billion if Kindred is unable to issue senior unsecured notes up to \$1.7 billion. The committed financing, together with cash on hand, are sufficient to fund the Gentiva Transaction. Accessing the Bridge Facility may not be necessary if Kindred is able to complete the Financing Transactions. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information assumes, based upon management's current expectations, that the Financing Transactions are completed prior to consummation of the proposed Merger and the Bridge Facility is not accessed. Kindred expects to pay financing costs of \$29.6 million related to executing these debt instruments that will be amortized over the terms of the loans.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, for purposes of the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, Kindred has assumed the Gentiva Transaction financing will consist of the following:

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

- 1) an assumed \$122.5 million in excess cash;
- 2) an assumed \$1.35 billion aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes;
- 3) the sale of 4.9 million shares of Common Stock at the November 13, 2014 closing price of \$20.36 per share resulting in estimated gross proceeds of approximately \$100 million and excluding any shares that may be issued if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares of Common Stock;
- 4) the issuance of 9.6 million shares of Common Stock directly to Gentiva stockholders;
- 5) the sale of approximately \$150 million of Units, comprised of approximately \$29.1 million of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and \$120.9 million of Purchase Contracts. For accounting purposes, the Purchase Contracts are recorded as capital in excess of par value, net of issuance costs, and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock is recorded as long-

S-98

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

term debt due to the mandatory redemption feature. Issuance costs associated with the debt component were recorded as deferred financing costs and are being amortized using the effective interest rate method over the term of the instrument. Proceeds from the issuance of the Units were allocated to equity and debt based on the relative fair values of the respective components of each Unit. Dividends on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock are recorded as interest expense as the preferred stock is classified as debt; and

- 6) an assumed draw of approximately \$192.6 million of Kindred's current ABL Facility.

The final terms of the Financing Transactions will be subject to market conditions and may change materially from the assumptions described above. Changes in assumptions described above with respect to Senior Notes, Common Stock, and Units of the Gentiva Transaction financing would result in changes to various components of the unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet, long-term debt, shareholders equity and various components of the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations, including interest expense and earnings per share. Depending upon the nature of the changes, the impact on the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information could be material.

Each 0.125% increase (decrease) in the assumed interest rate of the Senior Notes would increase (decrease) pro forma interest expense by approximately \$1.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 and approximately \$1.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, and would (increase) decrease earnings per share (basic and diluted) by approximately \$0.02 and \$0.01, respectively for the year ended December 31, 2013 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Each \$50.0 million increase (decrease) in the principal amount of the Senior Notes would increase (decrease) pro forma interest expense by \$3.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 and by \$2.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 respectively, and (increase) decrease earnings per share (basic and diluted) by approximately \$0.04 for the year ended December 31, 2013 and \$0.03 for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 respectively.

Each 0.125% increase (decrease) in the assumed interest rate of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of the Units would increase (decrease) pro forma interest expense by less than \$0.1 million for both the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2014, and would have no impact on earnings per share (basic and diluted) respectively for the year ended December 31, 2013 and nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Each \$10.0 million increase (decrease) in the principal amount of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of the Units would increase (decrease) pro forma interest expense by \$0.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 and by \$0.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, and (increase) decrease earnings per share (basic and diluted) by approximately \$0.01 for the year ended December 31, 2013 and have no impact on earnings per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2014.

For each 0.125% change in the assumed interest rate, the amount allocable to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of the Units would increase (decrease) by approximately \$0.1 million based on the current total assumed value of the instrument.

If we had to use the Bridge Facility of \$1.7 billion, the pro forma interest expense would be \$134 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 and \$116 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014. For each 0.125% increase (decrease) in the assumed interest rate on the Bridge Facility, pro forma interest expense would increase (decrease) \$2.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 and \$1.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, and would (increase) decrease earnings per share (basic and diluted) by approximately \$0.03 and \$0.02, respectively for the year ended December 31, 2013 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

Based on the assumptions outlined above, the following table outlines the anticipated sources and uses of funds (in thousands, except per share amounts):

Financing sources:		
Excess cash		\$ 122,495
New debt:		
\$1.35 billion Senior Notes		1,350,000
Units debt portion:		
Long-term debt	\$ 19,388	
Current portion of long-term debt	9,695	29,083
Existing ABL Facility draw		192,562
Equity exchanged and issued:		
Equity issued to open market:		
Common Stock, \$0.25 par value	1,228	
Capital in excess of par value	98,772	100,000
Equity exchanged:		
Common Stock, \$0.25 par value	2,398	
Capital in excess of par value	195,917	198,315
Units equity portion (capital in excess of par value)		120,917
		\$ 2,113,372
Financing uses:		
Consideration to acquire Gentiva (see Note 2):		
Cash Consideration	\$ 553,164	
Equity consideration	198,315	\$ 751,479
Retirement of Gentiva debt:		
Long-term debt	1,105,750	
Current portion of long-term debt	51,138	
Call premium on Gentiva's unsecured senior notes	18,700	
Accrued interest	7,788	
Unamortized debt discount	6,368	1,189,744
Long-term debt financing fees		29,558
Units financing fees debt portion (accounted for as deferred financing cost)		873
Units financing fees equity portion (accounted for as reduction to equity)		3,627
Equity to market issuance fee (accounted for as reduction to equity)		4,250
Settlement of Gentiva's long-term incentive plan		7,741
Expenses paid at closing		126,100
		\$ 2,113,372

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

Expenses related to Merger closing:	
Cash payments:	
Legal and professional fees	\$ 74,100
Employee change in control payments	35,000
Bridge Facility commitment fee	17,000
	126,100
Non-cash write-offs:	
Gentiva deferred financing costs	24,440
Gentiva unamortized debt discount	6,368
	30,808
	156,908
Income tax benefit(1)	(46,967)
	\$ 109,941

- (1) The combined company estimated statutory income tax rate of 39.35% was only applied to expenses related to the Merger that are expected to be deductible for income tax purposes.
- l) To adjust the tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed based upon preliminary estimates of fair value and eliminate historical Gentiva balances. To record a fair value adjustment related to Gentiva's unsecured senior notes of \$18.7 million based on trading value. The preliminary estimates of fair value for property and equipment and identifiable intangible assets follow (in thousands):

	Historical net book value as of September 30, 2014	Estimated fair value(1)	Estimated fair value adjustment
Property and equipment:			
Land and land improvements	\$ 595	\$ 595	\$
Buildings and improvements	8,503	15,313	6,810
Software and equipment	32,124	42,144	10,020
Construction in progress	826	826	
	\$ 42,048	\$ 58,878	\$ 16,830

- (1) Fair value is determined based upon a valuation report as of June 30, 2014, along with any subsequent additions or disposals in the period from July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014.

Identifiable intangible assets and liabilities:	Estimated fair value
Indefinite lived:	
Licenses and certificates of need	\$ 317,710
Finite lived:	
Trade name	17,700
Leasehold interest	2,124

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Legacy non-compete agreements		1,930
	\$	339,464
Leasehold interest liability	\$	(7,143)

S-101

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

The excess of the Merger Consideration for Gentiva over the fair value of its identifiable net assets of \$1.4 billion is recorded as goodwill. See Note 2.

Adjustments to deferred tax liabilities related to the tax effect of fair value adjustments (in thousands):

Property and equipment	\$ 6,555
Identifiable intangible assets and liabilities	53,593
	\$ 60,148

- m) To allocate the total Merger Consideration paid to Gentiva stockholders to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. See Note 2.
- n) To eliminate \$1.2 million of net unfavorable operating lease obligations recorded by Gentiva related to the Harden Acquisition.
- o) To eliminate \$3.6 million of deferred rent liabilities related to straight-line rent accruals. In subsequent periods following the date of the Merger, lease payments that are not contingent will continue to be accounted for on a straight-line basis.
- p) To eliminate the historical stockholders' equity balances of Gentiva.

Unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations adjustments

- q) To reclassify Gentiva's statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2013 to conform to Kindred's presentation (in thousands):

	Cost of services sold	Selling, general and administrative	Total expenses
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 773,500	\$ 474,095	\$ 1,247,595
Supplies	85,259	7,565	92,824
Rent		43,370	43,370
Other operating expenses	82,713	156,788	239,501
Other income (expense)		496	496
Depreciation and amortization	708	23,913	24,621
Selling, general and administrative expenses		(706,227)	(706,227)
Cost of services sold	(942,180)		(942,180)
	\$	\$	\$

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

- r) To reclassify Gentiva's statement of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 to conform to Kindred's presentation (in thousands):

	Cost of services sold	Selling, general and administrative	Total expenses
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 682,472	\$ 389,076	\$ 1,071,548
Supplies	68,062	3,689	71,751
Rent		33,467	33,467
Other operating expenses	60,096	120,997	181,093
Other income (expense)		(267)	(267)
Depreciation and amortization	447	20,760	21,207
Selling, general and administrative expenses		(567,722)	(567,722)
Cost of services sold	(811,077)		(811,077)
	\$	\$	\$

S-102

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

- s) To adjust the income tax provision to reflect the pro forma combined company estimated statutory income tax rate of 39.35%.
- t) To adjust depreciation expense based upon the estimated fair value of the property and equipment related to each asset's estimated remaining useful life (dollars in thousands):

	As of September 30, 2014			Estimated remaining useful life	Depreciation expense	
	Historical net book value	Estimated fair value adjustment	Estimated fair value		Year ended December 31, 2013	Nine months ended September 30, 2014
Land and land improvements	\$ 595	\$	\$ 595		\$	\$
Buildings and improvements	8,503	6,810	15,313	(1)	1,764	1,323
Software and equipment	32,124	10,020	42,144	4	10,536	7,902
Construction in progress	826		826			
	\$ 42,048	\$ 16,830	\$ 58,878	9	12,300	9,225
Historical Gentiva depreciation expense					21,604	14,512
Depreciation expense adjustment					\$ (9,304)	\$ (5,287)

- (1) Gentiva possesses a \$3.9 million building improvement asset which is depreciated using a life of 30 years. The remaining portion of the buildings and improvements assets are depreciated using a useful life of 7 years.

- u) To adjust intangible assets amortization expense based upon the estimated fair value of finite-lived intangible assets (dollars in thousands):

	As of September 30, 2014		Amortization expense	
	Estimated fair value	Estimated weighted average useful life	Year ended December 31, 2013	Nine months ended September 30, 2014
Trade name	\$ 17,700	(1)	\$ 12,390	\$ 2,655
Legacy non-compete agreements	1,930	2.25	858	643
	\$ 19,630		13,248	3,298
Historical Gentiva amortization expense			9,599	6,695
Amortization expense adjustment			\$ 3,649	\$ (3,397)

- (1) Amortization expense of 70% in year one, 20% in year two and 10% in year 3 is applied for the trade name based upon the assumed usage of this asset over a 3 year life.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

- v) To amortize the fair market value of leasehold interest assets and liabilities acquired over their remaining lease term in the amounts of \$1.5 million and \$1.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 respectively.

- w) Pro forma earnings (loss) from continuing operations per common share attributable to Kindred are based upon the weighted average number of common shares outstanding. On June 25, 2014, Kindred sold 9.0 million shares of Common Stock in the public market and on July 14, 2014, an additional 0.7 million shares of Common Stock were sold to the underwriters pursuant to the exercise of their option to purchase additional shares. While the share issuance is included in Kindred's September 30, 2014 balance sheet, for pro forma earnings (loss) per share, the earnings (loss) per share calculations

S-103

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

assume this Common Stock issuance occurred on January 1, 2013. The weighted average number of shares outstanding reflect the elimination of Gentiva's common stock and also includes 4.9 million shares issued during an additional Common Stock offering, 9.6 million shares issued directly to Gentiva stockholders, and shares related to the Units. The Units are assumed to be settled at the minimum settlement rate for weighted average shares for basic calculation of pro forma earnings (loss) from continuing operations per common share, which totaled 6.2 million shares. The diluted calculation of pro forma earnings (loss) from continuing operations per common share includes the dilutive effect of Kindred's stock options and the dilutive effect of the Units which are assumed to be settled at the maximum settlement rate, which resulted in incremental shares of 1.2 million. Kindred follows the provisions of the authoritative guidance for determining whether instruments granted in share-based payment transactions are participating securities, which requires that unvested restricted stock that entitles the holder to receive nonforfeitable dividends before vesting be included as a participating security in the basic and diluted earnings per common share calculation pursuant to the two-class method. A computation of pro forma earnings (loss) from continuing operations per common share follows for the year ending December 31, 2013 and nine months ended September 30, 2014 respectively (in thousands, except per share amounts).

	Basic	Diluted
For the year ended December 31, 2013:		
Pro forma loss:		
Loss attributable to Kindred stockholders from continuing operations:		
As reported in Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations	\$ (626,371)	\$ (626,371)
Allocation to participating unvested restricted stockholders		
Available to common stockholders	\$ (626,371)	\$ (626,371)
Shares used in the computation:		
Weighted average share outstanding - basic computation	82,617	82,617
Dilutive effect of Kindred employee stock options		
Dilutive effect of Kindred performance-based restricted shares		
Adjusted weighted average shares outstanding - diluted computation		82,617
Pro forma loss from continuing operations per common share	\$ (7.58)	\$ (7.58)
	Basic	Diluted
For the nine months ended September 30, 2014:		
Pro forma earnings:		
Income attributable to Kindred stockholders from continuing operations:		
As reported in Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations	\$ 53,776	\$ 53,776
Allocation to participating unvested restricted stockholders	(1,052)	(1,037)
Available to common stockholders	\$ 52,724	\$ 52,739
Shares used in the computation:		
Weighted average share outstanding - basic computation	83,371	83,371
Dilutive effect of Units		
Dilutive effect of Kindred employee stock options		1,228 63
Adjusted weighted average shares outstanding - diluted computation		84,662
Pro forma income from continuing operations per common share	\$ 0.63	\$ 0.62

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

- x) To eliminate \$5.3 million of direct incremental costs of the Merger that are reflected in the historical statement of operations of Kindred, and to eliminate \$2.3 million of direct incremental costs of the Merger that are reflected in the historical statement of operations of Gentiva.

S-104

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

- y) To eliminate historical interest expense and deferred financing cost amortization and recalculate interest expense based upon the new terms for the year ended December 31, 2013 related to the April 2014 Refinancing (dollars in thousands):

	Interest expense	Deferred cost amortization	Total decrease to interest expense
Historical Kindred interest expense eliminated	\$95,243	\$ 11,887	\$ 107,130
New interest expense:			Total increase to interest expense
\$750 million revolving credit facility	\$ 9,298	\$ 3,553	\$ 12,851
\$1 billion term loan	40,402	4,152	44,554
\$500 million senior unsecured notes	31,875	1,168	33,043
Interest rate swap	3,600		3,600
	\$ 85,175	\$ 8,873	\$ 94,048

Interest rates and term:	Interest rate index and margin	Assumed rate	Term (years)
\$750 million revolving credit facility (base rate)	N/A	4.50%	5
\$750 million revolving credit facility	LIBOR (1) + 2.25%	2.44%	5
\$1 billion term loan	LIBOR (2) + 3.00%	4.00%	7
\$500 million senior unsecured notes	N/A	6.38%	8
Interest rate swap	N/A	1.867%	4

- (1) LIBOR One month London Interbank Offered Rate
(2) LIBOR One month London Interbank Offered Rate with floor of 1.0%

- z) To eliminate historical interest expense and deferred financing cost amortization and recalculate interest expense based upon the new terms for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 related to the April 2014 Refinancing (dollars in thousands):

	Interest expense	Deferred cost amortization	Total decrease to interest expense
Historical Kindred interest expense eliminated	\$ 64,812	\$ 17,275	\$ 82,087
New interest expense:			Total increase to interest expense
\$750 million revolving credit facility	\$ 2,592	\$ 888	\$ 3,480

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

\$1 billion term loan	9,900	1,038	10,938
\$500 million senior unsecured notes	7,969	292	8,261
Interest rate swap	900		900
	\$ 21,361	\$ 2,218	\$ 23,579

S-105

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Condensed Combined Pro Forma Financial Information (Continued)**

Interest rates and term:	Interest rate index and margin	Assumed rate	Term (years)
\$750 million revolving credit facility (base rate)	N/A	4.25%	5
\$750 million revolving credit facility	LIBOR (1) + 2.00%	2.19%	5
\$1 billion term loan	LIBOR (2) + 3.00%	4.00%	7
\$500 million senior unsecured notes	N/A	6.38%	8
Interest rate swap	N/A	1.867%	4

- (1) LIBOR One month London Interbank Offered Rate
(2) LIBOR One month London Interbank Offered Rate with floor of 1.0%

- aa) To eliminate historical interest expense and deferred financing cost amortization related to Gentiva debt obligations that will be retired at the closing date of the Merger, and to add the new interest expense and deferred financing cost amortization related to new debt, which are computed as follows (dollars in thousands):

Historical Gentiva interest expense eliminated:	Interest expense	Deferred cost amortization	Total decrease to interest expense
Year ended December 31, 2013	\$ 91,075	\$ 30,800	\$ 121,875
Nine months ended September 30, 2014	\$ 71,033	\$ 4,772	\$ 75,805

New interest expense:	Debt borrowings	Deferred costs related to financing	Interest expense	Deferred cost amortization	Total increase to interest expense
Year ended December 31, 2013:					
\$1.35 billion Senior Notes	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 29,558	\$ 94,500	\$ 3,695	\$ 98,195
Units debt portion	29,083	873	1,284	291	1,575
Existing ABL Facility	192,562		8,786		8,786
	\$ 1,571,645	\$ 30,431	\$ 104,570	\$ 3,986	\$ 108,556
Nine months ended September 30, 2014:					
\$1.35 billion Senior Notes	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 29,558	\$ 70,875	\$ 2,771	\$ 73,646
Units debt portion	29,083	873	656	218	874
Existing ABL Facility	192,562		6,571		6,571
	\$ 1,571,645	\$ 30,431	\$ 78,102	\$ 2,989	\$ 81,091

Interest rates and term:	Interest rate index and margin per commitment letter	Assumed rate at closing	Term (years)
\$1.35 billion Senior Notes	LIBOR (1) + 2.00%	7.0%	8
Units debt portion	n/a	7.0%	3
Existing ABL Facility	n/a	4.5%	5

(1) LIBOR One month London Interbank Offered Rate with floor of 1.5%

S-106

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNITS

We are offering 150,000 Units (or 172,500 Units if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase additional Units in full), each with a stated amount of \$1,000. Each Unit is comprised of a Purchase Contract and one share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. As used in this section, the terms we, us and our mean Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and do not include any of its existing or future subsidiaries.

The following summary of the terms of the Units, the summary of the terms of the Purchase Contracts set forth under the caption Description of the Purchase Contracts and the summary of the terms of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock set forth under the caption Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in this prospectus supplement contain a description of all of the material terms of the Units and their components but are not complete. We refer you to:

the purchase contract agreement (the purchase contract agreement), to be dated the date of first issuance of the Units, to be entered into between us and U.S. Bank National Association, as purchase contract agent (the purchase contract agent) and attorney-in-fact for the holders of Purchase Contracts from time to time, pursuant to which the Purchase Contracts and Units will be issued; and

the certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, to be dated and to be filed by us with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on or prior to the date of first issuance of the Units, pursuant to which the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be issued.

The form of certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and the purchase contract agreement will be filed and incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement forms a part. Whenever particular sections or defined terms are referred to, such sections or defined terms are incorporated herein by reference.

Components of the Units

Each Unit offered is comprised of:

a Purchase Contract, pursuant to which we will deliver to the holder, not later than 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on December 1, 2017 (the mandatory settlement date), subject to postponement in certain limited circumstances, unless earlier redeemed or settled, a number of shares of our Common Stock per Purchase Contract equal to the settlement rate described below under Description of the Purchase Contracts Delivery of Common Stock, subject to adjustment; and

one share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock with an initial liquidation preference of \$ per share that, subject to certain conditions described below, entitles the holder thereof to equal quarterly preferred stock installment payments of \$ per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (or, in the case of the first preferred stock installment payment, \$ per share), subject to our right to deliver shares of our Common Stock in lieu of all or any portion of such payment.

Unless earlier settled at your option as described in Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Settlement at Option of Holder or Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Settlement Upon a Fundamental Change, settled at our option as described in Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Mandatory Settlement at Our Election or redeemed at our option as described in Description of the Purchase Contracts Merger

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Termination Redemption, on the mandatory settlement date, we will, based upon the applicable settlement rate (as defined below), which is based on fixed settlement rates that are subject to adjustment as described herein and determined by reference to the applicable market value (as defined below) of our Common Stock, as described below under Description of the Purchase Contracts Delivery of Common Stock, deliver to the holder thereof not more than shares and not less than shares of our Common Stock.

S-107

Table of Contents

Each share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will entitle the holder thereof to equal quarterly preferred stock installment payments of \$ _____ per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (or, in the case of the first preferred stock installment payment, \$ _____ per share), which will be payable in cash, shares of our Common Stock or a combination thereof, at our election, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, and will consist of a dividend payment and a payment of consideration (the Redemption Amount) for the partial reduction in liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (a Partial Redemption). On each quarterly preferred stock installment payment date (as defined below), we will partially reduce the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock until no liquidation preference remains. All shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be fully redeemed on the last preferred stock installment payment date. The dividend portion of each preferred stock installment payment will be payable only to the extent declared by our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) with respect to the relevant preferred stock installment payment date and subject to the existence of lawfully available funds therefor with respect to any such payments in cash, except that we will be required to pay, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, all accumulated dividends (whether or not declared) on the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to Partial Redemption on such preferred stock installment payment date.

The stated amount of each Unit must, for United States federal income tax purposes, be allocated between the share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and the Purchase Contract based upon their relative fair market values. We have determined that the fair market value of each share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock is \$ _____ and the fair market value of each Purchase Contract is \$ _____. As discussed in Deemed Actions by Holders by Acceptance below, each holder agrees to be bound by such allocation.

Separating and Recreating Units

Upon the conditions and under the circumstances described below, a holder of a Unit will have the right to separate a Unit into its component parts, and a holder of a separate Purchase Contract and a separate share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have the right to combine the two components to recreate a Unit.

Separating Units

At initial issuance, the Purchase Contracts and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock may be purchased and transferred only as Units and will trade under the CUSIP number for the Units.

On any business day during the period beginning on, and including, the business day immediately following the date of initial issuance of the Units to, but excluding, the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding (i) December 1, 2017, (ii) any early mandatory settlement date (as defined below) or (iii) any merger redemption settlement date (as defined below), and also excluding the business day immediately preceding any preferred stock installment payment date (provided that, for the avoidance of doubt, such right to separate the Units will resume after such payment date), you will have the right to separate your Unit into its constituent Purchase Contract and its constituent share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (which will thereafter trade under their respective CUSIP numbers), in which case that Unit will cease to exist. If you beneficially own a Unit in global form, you may separate it into its component Purchase Contract and component share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock by delivering written instructions to the broker or other direct or indirect participant through which you hold an interest in your Unit (your participant) to notify DTC through DTC's Deposit/Withdrawal at Custodian (DWAC) system of your desire to separate the Unit. Holders who elect to separate any Unit into the Purchase Contract and share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock shall be responsible for any fees or expenses payable in connection with such separation.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Business day means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or any day on which banking institutions in New York, New York are authorized or obligated by applicable law or executive order to close or be closed.

S-108

Table of Contents

Separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be transferable independently from each other.

Recreating Units

On any business day during the period beginning on, and including, the business day immediately following the date of initial issuance of the Units to, but excluding, the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding (i) December 1, 2017, (ii) any early mandatory settlement date or (iii) any merger redemption settlement date, and also excluding the business day immediately preceding any preferred stock installment payment date (provided that, for the avoidance of doubt, such right to recreate the Units will resume after such payment date), you may recreate a Unit from your separate Purchase Contract and separate share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. If you beneficially own a separate Purchase Contract and a separate share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, each of which is in global form, you may recreate a Unit by delivering written instruction to your participant to notify DTC through DTC's DWAC system of your desire to recreate the Unit. Holders who elect to recreate Units shall be responsible for any fees or expenses payable in connection with such recreation.

Global Securities

Your Unit, Purchase Contract and share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will initially be represented by global securities registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. You will not be entitled to receive definitive physical certificates for your Units, Purchase Contracts or shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, except under the limited circumstances described under Book-Entry Procedures and Settlement. Beneficial interests in a Unit and, after separation, the separate Purchase Contract and separate share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be shown on and transfers will be effected through direct or indirect participants in DTC.

Deemed Actions by Holders by Acceptance

Each holder of Units or separate Purchase Contracts, by acceptance of such securities, will be deemed to have:

irrevocably authorized and directed the purchase contract agent to execute, deliver and perform on its behalf the purchase contract agreement, and appointed the purchase contract agent as its attorney-in-fact for any and all such purposes;

in the case of a Purchase Contract that is a component of a Unit, or that is evidenced by a separate Purchase Contract, irrevocably authorized and directed the purchase contract agent to execute, deliver and hold on its behalf the separate Purchase Contract or the component Purchase Contract evidencing such Purchase Contract, and appointed the purchase contract agent as its attorney-in-fact for any and all purposes;

consented to the provisions of the purchase contract agreement;

represented that either (i) no portion of the assets used to acquire or hold the Units or separate Purchase Contracts or any interest therein constitutes assets of any employee benefit plan subject to Title I of the U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), any plan, account or other arrangement that is subject to Section 4975 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), or provisions under any other federal, state, local, non-U.S. or other laws or regulations that are similar to such

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

provisions of ERISA or the Code (Similar Laws), or an entity whose underlying assets are considered to include plan assets of any such plan, account or arrangement or (ii) the acquisition, holding and disposition of the Units or separate Purchase Contracts or any interest therein by the holder will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or a similar violation under any applicable Similar Law;

S-109

Table of Contents

in the case of a holder of a Unit, agreed, for all purposes, including U.S. federal income tax purposes, to treat:

a Unit as an investment unit composed of two separate instruments, in accordance with its form;

the Purchase Contract as a contract to acquire our Common Stock and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as shares of our preferred stock that will be fully redeemed no later than the last preferred stock installment payment date;

the \$1,000 stated amount per Unit as allocated between the Purchase Contract and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in the amounts of \$ and \$, respectively; and

agreed to be bound by the terms and provisions of the purchase contract agreement.

Listing of Securities

We will apply to list the Units on the NYSE under the symbol KNDU, subject to satisfaction of its minimum listing standards with respect to the Units. However, we can give no assurance that the Units will be so listed. If the Units are approved for listing, we expect that the Units will begin trading on the NYSE within 30 calendar days after the Units are first issued. In addition, the underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Units, but the underwriters are not obligated to do so. Listing on the NYSE does not guarantee that a trading market will develop, and the underwriters may discontinue market making at any time in their sole discretion without notice. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market will develop for the Units (or, if developed, that a liquid trading market will be maintained), that you will be able to sell Units at a particular time or that the prices you receive when you sell will be favorable.

We do not intend to apply to list the separate Purchase Contracts or the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on any securities exchange or automated inter-dealer quotation system. If (i) a sufficient number of Units are separated into separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and traded separately such that applicable listing requirements are met and (ii) a sufficient number of holders of such separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock request that we list such separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, we may endeavor to list such separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on an exchange of our choosing (which may or may not be the NYSE) subject to applicable listing requirements.

Our Common Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol KND. We have applied for the listing of the shares of our Common Stock deliverable upon settlement of the Purchase Contracts.

Title

We and the purchase contract agent and the transfer agent for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will treat the registered owner of any Unit or separate Purchase Contract or separate share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, as the absolute owner of the Unit or separate Purchase Contract or share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for the purpose of settling the related Purchase Contracts or making payments on the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and for all other purposes.

Accounting for the Units

We expect to record the issuance of the Purchase Contract portion of the Units as additional paid-in-capital, net of issuance costs of the Purchase Contracts, in our financial statements. We also expect to record the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock portion of the Units as long-term debt and to record the issuance costs of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as a deferred financing cost, which will be amortized over the term of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. We will allocate the proceeds from the issuance of the Units to the Purchase Contracts and shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock based on the relative fair values of the respective components, determined as of the date of issuance of the Units.

S-110

Table of Contents

Based on current GAAP, we do not expect the Purchase Contract component or the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of the Units to be revalued under fair value accounting principles. However, we expect the fair value as of the end of each reporting period of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of the units to be disclosed in our financial statements.

The shares of Common Stock issuable upon settlement of the Purchase Contract component of the Units may result in dilution to our earnings per share. Based on current GAAP, we expect that our earnings per share calculations will reflect, to the extent not anti-dilutive, the shares issuable upon settlement of the Purchase Contracts. For purposes of determining the number of shares included in the calculation, we intend to use the settlement rate as defined herein.

Replacement of Unit Certificates

In the event that physical certificates evidencing the Units have been issued, any mutilated Unit certificate will be replaced by us at the expense of the holder upon surrender of the mutilated certificate to the purchase contract agent. Unit certificates that become destroyed, lost or stolen will be replaced by us at the expense of the holder upon delivery to us and the purchase contract agent of evidence of their destruction, loss or theft satisfactory to us and the purchase contract agent. In the case of a destroyed, lost or stolen Unit certificate, an indemnity satisfactory to us and the purchase contract agent may be required at the expense of the registered holder of the Units before a replacement will be issued.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we will not be obligated to replace any Unit certificates on or after the third business day immediately preceding (i) December 1, 2017, (ii) any early settlement date or (iii) any merger redemption settlement date, and also excluding the business day immediately preceding any preferred stock installment payment date (provided that, for the avoidance of doubt, such right to replace the Unit certificates will resume after such payment date). In those circumstances, the purchase contract agreement will provide that, in lieu of the delivery of a replacement Unit certificate, the purchase contract agent, upon delivery of the evidence and indemnity described above, will deliver the shares of Common Stock issuable (and/or, in the case of a merger redemption settlement date, make the required cash payment, if any) pursuant to the Purchase Contracts included in the Units evidenced by the certificate.

Miscellaneous

The purchase contract agreement will provide that we will pay all fees and expenses related to the offering of the Units and the enforcement by the purchase contract agent of the rights of the holders of the Units or the separate Purchase Contracts or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, other than expenses (including legal fees) of the underwriters.

Should you elect to separate or recreate Units, you will be responsible for any fees or expenses payable in connection with that separation or recreation, and we will have no liability therefor.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE PURCHASE CONTRACTS

Each Purchase Contract, which initially forms a part of a Unit, will be issued pursuant to the purchase contract agreement, to be dated the date of the initial issuance of the Units, between us and U.S. Bank National Association, as purchase contract agent and attorney-in-fact for the holders of Purchase Contracts from time to time. The following summary of the terms of the Purchase Contracts contains a description of all of the material terms of the Purchase Contracts but is not complete. We refer you to the purchase contract agreement to be filed and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement forms a part.

As used in this section, the terms we, us and our mean Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and do not include any of its existing or future subsidiaries.

Delivery of Common Stock

Unless previously redeemed or settled early at your or our option, for each Purchase Contract we will deliver to you on December 1, 2017 (subject to postponement in certain limited circumstances described below, the mandatory settlement date) a number of shares of our Common Stock. The number of shares of our Common Stock issuable upon settlement of each Purchase Contract (the settlement rate) will be determined as follows:

if the applicable market value of our Common Stock is greater than \$ (the threshold appreciation price), then you will receive shares of Common Stock for each Purchase Contract (the minimum settlement rate);

if the applicable market value of our Common Stock is greater than or equal to \$ (the reference price) but less than or equal to the threshold appreciation price of \$, then you will receive a number of shares of our Common Stock (and any cash in lieu of fractional shares) for each Purchase Contract equal to the Unit stated amount of \$1,000, *divided by* the applicable market value; and

if the applicable market value of our Common Stock is less than the reference price of \$, then you will receive shares of our Common Stock for each Purchase Contract (the maximum settlement rate).

The maximum settlement rate, minimum settlement rate, reference price and threshold appreciation price are each subject to adjustment as described under Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates below. Each of the minimum settlement rate and the maximum settlement rate is referred to as a fixed settlement rate.

The reference price is the public offering price of our Common Stock in the concurrent Common Stock Offering.

The threshold appreciation price is equal to \$1,000, *divided by* the minimum settlement rate (rounded to the nearest \$0.0001), representing an appreciation of approximately % over the reference price.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

For illustrative purposes only, the following table shows the number of shares of our Common Stock issuable upon settlement of a Purchase Contract at the assumed applicable market values, based on a reference price of \$ and a threshold appreciation price of \$. The table assumes that there will be no adjustments to the fixed settlement rates described under Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates below and that the Purchase Contracts have not been redeemed as described under Merger Termination Redemption below or settled early at our option or the option of holders as described under Early Settlement at Option of Holder, Early Settlement Upon a Fundamental Change or Early Mandatory Settlement at Our Election below. We cannot assure you that the actual applicable market value will be within the assumed range set forth below.

S-112

Table of Contents

than or less than the number that would have been delivered based on the last reported sale price of our Common Stock on the last trading day in such 20 consecutive trading day period. In addition, you will bear the risk of fluctuations in the market price of the shares of Common Stock deliverable upon settlement of the Purchase Contracts between the end of such 20 consecutive trading day period and the date such shares are delivered.

The term **applicable market value** means the average of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock for the 20 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017.

The term **daily VWAP** of our Common Stock means, on any date of determination, the per share volume-weighted average price as displayed under the heading **Bloomberg VWAP on Bloomberg page KND <equity> AQR** (or its equivalent successor if such page is not available) in respect of the period from the scheduled open of trading on the relevant trading day until the scheduled close of trading on the relevant trading day (or if such volume weighted average price is unavailable, the market price of one share of our Common Stock on such trading day determined, using a volume-weighted average method, by a nationally recognized independent investment banking firm retained for this purpose by us).

The term **trading day** means a day on which:

there is no **market disruption event** (as defined below); and

trading in our Common Stock generally occurs on the reference securities exchange (as defined below).

Reference securities exchange means the NYSE or, if our Common Stock is not then listed on the NYSE, the principal other United States national or regional securities exchange on which our Common Stock is then listed or, if our Common Stock is not then listed on a United States national or regional securities exchange, the principal other market on which our Common Stock is then listed or admitted for trading.

If our Common Stock is not listed or admitted for trading on any U.S. national or regional securities exchange or other market, **trading day** means a business day.

A **scheduled trading day** is a day that is scheduled to be a trading day on the reference securities exchange. If our Common Stock is not listed or admitted for trading on any U.S. national or regional securities exchange or other market, **scheduled trading day** means a business day.

A **market disruption event** means:

a failure by the reference securities exchange to open for trading during its regular trading session; or

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

the occurrence or existence prior to 1:00 p.m., New York City time, on any scheduled trading day for our Common Stock for more than one half-hour period in the aggregate during regular trading hours of any suspension or limitation imposed on trading (by reason of movements in price exceeding permitted limits or otherwise) in our Common Stock or in any options contracts or future contracts relating to our Common Stock.

On the mandatory settlement date, our Common Stock will be issued and delivered to you or your designee, upon:

if the Units that include such Purchase Contracts or such separate Purchase Contracts are held in global form, surrender of such global securities in compliance with the standing arrangements between DTC and the purchase contract agent; or if the Units that include such Purchase Contracts or such separate Purchase Contracts are held in certificated form, surrender of such definitive securities; and

payment by you of any transfer or similar taxes payable in connection with the issuance of our Common Stock to any person other than you.

S-114

Table of Contents

If one or more of the 20 scheduled trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017 is not a trading day, the mandatory settlement date will be postponed until the third scheduled trading day immediately following the last trading day of the 20 consecutive trading day period during which the applicable market value is determined.

Prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 20 consecutive trading day period during which the applicable market value is determined, the shares of our Common Stock underlying each Purchase Contract will not be outstanding, and the holder of such Purchase Contract will not have any voting rights, rights to dividends or other distributions or other rights of a holder of our Common Stock by virtue of holding such Purchase Contract. The person in whose name any shares of our Common Stock shall be issuable upon settlement of the Purchase Contract on the mandatory settlement date will become the holder of record of such shares as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 20 consecutive trading day period during which the applicable market value is determined.

We will pay any documentary, stamp or similar issue or transfer tax due on the issue of any shares of our Common Stock upon settlement or redemption of the Purchase Contracts, unless the tax is due because the holder requests any shares to be issued in a name other than the holder's name, in which case the holder will pay that tax.

Early Settlement at Option of Holder

On any trading day prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017, you, as a holder of a Unit or a holder of a separate Purchase Contract, may elect to settle your Purchase Contract early, in whole or in part, and receive a number of shares of Common Stock per Purchase Contract at the early settlement rate. The early settlement rate is equal to the minimum settlement rate on the early settlement date, subject to adjustment as described below under Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates, unless you elect to settle your Purchase Contract early in connection with a fundamental change (as defined below), in which case you will receive upon settlement of your Purchase Contract a number of shares of our Common Stock based on the fundamental change early settlement rate as described under Early Settlement Upon a Fundamental Change.

Your right to receive our Common Stock upon early settlement of your Purchase Contract is subject to:

delivery of a written and signed notice of election (an early settlement notice) in the form attached to the Purchase Contract to the purchase contract agent electing early settlement of your Purchase Contract;

if the Units that include such Purchase Contracts or such separate Purchase Contracts are held in global form, surrender of such global securities (or a reduction in the number of Purchase Contracts represented thereby, if applicable) in compliance with the standing arrangements between DTC and the purchase contract agent; if the Unit that includes such Purchase Contract or such separate Purchase Contract is held in certificated form, surrendering the certificates representing the Purchase Contract; and

payment by you of any transfer or similar taxes payable in connection with the issuance of our Common Stock to any person other than you.

Upon compliance with the requirements described above, you will receive the applicable number of shares of Common Stock (and any cash in lieu of fractional shares) issuable as a result of your exercise of your right to early settle on the third business day following the early settlement date (as defined below).

If you comply with the requirements for effecting early settlement of your Purchase Contracts earlier than 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on any business day, then that day will be considered the early settlement date. If you comply with such requirements at or after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on any business day or at any time on a day that is not a business day, then the next succeeding business day will be considered the early settlement date.

S-115

Table of Contents

The person in whose name any shares of our Common Stock shall be issuable upon such early settlement of the Purchase Contract will become the holder of record of such shares as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the relevant early settlement date.

Upon early settlement of the Purchase Contract component of a Unit, a separate share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock representing the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of such Unit will be issued in the manner set forth herein and will remain outstanding and beneficially owned by or registered in the name of, as the case may be, the holder who elected to settle the related Purchase Contract early.

Early Settlement Upon A Fundamental Change

At any time prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017, if a fundamental change occurs, you, as a holder of Units or a holder of a separate Purchase Contract, may elect to settle your Purchase Contracts early, in whole or in part, in which case you will receive a number of shares of our Common Stock (and any cash in lieu of fractional shares) (or, if a reorganization event has occurred, units of exchange property (as defined below)) based on the fundamental change early settlement rate. An early settlement will be deemed for these purposes to be in connection with such fundamental change if you deliver your early settlement notice to the purchase contract agent, and otherwise satisfy the requirements for effecting early settlement of your Purchase Contracts, during the period beginning on, and including, the date on which the fundamental change occurs or becomes effective (the effective date) and ending at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the 30th business day thereafter (or, if earlier, the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding December 1, 2017) (the fundamental change early settlement period). We refer to this right as the fundamental change early settlement right.

A holder's right to Common Stock (or, if a reorganization event has occurred, units of exchange property) upon early settlement in connection with a fundamental change is subject to compliance with the conditions described under Early Settlement at Option of Holder. Upon compliance with the requirements described above, you will receive the shares of our Common Stock (and any cash in lieu of fractional shares) (or, if a reorganization event has occurred, units of exchange property) issuable as a result of your exercise of the fundamental change early settlement right on the third business day following the fundamental change early settlement date (as defined below).

If you comply with the requirements for effecting early settlement of your Purchase Contracts in connection with a fundamental change prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on any business day during the fundamental change early settlement period, then that day will be considered the fundamental change early settlement date. If you comply with such requirements at or after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on any business day or at any time on a day that is not a business day during the fundamental change early settlement period, then the next succeeding business day will be considered the fundamental change early settlement date.

We will provide the purchase contract agent and the holders of Units and separate Purchase Contracts with a notice of a fundamental change within five business days after its occurrence, issue a press release announcing such effective date and post such press release on our website. The notice will also set forth, among other things:

the applicable fundamental change early settlement rate;

if not solely our Common Stock, the kind and amount of cash, securities and/or other property receivable by the holder upon settlement;
and

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

the deadline by which each holder's fundamental change early settlement right must be exercised.

A fundamental change will be deemed to have occurred upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- (a) our Common Stock (or other common stock receivable upon settlement of your Purchase Contract, if applicable) is not listed for trading on NYSE, the NASDAQ Global Select Market or the NASDAQ Global Market (or any of their respective successors);

S-116

Table of Contents

- (b) the consummation of any acquisition (whether by means of a liquidation, share exchange, tender offer, consolidation, recapitalization, reclassification, merger of us) as a result of which our Common Stock is exchanged for, converted into or represents solely the right to receive cash, securities or other property, or any sale, lease or other transfer of all or substantially all of the consolidated assets of ours and our subsidiaries;
- (c) a person or group within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, other than us, any of our wholly owned subsidiaries and any of our or their employee benefit plans, files a Schedule TO or any schedule, form or report under the Exchange Act disclosing that such person or group has become the direct or indirect beneficial owner, as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, of our Common Stock representing more than 50% of the voting power of our Common Stock;

provided that notwithstanding the foregoing, a fundamental change will not be deemed to occur under clause (b) or (c) above in the case of any transaction or series of transactions of the type described in clause (b), if our Common Stock is exchanged for, converted into or constitutes solely the right to receive cash, securities or other property, at least 90% of which consists of shares of common equity securities that are, or that upon issuance will be, listed for trading on NYSE, the NASDAQ Global Select Market or the NASDAQ Global Market (or any of their respective successors), and, as a result therefrom, such securities become the exchange property for the purchase contracts.

The fundamental change early settlement rate will be determined by reference to the table below, based on the effective date and the stock price in the fundamental change, which will be:

in the case of a fundamental change described in clause (b) of the definition of fundamental change in which holders of shares of our Common Stock receive only cash in the fundamental change, the stock price will be the cash amount paid per share of our Common Stock; and

in all other cases, the stock price will be the average of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the effective date.

The stock prices set forth in the first column of the table below will be adjusted as of any date on which any fixed settlement rate is otherwise adjusted. The adjusted stock prices will equal the stock prices applicable immediately prior to such adjustment, *multiplied by* a fraction, the numerator of which is the maximum settlement rate immediately prior to the adjustment giving rise to the stock price adjustment and the denominator of which is the maximum settlement rate as so adjusted. The fundamental change early settlement rate per Purchase Contract in the table below will be adjusted at the same time and in the same manner as the fixed settlement rates as set forth under Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

If you exercise the fundamental change early settlement right following a reorganization event (as defined below), as a result of which our Common Stock would be converted into, or exchanged for, exchange property consisting of securities, cash and/or other property, we will deliver a number of units of exchange property equal to the number of shares of our Common Stock we would otherwise be required to deliver, as described below.

S-118

Table of Contents

The person in whose name any shares of our Common Stock or other securities, if applicable, shall be issuable following exercise of a holder's fundamental change early settlement right will become the holder of record of such shares or other securities, if applicable, as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the fundamental change early settlement date.

Upon early settlement of the Purchase Contract component of a Unit upon a fundamental change at your election, a separate share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock representing the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of such Unit will be issued in the manner set forth herein and will remain outstanding, and beneficially owned by or registered in the name of, as the case may be, the holder who elected to settle the related Purchase Contract early upon the fundamental change.

If you do not elect to exercise your fundamental change early settlement right, your Purchase Contracts will remain outstanding and will be subject to normal settlement on any subsequent early settlement date, subsequent fundamental change early settlement date or the mandatory settlement date or redemption on any subsequent merger redemption settlement date, and, to the extent that the relevant fundamental change constitutes a reorganization event, the provisions set forth under Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates regarding the occurrence of such reorganization event.

Early Mandatory Settlement at Our Election

We have the right to settle the Purchase Contracts on or after May 1, 2015, in whole but not in part, on a date fixed by us as described below at the early mandatory settlement rate described below. We refer to this right as our early mandatory settlement right.

The early mandatory settlement rate will be the maximum settlement rate as of the notice date, unless the daily VWAP of our Common Stock for 20 or more trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the notice date (as defined below) exceeds 130% of the threshold appreciation price in effect on each such trading day, in which case the early mandatory settlement rate will be the minimum settlement rate as of the notice date.

If we elect to settle the Purchase Contracts early, you will have the right to require us to redeem your shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, on the redemption date and at the redemption price as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at Option of Holder. If we exercise our early mandatory settlement right and the holder of any Unit does not require us to redeem the share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that is a component of such Unit, such share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will remain outstanding, and beneficially owned by or registered in the name of, as the case may be, such holder.

If we elect to exercise our early mandatory settlement right, we will provide the purchase contract agent and the holders of Units, separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock with a notice of our election (the early mandatory settlement notice), issue a press release announcing our election and post such press release on our website. The early mandatory settlement notice will specify, among other things:

the early mandatory settlement rate;

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

the date on which we will deliver shares of our Common Stock following exercise of our early mandatory settlement right (the early mandatory settlement date), which will be on or after May 1, 2015 and at least 5 but not more than 30 business days following the date of our notice (the notice date);

that holders of Units and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have the right to require us to redeem their shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that are components of the Units or their separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be;

S-119

Table of Contents

the redemption price and redemption date (each as defined below under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at Option of Holder);

the last date on which holders may exercise their redemption right; and

the procedures that holders must follow to require us to redeem their Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

We will deliver the shares of our Common Stock and any cash in lieu of fractional shares to you on the early mandatory settlement date.

The person in whose name any shares of our Common Stock shall be issuable following exercise of our early mandatory settlement right will become the holder of record of such shares as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the notice date.

Merger Termination Redemption

If the Merger Agreement has terminated, we may elect to redeem all, but not less than all, of the outstanding Purchase Contracts, on the terms described below (a merger termination redemption), by delivering notice within the five business days immediately following May 1, 2015 (such notice, the merger redemption notice and the business day on which we deliver such notice, the merger redemption notice date) to the purchase contract agent and all holders of Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, issuing a press release announcing our election and posting such press release on our website.

In the event of a merger termination redemption, you will have the right to require us to redeem your shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as described under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at Option of Holder. If we exercise our right to cause a merger termination redemption and the holder of any Unit or separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock does not require us to redeem the share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, such share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will remain outstanding and beneficially owned by or registered in the name of, as the case may be, such holder.

The merger redemption notice will specify, among other things:

the merger termination stock price and the reference price;

the scheduled merger redemption settlement date;

if the merger redemption amount will be determined pursuant to the first bullet in the definition thereof, the merger redemption amount;

if the merger redemption amount will be determined pursuant to the second bullet in the definition thereof, the merger redemption rate;

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

if applicable, the number of shares of our Common Stock that would otherwise be included in the applicable merger redemption amount that will be replaced with cash;

that holders of Units and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have the right to require us to redeem their shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that are components of the Units or their separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be;

the redemption price and redemption date (each as defined below under Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at Option of Holder);

the last date on which holders may exercise their redemption right; and

the procedures that holders must follow to require us to redeem their shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

S-120

Table of Contents

If the merger redemption amount will be determined pursuant to the second bullet in the definition thereof and we do not specify a number of shares of our Common Stock that will be replaced with cash in the merger redemption notice, we will be deemed to have elected to settle the merger redemption amount solely in shares.

In the event of a merger termination redemption, in respect of each Purchase Contract, we will deliver the applicable merger redemption amount on the merger redemption settlement date.

Merger redemption amount means:

if the merger termination stock price is equal to or less than the reference price (subject to adjustment at the same time and in the same manner as the merger termination stock prices in the table below), an amount of cash equal to % of the allocated fair value of the Purchase Contract (\$), which would be \$; or

otherwise, a number of shares of our Common Stock equal to the merger redemption rate determined by reference to the table set forth below; provided that we may elect to pay cash in lieu of all or any of the number of shares of our Common Stock in an amount equal to such number of shares *multiplied* by the redemption market value; provided further, that, if we so elect to pay cash in lieu of such shares of our Common Stock, we will specify in the merger redemption notice the number of shares of our Common Stock that will be replaced with cash.

Merger termination stock price means the average of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding May 1, 2015.

Redemption market value means the average of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock for the 20 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 23rd scheduled trading day immediately preceding the scheduled merger redemption settlement date.

The table below sets forth the merger redemption rate per Purchase Contract for each merger termination stock price. The merger termination stock prices set forth in the table below will be adjusted as of any date on which any fixed settlement rates are otherwise adjusted. The adjusted merger termination stock prices will equal the merger termination stock prices applicable immediately prior to such adjustment, *multiplied* by a fraction, the numerator of which is the maximum settlement rate immediately prior to the adjustment giving rise to the merger termination stock price adjustment and the denominator of which is the maximum settlement rate as so adjusted. The merger redemption rates in the table below will be adjusted at the same time and in the same manner as the fixed settlement rates as set forth under Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates.

The following table sets forth the merger redemption rate per Purchase Contract for each merger termination stock price set forth below:

Merger Termination Stock Price	Merger Redemption Rate
\$, which is equal to the reference price	(maximum redemption rate)
\$	
\$	
\$	

\$	
\$	
\$	(minimum redemption rate)

S-121

Table of Contents

The exact merger termination stock prices may not be set forth in the table above, in which case:

if the applicable merger termination stock price is between two merger termination stock prices in the table, the merger redemption rate will be determined by straight line interpolation between the merger redemption rates set forth for the higher and lower merger termination stock prices;

if the merger termination stock price is greater than \$ _____ per share (subject to adjustment at the same time and in the same manner as the merger termination stock prices set forth in the table above), then the merger redemption rate will be the minimum redemption rate; or

if the merger termination stock price is less than \$ _____ per share (subject to adjustment at the same time and in the same manner as the merger termination stock prices set forth in the table above), then the merger redemption rate will be the maximum redemption rate.

Merger redemption settlement date means:

if (x) the merger termination stock price is greater than the reference price and (y) we elect to pay cash in lieu of any or all of the shares of our Common Stock that would otherwise be included in the merger redemption amount, the third business day following the last trading day of the 20 consecutive trading day period used to determine the redemption market value; or

otherwise, the scheduled merger redemption settlement date specified in the merger redemption notice.

Scheduled merger redemption settlement date means:

if (x) the merger termination stock price is greater than the reference price and (y) we elect to pay cash in lieu of any or all of the shares of our Common Stock that would otherwise be included in the merger redemption amount, a date that must be at least 45 and no more than 60 calendar days after the merger redemption notice date; or

otherwise, a date that must be at least 5 and no more than 30 calendar days after the merger redemption notice date.

The person in whose name any shares of our Common Stock shall be issuable will become the holder of record of such shares as of 5:00 p.m., New York City time:

on the merger redemption notice date, if we have elected (or are deemed to have elected) to settle the merger redemption amount solely in shares of our Common Stock; or

on the last trading day of the 20 consecutive trading day period used to determine the redemption market value, if the merger termination stock price is greater than the reference price and we elect to pay cash in lieu of a portion but not all shares of our Common Stock.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

In connection with a merger termination redemption, we will:

comply with any provisions of the tender offer rules under the Exchange Act that may then be applicable; and

if required by law, file a Schedule TO or any other required schedule under the Exchange Act.

S-122

Table of Contents**Adjustments to the Fixed Settlement Rates**

Each fixed settlement rate will be adjusted, without duplication, upon:

- (a) The issuance of our Common Stock as a dividend or distribution to all or substantially all holders of Common Stock, or a subdivision or combination of Common Stock, in which event each fixed settlement rate will be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$SR_1 = SR_0 \times \frac{OS_1}{OS_0}$$

where,

- SR_0 = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date (as defined below) for such dividend or distribution or immediately prior to 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the effective date for such subdivision or combination, as the case may be;
- SR_1 = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on such record date or immediately after 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on such effective date, as the case may be;
- OS_0 = the number of shares of our Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on such record date or immediately prior to 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on such effective date, as the case may be (in either case, prior to giving effect to such event); and
- OS_1 = the number of shares of our Common Stock that would be outstanding immediately after, and solely as a result of, such dividend, distribution, subdivision or combination.

Any adjustment made pursuant to this clause (a) will become effective immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such dividend or distribution, or immediately after 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the effective date for such share subdivision or share combination, as the case may be. If any dividend or distribution of the type described in this clause (a) is declared but not so paid or made, each fixed settlement rate will be immediately readjusted, effective as of the date our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) publicly announces its decision not to pay or make such dividend or distribution, to such fixed settlement rate that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared. For the purposes of this clause (a), the number of shares of our Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such dividend or distribution or 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the effective date for such share subdivision or share combination, as applicable, will not include shares held in treasury but will include any shares issuable in respect of any scrip certificates issued in lieu of fractions of shares of Common Stock. We will not pay any dividend or make any distribution on shares of our Common Stock held in treasury.

- (b) The issuance to all or substantially all holders of our Common Stock of rights, options or warrants entitling them for a period expiring 45 calendar days or less from the date of issuance of such rights, options or warrants to subscribe for or purchase shares of our Common Stock at a price per share less than the average of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement for such distribution per share of our Common Stock, in which event each fixed settlement rate will be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$SR_1 = SR_0 \times \frac{(OS_0 + X)}{(OS_0 + Y)}$$

Table of Contents

where,

- SR₀ = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such issuance;
- SR₁ = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on such record date;
- OS₀ = the number of shares of our Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on such record date;
- X = the total number of shares of our Common Stock issuable pursuant to such rights, options or warrants; and
- Y = the total number of shares of Common Stock equal to the aggregate price payable to exercise such rights, options or warrants, *divided by* the average of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement for such distribution per share of our Common Stock.

Any adjustment made pursuant to this clause (b) will be made successively whenever any such rights, options or warrants are issued and will become effective immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such issuance. In the event that such rights, options or warrants described in this clause (b) are not so issued, each fixed settlement rate will be immediately readjusted, effective as of the date our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) publicly announces its decision not to issue such rights, options or warrants, to such fixed settlement rate that would then be in effect if such issuance had not been declared. To the extent that such rights, options or warrants are not exercised prior to their expiration or shares of our Common Stock are otherwise not delivered pursuant to such rights, options or warrants upon the exercise of such rights, options or warrants, each fixed settlement rate will be immediately readjusted, effective as of the date of such expiration or the date of such exercise, as the case may be, to such fixed settlement rate that would then be in effect had the adjustment with respect to the issuance of such rights, options or warrants been made on the basis of the delivery of only the number of shares of our Common Stock actually delivered.

In determining whether any rights, options or warrants entitle the holders of our Common Stock to subscribe for or purchase shares of our Common Stock at less than such average of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement for such distribution per share of our Common Stock, and in determining the aggregate price payable to exercise such rights, options or warrants, there shall be taken into account any consideration received by us for such rights, options or warrants and any amount payable on exercise or conversion thereof, the value of such consideration, if other than cash, to be determined by our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof).

For the purposes of this clause (b), the number of shares of our Common Stock at the time outstanding will not include shares held in treasury but will include any shares issuable in respect of any scrip certificates issued in lieu of fractions of shares of our Common Stock. We will not issue any such rights or warrants, options in respect of shares of our Common Stock held in treasury.

- (c) (i) The dividend or other distribution to all or substantially all holders of our Common Stock of shares of our capital stock, evidences of our indebtedness, assets or rights, options or warrants to acquire our capital stock, indebtedness or assets, excluding:

any dividend, distribution or issuance covered by clause (a) or (b) above or (d) below;

any dividend or distribution in connection with a spin-off covered by clause (c)(ii) below relating to spin-offs; and

Table of Contents

any securities, cash or other property that is distributed in, and will constitute exchange property as a result of, a reorganization event (as described below),

in which event each fixed settlement rate will be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$SR_1 = SR_0 \times \frac{SP_0}{(SP_0 \text{ FMV})}$$

where,

- SR₀ = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such dividend or distribution;
- SR₁ = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on such record date;
- SP₀ = the average of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding such ex-date for such dividend or distribution; and
- FMV = the fair market value (as determined by our board of directors or an authorized committee thereof) on the ex-date for such dividend or distribution, of the shares of our capital stock, evidences of our indebtedness, assets or rights, options or warrants so distributed, expressed as an amount per share of our Common Stock.

If FMV (as defined above) is equal to or greater than SP₀ (as defined above) or if the difference between SP₀ and FMV is less than \$1.00, in lieu of the foregoing adjustment, provision shall be made for each holder of a Unit or separate Purchase Contract to receive, for each Unit or separate Purchase Contract, at the same time and upon the same terms as holders of Common Stock, the kind and amount of our capital stock, evidences of our indebtedness, our assets or rights, options or warrants that such holder would have received if such holder owned a number of shares of our Common Stock equal to the maximum settlement rate in effect on the record date for the dividend or distribution.

Any adjustment made pursuant to this clause (c)(i) will become effective immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such dividend or distribution. In the event that such dividend or distribution is not so paid or made, each fixed settlement rate will be readjusted, effective as of the date our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) publicly announces its decision not to pay or make such dividend or distribution, to such fixed settlement rate that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared.

(ii) If the transaction that gives rise to an adjustment pursuant to this clause (c) is one pursuant to which the payment of a dividend or other distribution on our Common Stock consists of shares of capital stock of, or similar equity interests in, a subsidiary or other business unit of ours (i.e., a spin-off) that are, or, when issued, will be, listed or quoted on a U.S. national securities exchange, then each fixed settlement rate will instead be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$SR_1 = SR_0 \times \frac{(FMV_0 + MP_0)}{MP_0}$$

where,

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

- SR_0 = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the ex-date for the spin-off;
- SR_1 = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the ex-date for the spin-off;

S-125

Table of Contents

- FMV₀ = the average of the daily VWAPs of the capital stock or similar equity interests distributed to holders of Common Stock (determined as if such capital stock or similar equity interest were our Common Stock, and the reference in the definition of daily VWAP to KND were replaced with the ticker symbol for such capital stock or similar equity interest) applicable to one share of Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the ex-date for the spin-off; and
- MP₀ = the average of the daily VWAPs of Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the ex-date for the spin-off.

Any adjustment made pursuant to this clause (c)(ii) will become effective immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the effective date for the spin-off; provided that if any date for determining the number of shares of our Common Stock issuable to a holder of Unit or separate Purchase Contract occurs during the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the effective date for the spin-off, references in this clause (c)(ii) to 10 consecutive trading days will be deemed to be replaced with such lesser number of consecutive trading days as have elapsed between the beginning of the 10 consecutive trading day period and such determination date for purposes of determining the fixed settlement rates. In the event that such distribution described in this clause (c)(ii) is not so made, each fixed settlement rate will be readjusted, effective as of the date our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) publicly announces its decision not to pay such distribution, to such fixed settlement rate that would then be in effect if such distribution had not been declared.

(d) The dividend or distribution to all or substantially all holders of our Common Stock of exclusively cash, excluding:

a regular, quarterly cash dividend that does not exceed \$0.12 per share (the initial dividend threshold);

any cash that is distributed in, and will constitute exchange property as a result of, a reorganization event (as described below); and

any dividend or distribution in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up,

in which event, each fixed settlement rate will be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$SR_1 = SR_0 \times \frac{(SP_0 - T)}{(SP_0 - C)}$$

where,

- SR₀ = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such dividend or distribution;
- SR₁ = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such dividend or distribution;
- SP₀ = the last reported sale price of our common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the ex-date for such dividend or distribution;
- T =

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

in the case of a regular, quarterly cash dividend, the initial dividend threshold; or, in the case of any other cash dividend, \$0.00 per share; and

C = the amount in cash per share we pay or distribute to holders of our Common Stock.

If C (as defined above) is equal to or greater than SP_0 (as defined above) or if the difference between SP_0 and C is less than \$1.00, in lieu of the foregoing adjustment, provision shall be made for each holder of a Unit or separate Purchase Contract to receive, for each Unit or separate Purchase

S-126

Table of Contents

Contract, at the same time and upon the same terms as holders of Common Stock, the amount of cash that such holder would have received if such holder owned a number of shares of Common Stock equal to the maximum settlement rate on the record date for such cash dividend or distribution.

Any adjustment made pursuant to this clause (d) will become effective immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the record date for such dividend or distribution. In the event that any dividend or distribution described in this clause (d) is not so made, each fixed settlement rate will be readjusted, effective as of the date our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) publicly announces its decision not to pay such dividend or distribution, to such fixed settlement rate which would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared.

The initial dividend threshold will be adjusted at the same time as, and in a manner inversely proportionate to, any adjustment to the fixed settlement rates, other than any adjustment pursuant to this clause (d). In addition, the initial dividend threshold will be adjusted upon any reorganization event based on the composition of the relevant exchange property.

- (e) We or one or more of our subsidiaries makes purchases of our Common Stock pursuant to a tender offer or exchange offer by us or one of our subsidiaries for our Common Stock if the amount of cash and value of any other consideration included in the payment per share of our Common Stock validly tendered or exchanged exceeds the average of the daily VWAP per share of our Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the trading day next succeeding the last date on which tenders or exchanges may be made pursuant to such tender offer or exchange offer (the expiration date), in which event each fixed settlement rate will be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$SR_1 = SR_0 \times \frac{(FMV + (SP_1 \times OS_1))}{(SP_1 \times OS_0)}$$

where,

- SR_0 = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately prior to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the trading day next succeeding the expiration date;
- SR_1 = the fixed settlement rate in effect immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the trading day next succeeding the expiration date;
- FMV = the fair market value (as determined by our board of directors or an authorized committee thereof) of the aggregate value of all cash and any other consideration paid or payable for shares purchased in such tender offer or exchange offer;
- OS_1 = the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding immediately after the last time tenders or exchanges may be made pursuant to such tender offer or exchange offer on the expiration date (the expiration time) (after giving effect to such tender offer or exchange offer);
- OS_0 = the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to the expiration time (prior to giving effect to such tender offer or exchange offer); and
- SP_1 = the average of the daily VWAPs of Common Stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the trading day next succeeding the expiration date.

Any adjustment made pursuant to this clause (e) will become effective immediately after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the last trading day of the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the trading day next succeeding the expiration date; provided that if any date for determining the number of shares of our Common Stock issuable to a holder of Unit or separate

S-127

Table of Contents

Purchase Contract occurs during the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the trading day next succeeding the expiration date, references in this clause (e) to 10 consecutive trading days will be deemed to be replaced with such lesser number of consecutive trading days as have elapsed between such expiration date and such determination date for purposes of determining the fixed settlement rates.

If we are, or one of our subsidiaries is, obligated to purchase shares of our Common Stock pursuant to any such tender offer or exchange offer, but we are, or such subsidiary is, permanently prevented by applicable law from effecting any such purchases, or all such purchases are rescinded, then each fixed settlement rate will be readjusted to be such fixed settlement rate that would then be in effect if such tender offer or exchange offer had not been made.

To the extent that we have a stockholder rights plan in effect with respect to our Common Stock on any date for determining the number of shares of our Common Stock issuable to a holder of Unit or separate Purchase Contract, you will receive, in addition to our Common Stock, the rights under the stockholder rights plan, unless, prior to such determination date, the rights have separated from our Common Stock, in which case each fixed settlement rate will be adjusted at the time of separation as if we made a distribution to all holders of our Common Stock as described in clause (c) above, subject to readjustment in the event of the expiration, termination or redemption of such rights.

The term *ex-date*, when used with respect to any issuance or distribution, means the first date on which shares of our Common Stock trade on the applicable exchange or in the applicable market, regular way, without the right to receive such issuance, dividend or distribution in question from us or, if applicable, from the seller of our Common Stock on such exchange or market (in the form of due bills or otherwise) as determined by such exchange or market.

The term *record date* means, when used with respect to any dividend, distribution or other transaction or event in which the holders of our Common Stock have the right to receive any cash, securities or other property or in which our Common Stock is exchanged for, or converted into, any combination of cash, securities or other property, the date fixed for determination of holders of our Common Stock entitled to receive such cash, securities or other property (whether such date is fixed by our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) or by statute, contract or otherwise).

In the event of:

any merger with or into or consolidation with any other entity or any similar transaction;

any sale, assignment, transfer, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of our properties and assets to any other person or entity;

any reclassification of our Common Stock into securities including securities other than our Common Stock; or

any statutory exchange of our securities with another person,

in each case, as a result of which our Common Stock would be converted into, or exchanged for, securities, cash and/or other property (each, a *reorganization event*), then at and after the effective time of the reorganization event, each Purchase Contract outstanding will, without the consent of the holders of the Purchase Contracts, become a contract to purchase the kind and amount of securities, cash and/or other property

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

that a holder of Common Stock would have been entitled to receive in connection with such reorganization event (such securities, cash and other property, the exchange property with each unit of exchange property being the kind and amount of exchange property that a holder of one share of our Common Stock would have received in such reorganization event).

S-128

Table of Contents

For purposes of the foregoing, the type and amount of exchange property in the case of any reorganization event that causes our Common Stock to be converted into, or exchanged for, the right to receive more than a single type of consideration (determined based in part upon any form of shareholder election) will be deemed to be the weighted average of the types and amounts of consideration received by the holders of our Common Stock that affirmatively make such an election or, if no holders make such an election, the weighted average of the types and amounts of consideration received by all holders of our Common Stock.

The number of units of exchange property we will deliver for each Purchase Contract settled or redeemed (if we elect not to deliver solely cash in respect of such redemption) following the effective date of such reorganization event will be equal to the number of shares of our Common Stock we would otherwise be required to deliver (without interest thereon and without any right to dividends or distributions thereon which have a record date prior to the date such contracts are actually settled). Each fixed settlement rate will be determined using the applicable market value of a unit of exchange property that a holder of one share of our Common Stock would have received in such reorganization event and such value will be determined, on any date of determination, with respect to:

any publicly traded securities that compose all or part of the exchange property, based (to the extent practicable) on the daily VWAP of such securities on such date (determined as if such publicly traded securities were our Common Stock, and the reference in the definition of daily VWAP to KND were replaced with the ticker symbol for such publicly traded securities);

any cash that composes all or part of the exchange property, based on the amount of such cash; and

any other property that composes all or part of the exchange property, based on the value of such property on such date, as determined, in each case, by a nationally recognized independent investment banking firm retained by us for this purpose.

In addition, to the extent permitted by applicable law and the continued listing requirements of the NYSE (or any other stock exchange on which the Units, separate Purchase Contracts or our Common Stock may then be listed), we may make such increases in each fixed settlement rate as we deem advisable in order to avoid or diminish any income tax to holders of our Common Stock resulting from any dividend or distribution of shares of our Common Stock (or issuance of rights, options or warrants to acquire shares of our Common Stock) or from any event treated as such for income tax purposes or for any other reason. We may only make such a discretionary adjustment if we make the same proportionate adjustment to each fixed settlement rate.

In the event of a taxable distribution to holders of our Common Stock that results in an adjustment of each fixed settlement rate or an increase in each fixed settlement rate in our discretion, holders of the Purchase Contracts may, in certain circumstances, be deemed to have received a distribution subject to U.S. federal income tax as a dividend. See Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations in this prospectus supplement. In addition, non-U.S. holders of the Purchase Contracts may, in certain circumstances, be deemed to have received a distribution subject to U.S. federal withholding tax requirements. See Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Non-U.S. Holders in this prospectus supplement.

Adjustments to each fixed settlement rate will be calculated to the nearest 1/10,000th of a share.

No adjustment in the fixed settlement rates will be required unless the adjustment (taken together with any carried forward adjustments) would require an increase or decrease of at least 1.0%. If any adjustment is not required to be made because it would not change the fixed settlement rates by at least 1.0%, then the adjustment will be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment; *provided* that, on any date for determining the number of shares of our Common Stock issuable to a holder of Unit or separate Purchase Contract, adjustments to the fixed settlement rates will be made with respect to any such adjustment carried forward and which has not been taken into account before such determination date.

Table of Contents

If we issue rights, options or warrants that are only exercisable upon the occurrence of certain triggering events,

we will not adjust the fixed settlement rate pursuant to the bullets above until the earliest of these triggering events occurs; and

we will readjust the fixed settlement rate to the extent any of these rights, options or warrants are not exercised before they expire.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no adjustment to the fixed settlement rates will be made if holders of Units or any separate Purchase Contracts may participate in the transaction (at a level based on the maximum settlement rate) that would otherwise give rise to such adjustment at the same time and on the same terms as holders of our Common Stock without having to settle such holders' Purchase Contracts.

Except as stated above, the fixed settlement rates will not be adjusted for the issuance of our Common Stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for our Common Stock or carrying the right to purchase any of the foregoing, or for the repurchase of our Common Stock. For example, the fixed settlement rates will not be adjusted:

upon the issuance of any shares of our Common Stock pursuant to any present or future plan providing for the reinvestment of dividends or interest payable on our securities and the investment of additional optional amounts in our Common Stock under any plan;

upon the issuance of any shares of our Common Stock, restricted stock or restricted stock units or rights, options or warrants to purchase those shares pursuant to any present or future employee, director or consultant benefit plan or program of or assumed by us or any of our subsidiaries;

upon the issuance of any shares of our Common Stock pursuant to any option, warrant, right or exercisable, exchangeable or convertible security outstanding as of the date the Units were first issued;

upon the repurchase of any shares of our Common Stock pursuant to an open market share repurchase program or other buy-back transaction that is not a tender offer or exchange offer of the nature described in clause (e) above;

for the sale or issuance of shares of our Common Stock, or securities convertible into or exercisable for shares of our Common Stock, for cash, including at a price per share less than the fair market value thereof or otherwise or in an acquisition, except as described in one of clauses (a) through (e) above;

for a third party tender offer; or

for a change in the par value or no par value of our Common Stock.

Whenever the fixed settlement rates are adjusted, we will deliver to the purchase contract agent a certificate setting forth in reasonable detail the method by which the adjustment to each fixed settlement rate was determined and setting forth each revised fixed settlement rate. In addition, we will, within ten business days of any event requiring such adjustment, provide or cause to be provided written notice of the adjustment to the holders of the Units and separate Purchase Contracts and describe in reasonable detail the method by which each fixed settlement rate was adjusted; such notification may be made by a press release.

For the avoidance of doubt, each adjustment to each fixed settlement rate will result in a corresponding adjustment to the early settlement rate and early mandatory settlement rate.

If an adjustment is made to the fixed settlement rates, an inversely proportional adjustment will also be made to the reference price. For the avoidance of doubt, no separate inversely proportional adjustment will be made to the threshold appreciation price because it is equal to \$1,000 *divided by* the minimum settlement rate (rounded to the nearest \$0.0001) as adjusted in the manner described herein. Because (a) the applicable market

S-130

Table of Contents

value and redemption market value are each averages of the daily VWAPs of our Common Stock over a 20 consecutive trading day period and (b) the fundamental change early settlement rate and merger redemption rate are generally based on a stock price and merger termination stock price, respectively, that is calculated based on an average of the daily VWAPs over a 10 consecutive trading day period, we will make appropriate adjustments, if any, to the relevant daily VWAPs prior to the relevant issuance date, record date, ex-date, effective date or expiration date, as the case may be, used to calculate the applicable market value, redemption market value, stock price or merger termination stock price to account for any event that, pursuant to the purchase contract agreement, would lead to an adjustment to the fixed settlement rates if the related issuance date, record date, ex-date, effective date or expiration date occurs during the period in which the applicable market value, redemption market value, stock price or merger termination stock price, as the case may be, is being calculated.

Fractional Shares

No fractional shares of our Common Stock will be issued to holders upon settlement or redemption of the Purchase Contracts. In lieu of fractional shares otherwise issuable, holders will be entitled to receive an amount in cash calculated on an aggregate basis in respect of the Purchase Contracts being settled or redeemed, *multiplied by* the daily VWAP of our Common Stock on the trading day immediately preceding the mandatory settlement date, early settlement date, fundamental change early settlement date, early mandatory settlement date or merger redemption settlement date, as the case may be.

Consequences of Bankruptcy

Pursuant to the terms of the purchase contract agreement, the mandatory settlement date for each Purchase Contract, whether held separately or as part of a Unit, will automatically accelerate upon the occurrence of specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us. Pursuant to the terms of the purchase contract agreement, upon acceleration, holders will be entitled under the terms of the Purchase Contracts to receive a number of shares of our Common Stock per Purchase Contract equal to the maximum settlement rate in effect immediately prior to such acceleration (regardless of the market value of our Common Stock at that time). If for any reason the accelerated Purchase Contracts are not settled by the delivery of our Common Stock, a holder may have a damage claim against us for the value of the shares of our Common Stock that we would have otherwise been required to deliver upon settlement of the Purchase Contracts. We expect that this claim for damages will rank equally with the claims by holders of our Common Stock in the bankruptcy proceeding, in which case you will only be able to recover damages to the extent holders of our Common Stock receive any recovery.

Modification

The purchase contract agreement will contain provisions permitting us and the purchase contract agent to modify the purchase contract agreement without the consent of the holders of Purchase Contracts (whether held separately or as a component of Units) for any of the following purposes:

to evidence the succession of another person to our obligations, and the assumption by any such successor of our covenants and obligations in the purchase contract agreement and the Units and separate Purchase Contracts, if any;

to add to the covenants for the benefit of holders of Purchase Contracts or to surrender any of our rights or powers under the purchase contract agreement;

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment of a successor purchase contract agent in accordance with the purchase contract agreement;

S-131

Table of Contents

upon the occurrence of a reorganization event, solely (i) to provide that each Purchase Contract will become a contract to purchase exchange property and (ii) to effect the related changes to the terms of the Purchase Contracts, in each case, consistent with the applicable provisions of the purchase contract agreement;

to conform the provisions of the purchase contract agreement to the Description of Purchase Contracts and Description of the Units sections in the preliminary prospectus supplement, as supplemented by the related pricing term sheet;

to cure any ambiguity or manifest error or to correct or supplement any provisions that may be inconsistent, so long as such action does not adversely affect the interest of the holders; and

to amend any other provisions, so long as such amendment does not adversely affect the interest of the holders.

The purchase contract agreement will contain provisions permitting us and the purchase contract agent, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority of the Purchase Contracts at the time outstanding, to modify the terms of the Purchase Contracts or the purchase contract agreement. However, no such modification may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Purchase Contract affected by the modification,

reduce the number of shares of our Common Stock deliverable upon settlement of the Purchase Contract (except to the extent expressly provided in the anti-dilution adjustments);

change the mandatory settlement date or the provisions relating to the right to settle Purchase Contracts early or the fundamental change early settlement right;

reduce the merger redemption amount or impair the right of any holder to receive such amount if we elect to redeem the Purchase Contracts in connection with a merger termination redemption;

reduce the above-stated percentage of outstanding Purchase Contracts the consent of the holders of which is required for the modification or amendment of the provisions of the Purchase Contracts or the purchase contract agreement, or make any change to the provision described in this sentence; or

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of the Purchase Contracts.

In executing any modification, the purchase contract agent shall be entitled to receive an opinion of counsel stating that such modification is authorized or permitted under the terms of the purchase contract agreement.

Consolidation, Merger, Sale or Conveyance

We will covenant in the purchase contract agreement that we will not merge with or into, consolidate with any other entity or sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of our properties and assets to any person or entity, unless:

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

the resulting, surviving or transferee entity (if not us) is a corporation or limited liability company that is treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any State thereof or the District of Columbia, and such corporation or limited liability company (if not us) expressly assumes in writing all of our obligations under the Purchase Contracts and the purchase contract agreement; and

immediately after the merger, consolidation, sale, assignment, transfer, lease or conveyance, no default has occurred and is continuing under the Purchase Contracts or the purchase contract agreement.

S-132

Table of Contents

Reservation of Common Stock

We will at all times reserve and keep available out of our authorized and unissued Common Stock, solely for issuance upon settlement or redemption of the Purchase Contracts, that number of shares of our Common Stock as shall from time to time be issuable upon the settlement of all Purchase Contracts then outstanding, assuming settlement at the maximum settlement rate.

Governing Law

The purchase contract agreement, the Units, the Purchase Contracts and any claim, controversy or dispute arising under or related to the purchase contract agreement, the Units or the Purchase Contracts will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock component of the Unit will be governed by the laws of State of Delaware.

Waiver of Jury Trial

The purchase contract agreement will provide that we and the purchase contract agent will waive our and its respective rights to trial by jury in any action or proceeding arising out of or related to the Purchase Contracts, the purchase contract agreement or the transactions contemplated thereby, to the extent permitted by law.

Information Concerning the Purchase Contract Agent

U.S. Bank National Association will be the purchase contract agent. The purchase contract agent will act as the agent for the holders of Units and separate Purchase Contracts from time to time. The purchase contract agreement will not obligate the purchase contract agent to exercise any discretionary actions in connection with a default under the terms of the Purchase Contracts or the purchase contract agreement.

The purchase contract agreement will contain provisions limiting the liability of the purchase contract agent. The purchase contract agreement will contain provisions under which the purchase contract agent may resign or be replaced. This resignation or replacement would be effective upon the acceptance of appointment by a successor.

Information Concerning the Transfer Agent of Common Stock

Computershare acts as the transfer agent for our Common Stock and performs other services for us.

Calculations in Respect of Purchase Contracts

We will be responsible for making all calculations called for under the Units and any separate Purchase Contracts. The purchase contract agent will have no obligation to make any such calculations. All such calculations made by us will be made in good faith and, absent manifest error, will be final and binding on the purchase contract agent and the holders of the Units and any separate Purchase Contracts. We will provide a schedule of such calculations to the purchase contract agent and the purchase contract agent will be entitled to conclusively rely upon the accuracy of such calculations without independent verification.

S-133

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATORY REDEEMABLE PREFERRED STOCK

Each share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, which initially forms a part of a Unit, will be issued by us under a certificate of designations (the certificate of designations) to be dated and filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on or prior to the date of first issuance of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. The following summary of the terms of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock contains a description of all of the material terms of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock but is not complete. We refer you to the form of certificate of designations, which will be filed and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement forms a part. Copies of the certificate of designations will be available for inspection at our offices.

As used in this section, the terms us, we and our mean Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and do not include any of its existing or future subsidiaries.

General

Under our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors is authorized, without further stockholder action, to issue up to 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.25 per share, in one or more series, with such voting powers or without voting powers, and with such designations, and having such relative preferences, participating, optional or other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions, as shall be set forth in the resolutions providing therefor. We have not previously designated any series of such authorized preferred stock. At the consummation of this offering, we will issue 150,000 shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as part of the Units. In addition, we have granted the underwriters an option to purchase up to 22,500 additional Units in accordance with the procedures set forth in the section of this prospectus entitled Underwriting, solely to cover over-allotments, and if the underwriters exercise such over-allotment option in full, we will issue 22,500 additional shares of our Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

The Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be issued under the certificate of designations, with an initial liquidation preference of \$ per share.

When issued, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and any Common Stock issued in respect of dividends or any reduction in liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have no preemptive or preferential rights to purchase or subscribe for stock, obligations, warrants or other securities of any class or series.

Ranking

The Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, ranks:

senior to (i) our Common Stock and (ii) each other class or series of our capital stock established after the first original issue date of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (the initial issue date) the terms of which do not expressly provide that such class or series of capital stock ranks senior to or on a parity with the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and rights upon our

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (collectively, the junior stock);

on parity with any class or series of our capital stock established after the initial issue date the terms of which expressly provide that such class or series will rank on parity with the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (collectively, the parity stock);

junior to each class or series of our capital stock established after the initial issue date the terms of which expressly provide that such class or series of capital stock will rank senior to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution (collectively, the senior stock); and

junior to our existing and future indebtedness.

S-134

Table of Contents

In addition, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, will be structurally subordinated to existing and future indebtedness of our subsidiaries as well as the capital stock of our subsidiaries held by third parties. It is possible a bankruptcy court may not respect the priority of the preferred stock. See **Risks Relating to this Offering** We may not be able to settle or redeem your Purchase Contracts and deliver shares of Common Stock, or make payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, in the event that we file for bankruptcy.

Preferred Stock Installment Payments

We will make quarterly preferred stock installment payments of \$ _____ per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 of each year, commencing on March 1, 2015 (each, a preferred stock installment payment date) (except for the first preferred stock installment payment, which will be \$ _____ per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock), in each case, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash and, with respect to the dividend portion of such payment, such dividend is declared by our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof). Each preferred stock installment payment will constitute a payment of dividends and a payment of the Redemption Amount, allocated as set forth on the redemption schedule set forth under **Redemption Schedule**. To the extent that we do not have funds lawfully available to pay the Redemption Amount portion of any preferred stock installment payment with respect to any such payments in cash, such Redemption Amount shall become due and payable on the first subsequent preferred stock installment payment date (or, in the case of the final preferred stock installment payment date, the first day thereafter) on which funds are lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash. Each quarterly preferred stock installment payment will be payable in cash, by delivery of shares of our Common Stock or through any combination of cash and shares of our Common Stock, at our election, as described under **Method of Delivery of Preferred Stock Installment Payments** below. The portion of any preferred stock installment payment that constitutes a dividend will be payable on the relevant preferred stock installment payment date only if our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) declares a dividend with respect to such date and we have funds lawfully available therefor with respect to any such payments in cash, except that we will be required to pay, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, all accumulated dividends (whether or not declared) on the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to Partial Redemption on such preferred stock installment payment date. Any other undeclared and unpaid dividends with respect to outstanding liquidation preference (after giving effect to any prior reductions therein) of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will continue to accumulate. Assuming our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) makes such declarations with respect to each of the preferred stock installment payment dates and we have funds lawfully available therefor with respect to any such payments in cash, the preferred stock installment payments in the aggregate per year will be equivalent to a _____ % cash payment per year with respect to each \$1,000 stated amount of a Unit, subject to our ability to deliver shares of our Common Stock in lieu of part or all of such payments.

Dividends on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock shall accumulate from the most recent date as to which dividends shall have been paid or, if no dividends have been paid, from the date of original issuance of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, whether or not in any dividend period or periods there have been funds lawfully available for the payment of such dividends in cash. Dividends shall accumulate at an annual rate of _____ % on the outstanding liquidation preference (after giving effect to any prior reductions therein) of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as in effect on the immediately preceding preferred stock installment payment date (after giving effect to the Partial Redemption that occurs on such date). Declared dividends (and, with respect to the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to Partial Redemption on the relevant preferred stock installment payment date, all accumulated and unpaid dividends, whether or not declared) will be payable as part of the preferred stock installment payments that are payable on the relevant preferred stock installment payment date to holders of record as they appear on our stock register at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the immediately preceding February 15, May 15, August 15 or November 15 (each, a preferred stock record date), to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such

Table of Contents

payments in cash. These preferred stock record dates will apply regardless of whether a particular preferred stock record date is a business day. A business day means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or any day on which banking institutions in New York, New York are authorized or obligated by applicable law or executive order to close or be closed. If a preferred stock installment payment date is not a business day, such payment will be made on the next succeeding business day, without any interest or other payment in lieu of interest accruing with respect to this delay.

Each dividend payment for any period will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months, and, in the case of partial months, the number of days actually elapsed in the relevant period. A full dividend period is the period from, and including, a preferred stock installment payment date to, but excluding, the next preferred stock installment payment date, except that the initial dividend period will commence on and include the initial issue date of our Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and will end on and exclude the March 1, 2015 preferred stock installment payment date. Accumulated dividends will not bear interest if they are paid subsequent to the relevant preferred stock installment payment date.

Preferred stock installment payments will be applied (i) first to all accumulated dividends (whether or not declared) on the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to Partial Redemption on the applicable preferred stock installment payment date, (ii) second to the Redemption Amount and (iii) then to any declared and unpaid dividends, allocated as set forth on the redemption schedule under Redemption Schedule.

No dividends will be declared or paid upon, or any sum of cash or number of shares of Common Stock set apart for the payment of dividends upon, any outstanding share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock with respect to any dividend period unless (x) all dividends for all preceding dividend periods have been declared and paid upon, or a sufficient sum of cash and/or number of shares of Common Stock have been set apart for the payment of such dividends upon, all outstanding shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and (y) all amounts due under items (i) and (ii) of the prior paragraph have been paid (or a sufficient sum of cash and/or number of shares of Common Stock have been set apart for such payment).

Our ability to declare and pay dividends in cash and make other distributions with respect to our capital stock, including the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, is limited by the terms of our and our subsidiaries indebtedness. In addition, our ability to declare and pay dividends may be limited by applicable Delaware law. See the section of this prospectus entitled Risk Factors Risks Relating to this Offering Our ability to make preferred stock installment payments on our Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock is limited.

So long as any share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock remains outstanding, no dividend or distribution shall be declared or paid on our Common Stock or any other shares of junior stock, and no Common Stock or other junior stock or parity stock shall be, directly or indirectly, purchased, redeemed or otherwise acquired for consideration by us or any of our subsidiaries unless all accumulated and unpaid dividends for all preceding dividend periods have been declared and paid upon, or a sufficient sum of cash or number of shares of Common Stock have been set apart for the payment of such dividends upon, all outstanding shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. The foregoing limitation shall not apply to: (i) purchases of fractional interests in shares of any Common Stock or other junior stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of such shares of other junior stock or any securities exchangeable for or redeemable into such shares of Common Stock or other junior stock; (ii) redemptions, purchases or other acquisitions of shares of Common Stock or other junior stock in connection with the administration of any employee benefit plan in the ordinary course of business, including, without limitation, the forfeiture of unvested shares of restricted stock or share withholdings upon exercise, delivery or vesting of equity awards granted to officers, directors and employees; (iii) any dividends or distributions of rights or Common Stock or other junior stock in connection with a stockholders rights plan or any redemption or repurchase of rights pursuant to any stockholders rights plan; (iv) the acquisition by us or any of our subsidiaries of record ownership in Common Stock or other junior stock or parity stock for the beneficial ownership of any other persons (other than us or any of our subsidiaries), including as trustees or custodians;

Table of Contents

(v) the exchange or conversion of junior stock for or into other junior stock or of parity stock for or into other parity stock (with the same or lesser aggregate liquidation amount) or junior stock; and (vi) any dividend or distribution payable in shares of Common Stock or other junior stock.

When dividends on the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock have not been paid in full on any preferred stock installment payment date or declared and a sum of cash or number of shares of Common Stock sufficient for payment thereof set aside for the benefit of the holders thereof, no dividends may be declared or paid on any parity stock unless dividends are declared on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock such that the respective amounts of such dividends declared on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and each such other class or series of parity stock shall bear the same ratio to each other as all accumulated and unpaid dividends per share on the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and such class or series of parity stock bear to each other; *provided* that any unpaid dividends will continue to accumulate.

Subject to the foregoing, and not otherwise, such dividends and distributions (payable in cash, securities or other property) as may be determined by the board of directors, or an authorized committee thereof, may be declared and paid on any securities, including Common Stock and other junior stock, from time to time out of any funds lawfully available for such payment, and holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock shall not be entitled to participate in any such dividends or distributions.

Method of Delivery of Preferred Stock Installment Payments

Subject to the limitations described below, we may make any preferred stock installment payment (or any portion of any preferred stock installment payment) on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock determined in our sole discretion:

in cash;

by delivery of shares of our Common Stock; or

through any combination of cash and shares of our Common Stock.

We will make each preferred stock installment payment on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in cash, except to the extent that we elect to effect a preferred stock installment payment or a portion thereof by delivering shares of our Common Stock. To the extent that any such payment consists of the Redemption Amount or accumulated and unpaid dividends on the portion of the liquidation preference that is scheduled to be subject to Partial Redemption on the relevant preferred stock installment payment date and we do not have funds lawfully available to make such payment in cash, but we have a sufficient number of authorized and unissued shares of our Common Stock that are lawfully available for such purpose, we will be required to effect such payment through the delivery of shares. We will give the holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock notice of any such election and the portion of such payment that will be made in cash and the portion that will be effected through delivery of shares of Common Stock no later than the tenth scheduled trading day prior to the preferred stock installment payment date for such preferred stock installment payment.

If we elect to effect any such preferred stock installment payment, or any portion thereof, by delivering shares of our Common Stock, we will notify holders of such election and such shares shall be valued at the average of daily VWAPs of our Common Stock over the five consecutive trading day period beginning on, and including, the seventh scheduled trading day immediately preceding the applicable preferred stock

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

installment payment date, *multiplied* by 97%. We will make appropriate adjustments, if any, to such daily VWAPs if the issuance date, record date, ex-date, effective date or expiration date for any event that would lead to an adjustment to the fixed settlement rates under the purchase contract agreement occurs during such five trading day period.

S-137

Table of Contents

No fractional shares of Common Stock will be delivered to the holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in respect of preferred stock installment payments. We will instead pay a cash adjustment to each holder that would otherwise be entitled to a fraction of a share of Common Stock based on the daily VWAP of our Common Stock on the last trading day of such five trading day period.

To the extent a shelf registration statement is required in our reasonable judgment in connection with the issuance of or for resales (by entities that are not our affiliates) of Common Stock issued as part of a preferred stock installment payment, we will, to the extent such a registration statement is not currently filed and effective, use our reasonable best efforts to file and maintain the effectiveness of such a shelf registration statement until the earlier of such time as all such shares of Common Stock have been resold thereunder and such time as all such shares are freely tradable (by entities that are not our affiliates) without registration. To the extent applicable, we will also use our reasonable best efforts to have the shares of Common Stock qualified or registered under applicable state securities laws, if required, and approved for listing on the NYSE (or if our Common Stock is not listed on the NYSE, on the principal other U.S. national or regional securities exchange on which our Common Stock is then listed).

Redemption Schedule

The scheduled preferred stock installment payments, including the scheduled Redemption Amount and dividend payments, for each preferred stock installment payment date are set forth below. We will agree in the certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to partially reduce the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on each quarterly preferred stock installment payment date until no liquidation preference remains. All shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be fully redeemed on the last preferred stock installment payment date. As consideration for the Partial Redemption, we will pay the Redemption Amount per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on each preferred stock installment payment date equal to the Redemption Amount set forth in the table below with respect to such preferred stock installment payment date, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, and the liquidation preference of each such share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be reduced by the amount of any such payment on the date such payment is made, without requiring the holder to surrender any share certificates. Such Redemption Amounts will be payable to the holders of record of the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on the relevant record date.

To the extent that we do not have funds lawfully available to pay the Redemption Amount portion of any preferred stock installment payment with respect to any such payments in cash, such Redemption Amount shall become due and payable on the first subsequent preferred stock installment payment date (or, in the case of the final preferred stock installment payment date, the first day thereafter) on which funds are lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash.

Table of Contents

The table below assumes that our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) declares a dividend payable on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock with respect to each of the preferred stock installment payment dates set forth below. However, we are not obligated to pay dividends on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on any preferred stock installment payment date if our board of directors (or an authorized committee thereof) does not declare a dividend with respect to such date, except that we will be obligated on any preferred stock installment payment date to pay, to the extent that we have funds lawfully available for such purpose with respect to any such payments in cash, all accumulated dividends (whether or not declared) on the portion of the liquidation preference that is subject to Partial Redemption on such preferred stock installment payment date.

Preferred Stock Installment Payment Date	Redemption Amount	Dividend Amount
March 1, 2015	\$	\$
June 1, 2015	\$	\$
September 1, 2015	\$	\$
December 1, 2015	\$	\$
March 1, 2016	\$	\$
June 1, 2016	\$	\$
September 1, 2016	\$	\$
December 1, 2016	\$	\$
March 1, 2017	\$	\$
June 1, 2017	\$	\$
September 1, 2017	\$	\$
December 1, 2017	\$	\$

Redemption of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock at Option of Holder

If we elect to exercise our early mandatory settlement right with respect to the Purchase Contracts or a merger termination redemption of the Purchase Contracts occurs, then holders of the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (whether as components of Units or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock) will have the right (the redemption right) to require us to redeem some or all of their shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for cash, shares of Common Stock or a combination thereof, at our election, at the redemption price per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to be redeemed on the redemption date, as described below.

Holders may only require us to redeem whole shares and do not have the right to require us to redeem a fraction of a share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Holders will not have the right to require us to redeem any or all of such holder's shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in connection with any early settlement of such holder's Purchase Contracts at the holder's option, as described above under Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Settlement at Option of Holder and Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Settlement Upon a Fundamental Change.

The redemption date will be a date specified by us in the early mandatory settlement notice or merger redemption notice, as the case may be, which will be at least 20 but not more than 45 business days following the date of our early mandatory settlement notice as described under Description of the Purchase Contracts Early Mandatory Settlement at Our Election or the merger redemption notice date as described under Description of the Purchase Contracts Merger Termination Redemption, as the case may be (and which may or may not fall on the early mandatory settlement date or merger redemption settlement date, as the case may be).

The redemption price per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to be redeemed will be equal to the liquidation preference of such share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as of the redemption date plus accumulated and unpaid dividends on such share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to, but excluding, the redemption date; provided, however, if the redemption date falls after a record date and on or

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

prior to the immediately succeeding preferred stock installment payment date, the preferred stock installment payment payable on such preferred stock installment payment date will be paid on such preferred stock installment payment date to the holder as of such record date and will not be included in the redemption price per Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. If we elect to pay the redemption price, or any portion thereof, by delivering shares

S-139

Table of Contents

of our Common Stock, we will notify holders of such election and such shares shall be valued at the average of daily VWAPs of our Common Stock over the five consecutive trading day period beginning on, and including, the seventh scheduled trading day immediately preceding the redemption date, *multiplied* by 97%. We will make appropriate adjustments, if any, to such daily VWAPs if the issuance date, record date, ex-date, effective date or expiration date for any event that would lead to an adjustment to the fixed settlement rates under the purchase contract agreement occurs during such five trading day period.

No fractional shares of Common Stock will be delivered to the holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in respect of the redemption price. We will instead pay a cash adjustment to each holder that would otherwise be entitled to a fraction of a share of Common Stock based on the daily VWAP of our Common Stock on the last trading day of such five trading day period.

To exercise your redemption right, you must deliver, on or before 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the second business day immediately preceding the redemption date, the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to be redeemed (or the Units, if the early mandatory settlement date or merger redemption settlement date, as the case may be, falls on the same day as the redemption date and you have not separated your Units into their constituent components), together with a duly completed written redemption notice (a redemption notice), in each case in accordance with appropriate DTC procedures, unless you hold certificated shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (or Units), in which case you must deliver the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to be redeemed (or Units), duly endorsed for transfer, together with a redemption notice, to us. Your redemption notice must state:

if certificated shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (or Units) have been issued, the certificate numbers of the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (or Units), or if not certificated, your redemption notice must comply with appropriate DTC procedures;

the number of shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to be redeemed; and

that such shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock are to be redeemed by us pursuant to the applicable provisions of the certificate of designations.

You may withdraw any redemption notice (in whole or in part) by a written, irrevocable notice of withdrawal delivered (in the case of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in global form, in accordance with the appropriate DTC procedures) to us, on or before 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the second business day immediately preceding the redemption date. The notice of withdrawal must state:

if certificated shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (or Units) have been issued, the certificate numbers of the withdrawn shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (or Units), or if not certificated, your notice must comply with appropriate DTC procedures;

the number of shares of the withdrawn Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock; and

the number of shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, if any, that remain subject to the redemption notice.

We will be required to redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock on the redemption date. You will receive payment of cash in respect of the redemption price on the later of (i) the redemption date and (ii) the time of book-entry transfer or the delivery of shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

In connection with any redemption offer pursuant to an early mandatory settlement notice or merger redemption notice, we will:

comply with any provisions of the tender offer rules under the Exchange Act that may then be applicable; and

if required by law, file a Schedule TO or any other required schedule under the Exchange Act.

Our obligation to pay the redemption price could be considered a penalty, in which case the enforceability thereof would be subject to general principles of reasonableness of economic remedies.

S-140

Table of Contents

Liquidation Preference

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, each holder of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive a liquidation preference in the amount of \$ _____ per share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (the liquidation preference), subject to reduction from time to time as described under Redemption Schedule _____ above, plus an amount equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends on the shares to, but excluding, the date fixed for liquidation, winding-up or dissolution to be paid out of our assets available for distribution to our stockholders, after satisfaction of liabilities to our creditors and holders of any senior stock and before any payment or distribution is made to holders of junior stock, including our Common Stock. It is possible a bankruptcy court may not respect the priority of the preferred stock. See Risks Relating to this Offering We may not be able to settle or redeem your Purchase Contracts and deliver shares of Common Stock, or make payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or redeem the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, in the event that we file for bankruptcy. If, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution, the amounts payable with respect to the liquidation preference plus an amount equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and all parity stock is not paid in full, the holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and any parity stock will share equally and ratably in any distribution of our assets in proportion to the respective liquidation preferences and amounts equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends to which they are entitled. After payment of the full amount of the liquidation preference and an amount equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends to which they are entitled, the holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets.

Neither the sale of all or substantially all of our assets or business (other than in connection with our liquidation, winding-up or dissolution), nor our merger or consolidation into or with any other person, will be deemed to be our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, winding-up or dissolution.

The certificate of designations does not contain any provision requiring funds to be set aside to protect the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock even though the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock is substantially in excess of the par value thereof.

Voting Rights

The holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock do not have voting rights other than those described below or as specifically required by Delaware law.

Whenever dividends on any shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (i) have not been declared and paid or (ii) have been declared but a sum of cash and/or a number of shares of our Common Stock, as the case may be, sufficient for payment thereof has not been set aside for the benefit of the holders, for the equivalent of six or more dividend periods, whether or not consecutive (a nonpayment), the holders of such shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, voting together as a single class with holders of any and all other series of voting preferred stock (as defined below) then outstanding, will be entitled at our next special or annual meeting of stockholders to vote for the election of a total of two additional members of our board of directors (the preferred stock directors); provided that the election of any such directors will not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirements of the NYSE (or any other exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or quoted) that requires listed or quoted companies to have a majority of independent directors; and provided further that our board of directors shall, at no time, include more than two preferred stock directors. In that event, we will increase the number of directors on our board of directors by two, and the new directors will be elected at a special meeting of stockholders called at the request of the holders of at least 20% of the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or of any other series of voting preferred stock (provided that such request is received at least 90 calendar days before the date fixed for the next annual or special meeting of the stockholders, failing which election shall be held at such next annual or special meeting of stockholders), and at each subsequent annual meeting, so long as the holders of shares of Mandatory

Redeemable Preferred Stock continue to have such voting rights.

S-141

Table of Contents

As used in this prospectus supplement, voting preferred stock means any other class or series of our preferred stock ranking equally with the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock either as to dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable. Whether a plurality, majority or other portion of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and any other voting preferred stock have been voted in favor of any matter shall be determined by reference to the respective liquidation preference amounts of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and such other voting preferred stock voted.

If and when all accumulated and unpaid dividends have been paid in full, or declared and a sum of cash and/or a number of shares of our Common Stock, as the case may be, sufficient for such payment shall have been set aside (a nonpayment remedy), the holders of shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock shall immediately and, without any further action by us, be divested of the foregoing voting rights, subject to the revesting of such rights in the event of each subsequent nonpayment. If such voting rights of the holders of shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and all other holders of voting preferred stock have terminated, the term of office of each preferred stock director so elected will terminate at such time and the number of directors on our board of directors will automatically decrease by two.

Any preferred stock director may be removed at any time without cause by the holders of record of a majority in voting power of the outstanding shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and any other shares of voting preferred stock then outstanding (voting together as a class) when they have the voting rights described above. In the event that a nonpayment shall have occurred and there shall not have been a nonpayment remedy, any vacancy in the office of a preferred stock director (other than prior to the initial election after a nonpayment) may be filled by the written consent of the preferred stock director remaining in office or, if none remains in office, by a vote of the holders of record of a majority in voting power of the outstanding shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and any other shares of voting preferred stock then outstanding (voting together as a class) when they have the voting rights described above; *provided* that the filling of each vacancy will not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirements of the NYSE (or any other exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or quoted) that requires listed or quoted companies to have a majority of independent directors. The preferred stock directors will each be entitled to one vote per director on any matter.

So long as any shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds in voting power of the outstanding shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and all other series of voting preferred stock entitled to vote thereon, voting together as a single class, given in person or by proxy, either in writing or at a meeting:

authorize or create, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of our capital stock ranking senior to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock with respect to payment of dividends, payment upon redemption (if any) or the distribution of our assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up; or

amend, alter or repeal the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation (including the certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock) so as to adversely affect the rights, powers or preferences of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock; or

consummate a binding share exchange or reclassification involving the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or a merger or consolidation of us with another entity or a similar transaction, unless the shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (i) in the case of any such merger or consolidation or similar transaction in which we are not the surviving or resulting entity, are converted into, or exchanged for, preferred securities of the surviving or resulting entity or the direct or indirect parent of such entity or (ii) in the case of any other such transaction, (x) remain outstanding or (y) are converted into, or exchanged for (or for the right to receive), preferred securities of the direct or indirect parent of us, in each case of clause (i) and (ii), with rights, powers and preferences that are not less favorable to the holders thereof than the rights, powers and preferences of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock immediately prior to such transaction,

Table of Contents

provided, however, that (1) an increase in the authorized or issued shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and (2) the creation and issuance, or an increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any other series of preferred stock ranking equally with or junior to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends (whether such dividends are cumulative or non-cumulative), payments upon redemption (if any) and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, will be deemed not to adversely affect the rights, powers or preferences of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and shall not require the affirmative vote or consent of holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

If any authorization, creation, issuance, amendment, alteration, repeal, share exchange, reclassification, merger or consolidation described above would adversely affect one or more but not all series of voting preferred stock (including the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for this purpose), then only the series of voting preferred stock adversely affected and entitled to vote shall vote as a class on such matter in lieu of all other series of voting preferred stock.

In the event we require a vote or consent of the holders of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (including in the case of nonpayment as described above), each holder of record of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will initially be entitled to vote according to the aggregate liquidation preference of shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that it owns. Therefore, each holder's voting power will decrease proportionately relative to other series of preferred stock after any reduction in liquidation preference on each quarterly preferred stock installment payment date. See Redemption Schedule.

Without the consent of the holders of shares of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, we may amend, alter, supplement, or repeal any terms of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for the following purposes:

to cure any ambiguity or mistake, or to correct or supplement any provision contained in the certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision contained in the certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock; or

so long as such action does not adversely affect the rights, powers or preferences of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, to make any provision with respect to matters or questions relating to the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that is not inconsistent with the provisions of the certificate of designations for the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, provided that any such action to conform the terms of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock section of the preliminary prospectus supplement for the Units, as supplemented and/or amended by the related pricing term sheet, will be deemed non-adverse.

Table of Contents**CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Units, the Purchase Contracts and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that are components of Units and shares of our Common Stock acquired under a Purchase Contract or the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. The summary does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to you, including tax considerations that arise from rules of general application to all taxpayers (such as the impact of the Medicare contribution tax on net investment income) or to certain classes of investors or that are generally assumed to be known. Thus, this discussion applies to you only if you (i) acquire Units upon original issuance at the \$1,000 offering price, (ii) do not own otherwise (directly or by attribution) our shares (other than Common Stock received as a result of owning a Unit or its components), and (iii) hold the Units, the components of the Units and shares of our Common Stock acquired under a Purchase Contract or the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as capital assets. The discussion assumes the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock is issued at par. In addition, this discussion does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to you if you are subject to special rules applicable to certain categories of persons, such as financial institutions; insurance companies; dealers or traders subject to a mark-to-market method of tax accounting with respect to Units, Purchase Contracts, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or shares of our Common Stock; non-U.S. individuals who are present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of a sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of those securities; persons that will hold shares of our Common Stock in connection with a U.S. trade or business or a U.S. permanent establishment; entities treated as partnerships or partners therein; U.S. expatriates; persons holding Units, Purchase Contracts, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or shares of our Common Stock as part of a hedge, straddle, equity-linked arbitrage strategy, integrated transaction or similar transaction; U.S. Holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar; tax-exempt entities; U.S. Holders who hold Units, Purchase Contracts, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or shares of our Common Stock through non-U.S. brokers or other non-U.S. intermediaries; persons subject to the alternative minimum tax; or persons that receive the Units, Purchase Contracts, Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or shares of our Common Stock as compensation or in connection with the performance of services.

This summary is based on the Code, administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury Regulations, changes to any of which subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement may affect the tax consequences described herein. ***You should consult your tax advisors with regard to the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to your particular situations as well as any tax consequences arising under other U.S. federal tax laws (such as estate and gift tax laws) or under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction.***

In General

The Units are complex financial instruments. No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly addresses the treatment of the Units or instruments similar to the Units for U.S. federal income tax purposes. No ruling has been or will be sought from the IRS with respect to the issues discussed below, and no assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of those described below. *Accordingly, you should consult your tax advisor as to the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you of the purchase, ownership and disposition of Units, the Purchase Contracts, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and shares of our Common Stock.*

Characterization of Units

Although there is no authority directly on point and therefore the issue is not free from doubt, each Unit should be treated as an investment unit composed of two separate instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes that are treated as a prepaid purchase contract to acquire our Common Stock and a share of our preferred stock taking into account that we do not expect to deliver Common Stock in redemption of, or as

S-144

Table of Contents

payment in respect of, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Under this treatment, a holder of Units should be treated as if it held an ownership interest in each of the two components of the Units for U.S. federal income tax purposes. By acquiring a Unit, unless otherwise required by law, you agree to treat the Unit as an investment unit composed of two separate instruments in accordance with its form, and to treat the Purchase Contract as a prepaid contract to acquire our Common Stock and the Mandatorily Redeemable Preferred Share as a share of our preferred stock that will be completely redeemed by December 1, 2017. If, however, the components of a Unit were treated as a single instrument, the U.S. federal income tax consequences could differ materially from the consequences described below. For instance, the payments listed as a Redemption Amount in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (in Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Redemption Schedule) may be considered a distribution in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that is treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes, to the extent of our earnings and profits, in which case U.S. Holders generally would be required to treat such amounts as ordinary income and amounts paid to Non-U.S. Holders (as defined below) would be subject to U.S. withholding tax. See Possible Alternative Treatments, below.

Unless stated otherwise, the remainder of this discussion assumes that the characterization of the Units as two separate instruments, the characterization of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as our preferred stock, and the characterization of the Purchase Contracts as prepaid contracts to acquire our Common Stock will be respected for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Allocation of the Issue Price and Purchase Price

The \$1,000 offering price of each Unit will be allocated between the Purchase Contract and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that constitute the Unit in proportion to their relative fair market values at the time of issuance. That allocation of the purchase price will establish a holder's initial tax basis in the Purchase Contract and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

We have determined that the offering price allocated to each Purchase Contract and the share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock is \$ and \$, respectively. By acquiring a Unit, you will agree to such allocation. The remainder of this discussion assumes that (i) this allocation of issue price to each Purchase Contract and share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be respected for U.S. federal income tax purposes and (ii) the amount allocated to the share of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock equals its initial liquidation preference.

Treatment of the Redemption Amount

Under the terms of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, each preferred stock installment payment will consist in part of a Redemption Amount and in part of a Dividend Amount (as described in Description of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments). Each payment of a Redemption Amount should be treated as a redemption of a portion of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and the remainder of this discussion assumes such treatment. As described below, however, each payment in respect of a Redemption Amount may be treated either as an exchange of a portion of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for cash (or, at our election, shares of our Common Stock), or as a distribution in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, depending upon the holder's circumstances as of the time of the preferred stock installment payment.

Payment of the Redemption Amount to a particular holder will be treated as an exchange if it (i) results in a complete termination of the holder's interest in all of our stock, or (ii) is not essentially equivalent to a dividend with respect to the holder (each within the meaning of Section 302(b) of the Code). The Redemption Amount will be treated as not essentially equivalent to a dividend, and hence as an exchange, if it results in a meaningful reduction in the holder's proportionate interest in our stock, based on the relevant facts applicable to the holder. The IRS has ruled in

the past that even a small reduction in the percentage interest held by a

S-145

Table of Contents

stockholder in a publicly held corporation will be treated as an exchange if the stockholder's percentage stock ownership is minimal and the stockholder exercises no control over the corporation. In determining whether an exchange has occurred under Section 302(b) of the Code, (i) a series of exchanges that are part of a firm and fixed plan may be aggregated into a single exchange and (ii) shares considered to be owned by the tendering holder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in the Code, as well as shares directly or indirectly owned, must generally be taken into account. These constructive ownership rules can result, for example, in a holder being considered to own our Common Stock as a result of owning the Purchase Contract, as well as our Common Stock held by certain affiliated entities of the holder. Consequently, the constructive ownership rules can cause a redemption that otherwise appears to satisfy one of the tests described above to nevertheless be treated as a distribution.

The payment of a Redemption Amount reduces the liquidation preference, the dividend entitlement and the voting rights of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, and is pursuant to a schedule, as set forth in this prospectus supplement, pursuant to which the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will be completely redeemed three years after issuance. Accordingly, while each holder's situation is different, we expect, subject to the considerations described above, that a Redemption Amount paid to a holder of a Unit that holds no shares of our Common Stock (directly or by attribution) other than pursuant to a Purchase Contract should be treated as received in exchange for the partial (or complete, in the case of the payment of the last Redemption Amount) redemption of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Unless otherwise indicated, the remainder of this discussion assumes that the Redemption Amount will qualify for exchange treatment. *However, you should consult your own tax advisors regarding whether the Redemption Amount is treated as a distribution or an exchange in light of your particular circumstances.*

U.S. Holders

This section applies to you if you are a U.S. Holder. For this purpose, you are a U.S. Holder if you are a beneficial owner of Units, Purchase Contracts, Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or our Common Stock acquired under a Purchase Contract and you are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes: (i) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States; (ii) a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia; or (iii) any other person that is otherwise subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net income basis in respect of its investment in the Units, Purchase Contracts, Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or our Common Stock acquired under a Purchase Contract.

The Units

Separation and Recreation of Units. U.S. Holders will not recognize gain or loss by (i) separating a Unit into its component Purchase Contract and Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or (ii) recreating a Unit, as both procedures are described under *Description of the Units* *Separating and Recreating Units*.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of Units. Upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of a Unit, a U.S. Holder will be treated as having sold or disposed of the Purchase Contract and Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that constitute the Unit. The proceeds realized on a disposition of a Unit will be allocated between the Purchase Contract and Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock of the Unit in proportion to their then relative fair market values. As a result, a U.S. Holder will calculate its gain or loss on the Purchase Contract separately from the gain or loss on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, each as described below. It is thus possible that a U.S. Holder could recognize a capital gain on one component of a Unit but a capital loss on the other component of the Unit.

Table of Contents

Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock

Preferred Stock Installment Payments. As described above, each preferred stock installment payment will consist in part of a Redemption Amount and in part of a Dividend Amount.

Dividend Amount: The Dividend Amount of a preferred stock installment payment generally should constitute dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Any excess will be treated as a tax-free return of your basis in your Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to the extent thereof, with any remaining excess treated as capital gain. Unless we provide a statement to holders of record or provide information on our website to the contrary, the entire Dividend Amount should be treated as a dividend. Assuming you meet certain holding period (and other applicable) requirements, (i) dividends should generally be eligible to be taxed at reduced rates if you are a non-corporate U.S. Holder, and (ii) dividends should generally be eligible for the dividends-received deduction if you are a corporate U.S. Holder.

Redemption Amount: The U.S. federal income tax treatment of the Redemption Amount of a preferred stock installment payment generally will depend on whether the payment is considered a distribution in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or an exchange of a portion of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (each as described in *In General Treatment of the Redemption Amount*, above). If the Redemption Amount is considered a distribution in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, the payment should be treated in the same manner as the Dividend Amount. If the Redemption Amount is considered an exchange of a portion of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, it should be treated as a tax-free return of your basis in the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to the extent thereof, and should correspondingly reduce your basis in your Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

If we elect to pay some or all of a preferred stock installment payment in the form of Common Stock, such payment should qualify as a tax-free recapitalization to the extent the fair market value of the Common Stock we deliver does not exceed the reduction in the liquidation preference of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock resulting from such payment, and any excess fair market value should result in a taxable distribution, which will generally be taxed in the same manner as the payment of a Dividend Amount. See *Dividend Amount*, above, for a discussion of dividends. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequence to you of our election to pay some or all of a preferred stock installment payment in the form of Common Stock.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for cash (including as part of a Unit or as a result of your election to require us to redeem your Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock in the event of a merger termination redemption or early mandatory settlement), you will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition and your adjusted tax basis in the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition to us of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for shares of Common Stock, the Common Stock received generally should be treated in the same manner as a preferred stock installment payment in the form of Common Stock, as discussed under *Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments*, above.

Gain or loss recognized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will generally be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition the portion of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock being disposed of has been held for more than one year. Long-term capital gains recognized by non-corporate U.S. Holders will generally be subject to reduced tax rates. The deductibility of capital losses may be subject to limitations.

Table of Contents

Purchase Contract

Settlement of a Purchase Contract. U.S. Holders will not recognize gain or loss on the acquisition of our Common Stock upon the mandatory or early settlement of a Purchase Contract (including as a result of a merger termination redemption) except with respect to cash paid in lieu of a fractional share of our Common Stock. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in the Common Stock received under a Purchase Contract should be equal to its tax basis in the Purchase Contract less the portion of such tax basis allocable to the fractional share. A U.S. Holder's holding period for the Common Stock received under a Purchase Contract will begin the day after that stock is received.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of Purchase Contracts. Upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of a Purchase Contract (including a Purchase Contract disposed of as part of a Unit, in a merger termination redemption, and the portion of the Purchase Contract that is deemed to be sold as a result of the receipt of cash in lieu of a fractional share upon the settlement of the Purchase Contract), a U.S. Holder will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the Purchase Contract (or portion thereof). The gain or loss recognized will generally be treated in the same manner as gains and losses on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock described in *Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock*, above.

Constructive Dividends. The settlement rate of the Purchase Contracts will be adjusted in certain circumstances. An adjustment to the settlement rate of a Purchase Contract might, and in the case of an adjustment to the settlement rate of a Purchase Contract as a result of an increase in our dividends on Common Stock will, have the effect of increasing a U.S. Holder's proportionate interest in our assets or earnings and profits and, therefore, result in a taxable deemed or constructive stock distribution to the holder of a Purchase Contract.

In certain circumstances, the failure to make an adjustment of the settlement rate may result in a taxable distribution to holders of our Common Stock, if as a result of such failure the proportionate interest of the stockholders in our assets or earnings and profits is increased.

Any deemed distribution will generally be taxed in the same manner as an actual distribution. See the treatment of the Dividend Amount in *Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments*, above. You should consult your tax advisors as to the tax consequences of receiving constructive dividends.

Common Stock Acquired under the Purchase Contracts or Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock

Taxation of Distributions on Common Stock. In the event that we make a distribution of cash or property with respect to our Common Stock, any such distributions generally will be treated in a similar manner as the Dividend Amount described in *Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments*, above.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of Common Stock. The sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our Common Stock generally will be treated in a similar manner as a disposition of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as described in *Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Sale or Other Taxable Disposition of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock*, above.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Information returns will be filed with the IRS in connection with the preferred stock installment payments, dividends on our Common Stock and the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of Units, Purchase Contracts,

S-148

Table of Contents

Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or shares of our Common Stock. You will be subject to backup withholding on these payments if you fail to provide your taxpayer identification number to the paying agent and comply with certain certification procedures or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding.

Backup withholding tax is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to you will be allowed as a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle you to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Non-U.S. Holders

This section applies to you if you are a Non-U.S. Holder. For this purpose, the term *Non-U.S. Holder* means a beneficial owner of a Unit, Purchase Contract, Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or share of Common Stock acquired under a Purchase Contract or the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that is not a U.S. Holder.

Except as discussed below, a Non-U.S. Holder should generally not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding taxes on the separation or recreation of Units, sale, exchange or other disposition of, or payments received in respect of, a Unit, Purchase Contract, Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or share of Common Stock acquired under a Purchase Contract.

Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock

Preferred Stock Installment Payments. Subject to the discussion below, payments in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock that are:

Redemption Amounts considered an exchange of a portion of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock as described in *In General Treatment of the Redemption Amount*, above, should not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding of such tax, subject to your compliance with the certification and documentation procedures described below, and

Dividend Amounts (or Redemption Amounts considered a distribution in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as described in *In General Treatment of the Redemption Amount*, above, or taxable deemed stock distributions resulting from our election to pay some or all of a preferred stock installment payment in the form of Common Stock described in *U.S. Holder Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments*, above) will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal tax at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable tax treaty.

U.S. federal tax generally will be required to be withheld at a 30% rate on the Dividend Amount and any actual or deemed dividend, unless you are eligible for a lower treaty rate with respect to such amounts and:

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

You have furnished to the applicable U.S. withholding agent a valid IRS Form W-8BEN, Form W-8 BEN-E or other applicable documentary evidence, and the form or documentary evidence establishes your entitlement to the lower treaty rate with respect to such payments; and

Pursuant to the rules generally known as FATCA, you have provided the applicable U.S. withholding agent with certain information with respect to your direct and indirect U.S. owners if you are a legal entity; and, if you are (or hold the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock through) a non-U.S. financial institution, the institution (i) has entered into an agreement with the U.S. government to collect and provide to the U.S. tax authorities information about its accountholders (including certain investors in such institution), (ii) qualifies for an exception from the requirement to enter into such an agreement, or (iii) complies with the terms of an applicable intergovernmental agreement between the U.S. government and the jurisdiction in which such foreign financial institution is organized, is resident or operates, as the case may be.

S-149

Table of Contents

U.S. federal tax will generally not be required to be withheld on a Redemption Amount, provided that:

You comply with the certification procedures of your broker (or other intermediary). These typically will include a certification that you are a foreign person and that you meet either the complete termination or the not essentially equivalent to a dividend test in respect of the Redemption Amount (see In General Treatment of the Redemption Amount, above). You should consult your broker or other intermediary and your tax advisors to determine the particular withholding procedures that will be applicable to you, including whether you will be required to provide certification prior to each preferred stock installment payment; and

For Redemption Amount payments made after December 31, 2016, you comply with the documentation and FATCA requirements described above with respect to actual or deemed dividends.

A holder that does not comply with these requirements will be subject to 30% withholding on payment of a Redemption Amount.

If you are eligible for a reduced rate of withholding of U.S. federal tax pursuant to an income tax treaty, you may be able to obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS. You are encouraged to consult with your own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of these withholding requirements on your investment in our Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock.

Dividends and Constructive Dividends

Dividends on our Common Stock paid to a Non-U.S. Holder will be treated in the same manner as the Dividend Payments as described under Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments, above.

An adjustment to the settlement rate of a Purchase Contract might result, and in the case of an adjustment to the settlement rate of a Purchase Contract as a result of an increase in our dividends on Common Stock, will result, in a taxable deemed or constructive stock distribution, as described under U.S. Holders Purchase Contract Constructive Dividends, above. Any taxable deemed or constructive stock distribution will generally be treated in the same manner as the Dividend Payments as described under Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments, above.

Because a taxable deemed constructive stock dividend would not give rise to any cash from which any applicable withholding or backup withholding could be satisfied, if withholding or backup withholding (described below) is paid on the Non-U.S. Holder's behalf, the withholding or backup withholding may be withheld from any payments of cash or our Common Stock payable on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or the sale or settlement of a Purchase Contract, as applicable, or may be satisfied through the use of other assets that you hold with a broker or other withholding agent. A Non-U.S. Holder who is subject to U.S. federal withholding or backup withholding should consult its own tax advisor as to whether it can obtain a refund for all or a portion of such amounts.

Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Units, Purchase Contracts, Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or Shares of Common Stock

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Under the U.S. withholding tax and reporting rules known as FATCA, in the case of the sale or disposition of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (including as part of a Unit) or our Common Stock (and possibly the Purchase Contracts) after December 31, 2016, you may be subject to a 30% withholding of U.S. federal income tax on the gross proceeds of the sale or disposition (including any distribution on our Common Stock that is treated as a return of your investment or capital gain) unless the FATCA procedures required to claim a reduction in the 30% withholding tax on Dividend Amounts described under Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments, above, are satisfied, other than

S-150

Table of Contents

demonstrating eligibility for a treaty. You should consult with your own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of these withholding requirements on your investment in the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, our Common Stock, Units and Purchase Contracts and the potential for a refund or credit in the case of any withholding tax.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Information returns will be filed with the IRS in connection with payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and on the Common Stock. Unless you comply with certification procedures to establish that you are not a United States person, information returns may be filed with the IRS in connection with the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of the Units, Purchase Contracts, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or Common Stock and you may be subject to backup withholding on payments on the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock and on the Common Stock or on the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of the Units, Purchase Contracts, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock or Common Stock. The documentation and FATCA procedures required to claim a reduction in the 30% withholding tax on Dividend Amounts described under *Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock Preferred Stock Installment Payments*, above, other than demonstrating eligibility for a treaty, will satisfy the certification requirements necessary to avoid backup withholding as well.

Backup withholding tax is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to you will be allowed as a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle you to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Possible Alternative Treatments

The Units are a complex and novel form of financial instrument. No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly addresses the characterization of the Units or instruments similar to the Units for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the Units are not certain, in particular the treatment of Redemption Amounts as payments in exchange for the redemption of a portion of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, assuming satisfaction of the Section 302(b) rules described above in *In General Treatment of the Redemption Amount*. Moreover, that treatment is based on our intent and expectation that we will not deliver Common Stock in redemption of, or as payment in respect of, the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, and an alternative, less favorable, treatment of the Redemption Amounts may apply if we deliver Common Stock for that purpose. No ruling is being requested from the IRS, and the IRS or a court may take a contrary view to the positions described herein. Consequently, no assurance can be given that the IRS will agree with the treatment of the Units, the Purchase Contract and the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock described above, or that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of those described above.

Alternative treatments of the Units, the Purchase Contracts or the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock could result in U.S. federal income tax and withholding tax consequences that are materially less favorable to you. For example, if the components of a Unit were treated as a single instrument, each preferred stock installment payment may be treated as income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in which case U.S. Holders generally would be required to treat such amounts as ordinary income and amounts paid to Non-U.S. Holders would be subject to U.S. withholding tax. Even if the components of a Unit are respected as separate instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a Redemption Amount may be considered a distribution in respect of the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock (as described in *In General Treatment of the Redemption Amount*, above) that is treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes, to the extent of our earnings and profits, in which case U.S. Holders generally would be required to treat such amounts as ordinary income and amounts paid to Non-U.S. Holders would be subject to U.S. withholding tax.

Table of Contents

BOOK-ENTRY PROCEDURES AND SETTLEMENT

The Units, the separate Purchase Contracts and the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock will initially be issued under a book-entry system in the form of global securities. We will register the global securities in the name of DTC or its nominee and will deposit the global securities with that depository.

Following the issuance of a global security in registered form, the depository will credit the accounts of its participants with the Units, the separate Purchase Contracts and the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, upon our instructions. Only persons who hold directly or indirectly through financial institutions that are participants in the depository can hold beneficial interests in the global securities. Because the laws of some jurisdictions require certain types of purchasers to take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form, you may encounter difficulties in your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in a global security.

So long as the depository or its nominee is the registered owner of a global security, we, the purchase contract agent and the transfer agent will treat the depository as the sole owner or holder of the Units, the separate Purchase Contracts and the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be. Therefore, except as set forth below, you will not be entitled to have Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock registered in your name or to receive physical delivery of certificates representing the Units, the separate Purchase Contracts or the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Accordingly, you will have to rely on the procedures of the depository and the participant in the depository through whom you hold your beneficial interest in order to exercise any rights of a holder under the purchase contract agreement or the certificate of designations, as the case may be. We understand that under existing practices, the depository would act upon the instructions of a participant or authorize that participant to take any action that a holder is entitled to take.

You may elect to hold interests in the global securities either in the United States through DTC or outside the United States through Clearstream Banking, société anonyme (Clearstream) or Euroclear Bank, S.A./N.V., or its successor, as operator of the Euroclear System, (Euroclear) if you are a participant of such system, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such systems. Interests held through Clearstream and Euroclear will be recorded on DTC's books as being held by the U.S. depository for each of Clearstream and Euroclear, which U.S. depositories will in turn hold interests on behalf of their participants' customers' securities accounts.

As long as the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock are represented by the global securities, we will make preferred stock installment payments on those separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to or as directed by DTC as the registered holder of the global securities. Payments to DTC will be in immediately available funds by wire transfer. DTC, Clearstream or Euroclear, as applicable, will credit the relevant accounts of their participants on the applicable date. Neither we nor the transfer agent will be responsible for making any payments to participants or customers of participants or for maintaining any records relating to the holdings of participants and their customers, and you will have to rely on the procedures of the depository and its participants.

Settlement

Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in immediately available funds using DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System. Secondary market trading between Clearstream customers and/or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected in

S-152

Table of Contents

DTC in accordance with DTC rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by its U.S. depositary; however, such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines (based on European time). The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to the U.S. depositary to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering or receiving securities in DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream customers and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their respective U.S. depositaries.

Because of time-zone differences, credits of securities received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant will be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions in Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, that are settled during such processing will be reported to the relevant Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants on such business day. Cash received in Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, by or through a Clearstream customer or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but will be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of Units, separate Purchase Contracts and separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, among participants of DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be discontinued at any time.

Definitive Securities and Transfer Agents

A beneficial owner of book-entry securities represented by a global security may exchange the securities for definitive (paper) securities only if:

- (a) the depositary is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary for such global security and we are unable to find a qualified replacement for the depositary within 90 days; or
- (b) at any time the depositary ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act; or
- (c) any failure on our part to observe or perform any covenant or agreement in the Purchase Contracts or the Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock has occurred and is continuing and such beneficial owner requests that its Purchase Contracts and/or Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, be issued in physical, certificated form.

The global security will be exchangeable in whole for definitive securities in registered form, with the same terms and of an equal aggregate principal amount. Definitive Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, will be registered in the name or names of the person or persons specified by the depositary in a written instruction to the registrar of the securities. The depositary may base its written instruction upon directions it receives from its participants.

If any of the events described above occurs, then the beneficial owners will be notified through the chain of intermediaries that definitive securities are available and notice will be published as described below under Notices. Beneficial owners of book-entry Units, separate Purchase

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Contracts or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, will then be entitled (1) to receive physical delivery in certificated form of definitive Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, equal in aggregate amount of Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, to their beneficial interest and (2) to have the definitive securities registered in their names. Thereafter, the holders of the definitive Units, separate Purchase

S-153

Table of Contents

Contracts and separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, will be recognized as the holders of the Units, separate Purchase Contracts and separate Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock for purposes of the purchase contract agreement and certificate of designations, respectively.

Each of the purchase contract agreement and certificate of designations provides for the replacement of a mutilated, lost, stolen or destroyed definitive security, so long as the applicant furnishes to us, the purchase contract agent and the transfer agent such security or indemnity and such evidence of ownership as they may require.

In the event definitive separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock are issued, the holders thereof will be able to receive preferred stock installment payments at the office of our transfer agent. The final preferred stock installment payment of a definitive separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock may be made only against surrender of the separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock to our transfer agent. We also have the option of making preferred stock installment payments by mailing checks to the registered holders of the separate certificated Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. Our transfer agent is Computershare, located at 250 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021, (800) 736-3001.

In the event definitive Units or separate Purchase Contracts are issued, the holders thereof will be able to transfer their securities, in whole or in part, by surrendering such securities for registration of transfer at the office of U.S. Bank, National Association. In the event separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock are issued, the holders thereof will be able to transfer their securities, in whole or in part, by surrendering such securities for registration of transfer at the office of Computershare. A form of such instrument of transfer will be obtainable at the relevant office of U.S. Bank, National Association or Computershare, as applicable. Upon surrender, we will execute, and the purchase contract agent or the transfer agent will authenticate and deliver, new Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock, as the case may be, to the designated transferee in the amount being transferred, and a new security for any amount not being transferred will be issued to the transferor. Such new securities will be delivered free of charge at the relevant office of U.S. Bank, National Association or Computershare, as applicable, as requested by the owner of such new Units, separate Purchase Contracts or separate shares of Mandatory Redeemable Preferred Stock. We will not charge any fee for the registration of transfer or exchange, except that we may require the payment of a sum sufficient to cover any applicable tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with the transfer.

Notices

So long as the global securities are held on behalf of DTC or any other clearing system, notices to holders of securities represented by a beneficial interest in the global securities may be given by delivery of the relevant notice to DTC or the alternative clearing system, as the case may be. Any notice will be deemed to have been given on the date of publication or, if published more than once, on the date of the first publication.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC are acting as joint book-running managers of the offering and as representatives of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the number of Units set forth opposite the underwriter's name.

Underwriter	Number of Units
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	
Guggenheim Securities, LLC	
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	
BMO Capital Markets Corp.	
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.	

Total

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the Units included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the Units (other than those covered by the over-allotment option described below) if they purchase any of the Units.

Units sold by the underwriters to the public will initially be offered at the initial public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. Any Units sold by the underwriters to securities dealers may be sold at a discount from the initial public offering price not to exceed \$ per Unit. If all the Units are not sold at the initial offering price, the underwriters may change the offering price and the other selling terms.

If the underwriters sell more Units than the total number set forth in the table above, we have granted to the underwriters an option, exercisable for settlement within 13 days from the date of the initial issuance of the Units, to purchase up to 22,500 additional Units solely for the purpose of covering over-allotments, if any, at the public offering price less the underwriting discount, after taking into account any accrued and unpaid dividends. To the extent the option is exercised, each underwriter must purchase a number of additional Units approximately proportionate to that underwriter's initial purchase commitment. Any Units issued or sold under the option will be issued and sold on the same terms and conditions as the other Units that are the subject of this offering.

We and our executive officers and directors have agreed that, for a period of 60 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, we and they will not, without the prior written consent of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and subject to certain exceptions, dispose of or hedge any shares or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for our Common Stock. Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC in their sole discretion may release any of the securities subject to these lock-up agreements at any time without notice.

The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option.

	Paid by Kindred Healthcare, Inc.	
	No Exercise	Full Exercise
Per Unit	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$

S-155

Table of Contents

We estimate that our portion of the total expenses of this offering will be \$ _____.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell Units in the open market. Purchases and sales in the open market may include short sales, purchases to cover short positions, which may include purchases pursuant to the over-allotment option, and stabilizing purchases.

Short sales involve secondary market sales by the underwriters of a greater number of Units than they are required to purchase in the offering.

Covered short sales are sales of Units in an amount up to the number of Units represented by the underwriters' over-allotment option.

Naked short sales are sales of Units in an amount in excess of the number of Units represented by the underwriters' over-allotment option.

Covering transactions involve purchases of Units either pursuant to the underwriters' over-allotment option or in the open market in order to cover short positions.

To close a naked short position, the underwriters must purchase Units in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the Units in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

To close a covered short position, the underwriters must purchase Units in the open market or must exercise the over-allotment option. In determining the source of Units to close the covered short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of Units available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase Units through the over-allotment option.

Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase Units so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Purchases to cover short positions and stabilizing purchases, as well as other purchases by the underwriters for their own accounts, may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Units. They may also cause the price of the Units to be higher than the price that would otherwise exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

New York Stock Exchange Listing

We will apply for listing of the Units on the NYSE under the symbol **KNDU**, subject to satisfaction of its minimum listing standard with respect to the Units; however, no assurance can be provided that the Units will be approved for listing. The Units are a new issue of securities and there is currently no trading market for the Units. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Units, but no underwriter is obligated to do so. Any underwriter may discontinue any market making in the Units at any time in its sole discretion without notice.

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid market will develop for the Units, that you will be able to sell your Units at a particular time or that the prices you receive when you sell will be favorable. Our shares of Common Stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol KND.

Certain Relationships

The underwriters are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. The underwriters and their respective affiliates have in

S-156

Table of Contents

the past performed commercial banking, investment banking and advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received customary fees and reimbursement of expenses and may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business for which they may receive customary fees and reimbursement of expenses. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (which may include bank loans and/or credit default swaps) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and may at any time hold long and short positions in such securities and instruments. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. Certain of the underwriters or their respective affiliates that have a lending relationship with us routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. A typical such hedging strategy would include these underwriters or their affiliates hedging such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

In addition, affiliates of certain of the underwriters from time to time have acted or in the future may continue to act as agents and lenders to us and our affiliates and subsidiaries under our or their respective credit facilities, for which services they expect to receive customary compensation. For example, certain of the underwriters and/or their respective affiliates will serve as joint bookrunners and/or lead arrangers in connection with the Term Loan Amendment, which we expect to be entered into in connection with the Financing Transactions, and affiliates of certain of the underwriters will act as arrangers, agents and/or lenders under our ABL Facility and our Term Loan Facility. An affiliate of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC serves as administrative agent and collateral agent under our ABL Facility and our Term Loan Facility. In addition, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and/or its respective affiliates served as financial advisor to Kindred in connection with the Merger. In addition, the underwriters and/or their respective affiliates may act as initial purchasers in connection with the Senior Notes Offering. See Summary The Transactions Financing Transactions.

We plan to use a portion of the net proceeds of this offering to repay Gentiva's existing indebtedness. See Use of Proceeds. Affiliates of BMO Capital Markets Corp., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. are agents, arrangers, lenders and initial purchasers under certain indebtedness of Gentiva. As such, these affiliates will receive their proportionate shares of repayments of any amount outstanding under Gentiva's existing indebtedness out of net proceeds of this offering.

In addition, affiliates of the underwriters have agreed to provide us with interim financing to fund the Transactions in the event this offering and the other Financing Transactions are not consummated for which such underwriters and their respective affiliates will be paid customary fees. These interim financing commitments will be reduced by the aggregate gross proceeds of the Senior Notes Offering, the concurrent Common Stock Offering and this offering. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger The Merger may not be consummated if sufficient financing or other sources of capital are not available or for other reasons, and we may become subject to monetary or other damages under the Merger Agreement.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of Units

Table of Contents

described in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may not be made to the public in that relevant member state other than:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 100 or, if the relevant member state has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant Dealer or Dealers nominated by us for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of Units shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of securities to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Units to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the Units, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the relevant member state) and includes any relevant implementing measure in the relevant member state. The expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

The sellers of the Units have not authorized and do not authorize the making of any offer of Units through any financial intermediary on their behalf, other than offers made by the underwriters with a view to the final placement of the Units as contemplated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Accordingly, no purchaser of the Units, other than the underwriters, is authorized to make any further offer of the Units on behalf of the sellers or the underwriters.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are only being distributed to, and is only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive that are also (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (each such person being referred to as a relevant person). This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and their contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Australia

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

No prospectus or other disclosure document (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) of Australia (Corporations Act)) in relation to the Units has been or will be lodged with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC). This document has not been lodged with ASIC and is only directed to certain categories of exempt persons. Accordingly, if you receive this document in Australia:

- (a) you confirm and warrant that you are either:
 - (i) a sophisticated investor under section 708(8)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act;
 - (ii) a sophisticated investor under section 708(8)(c) or (d) of the Corporations Act and that you have provided an accountant's certificate to us which complies with the requirements of section 708(8)(c)(i) or (ii) of the Corporations Act and related regulations before the offer has been made;

S-158

Table of Contents

- (iii) a person associated with the company under section 708(12) of the Corporations Act; or
 - (iv) a professional investor within the meaning of section 708(11)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act, and to the extent that you are unable to confirm or warrant that you are an exempt sophisticated investor, associated person or professional investor under the Corporations Act any offer made to you under this document is void and incapable of acceptance; and
- (b) you warrant and agree that you will not offer any of the Units for resale in Australia within 12 months of that common stock being issued unless any such resale offer is exempt from the requirement to issue a disclosure document under section 708 of the Corporations Act.

Notice to Prospective Investors in France

Neither this prospectus supplement, nor the accompanying prospectus nor any other offering material relating to the Units described in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus has been submitted to the clearance procedures of the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers* or of the competent authority of another member state of the European Economic Area and notified to the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers*. The Units have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, to the public in France. Neither this prospectus supplement, nor the accompanying prospectus nor any other offering material relating to the Units has been or will be:

released, issued, distributed or caused to be released, issued or distributed to the public in France; or

used in connection with any offer for subscription or sale of the Units to the public in France.

Such offers, sales and distributions will be made in France only:

to qualified investors (*investisseurs qualifiés*) and/or to a restricted circle of investors (*cercle restreint d'investisseurs*), in each case investing for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with articles L.411-2, D.411-1, D.411-2, D.734-1, D.744-1, D.754-1 and D.764-1 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*;

to investment services providers authorized to engage in portfolio management on behalf of third parties; or

in a transaction that, in accordance with article L.411-2-II-1°-or-2°-or 3° of the French *Code monétaire et financier* and article 211-2 of the General Regulations (*Règlement Général*) of the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers*, does not constitute a public offer (*appel public à l'épargne*).

The Units may be resold directly or indirectly, only in compliance with articles L.411-1, L.411-2, L.412-1 and L.621-8 through L.621-8-3 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The Units may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the Units may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to Units which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

S-159

Table of Contents

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

The Units offered in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan. The Units have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the account of any resident of Japan (including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), except (i) pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and (ii) in compliance with any other applicable requirements of Japanese law.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the Units may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the Units be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to compliance with conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the Units are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor,

shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the Units pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:

to an institutional investor (for corporations, under Section 274 of the SFA) or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person pursuant to an offer that is made on terms that such shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or such rights and interest in that trust are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets, and further for corporations, in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA;

where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; or

where the transfer is by operation of law.

S-160

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Units sold in this offering will be passed upon for us by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, New York, New York, certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York and certain regulatory matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Winston & Strawn, Washington, D.C.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to Kindred Healthcare, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 14, 2014 and the financial statement schedule and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Kindred Healthcare, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2013 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The consolidated financial statements of RehabCare Group, Inc. as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2010, incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to Kindred Healthcare, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 4, 2011, have been incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, which report appears in Kindred Healthcare, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 4, 2011, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The audit report covering the December 31, 2010 consolidated financial statements of RehabCare Group, Inc. refers to the adoption of FASB Financial Accounting Standards No. 141(R), Business Combinations (included in FASB ASC Topic 805, Business Combinations), as of January 1, 2009.

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to Gentiva Health Services, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report (which contains an explanatory paragraph relating to the Company's restatement of its financial statements as described in Note 2 to the financial statements, an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and an explanatory paragraph on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting due to the exclusion of certain elements of the internal control over financial reporting of Harden Healthcare Holdings, Inc. which the registrant acquired as of December 31, 2013) of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The combined financial statements of Harden Healthcare Holdings, Inc. Net Assets Sold (Certain Assets, Liabilities and Operations Related to the Harden Home Health and Hospice Divisions) incorporated by reference in Gentiva Health Services, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A (Amendment No. 1) (Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 only) filed on December 23, 2013, for the year ended December 31, 2012, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such combined financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We and Gentiva each file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. These filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Please note that the SEC's website is included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as an inactive textual reference only. The information contained on the SEC's website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus and should not be considered to be part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, except as described in the following paragraph. You may also read and copy any document we and Gentiva file with the SEC at its public reference facility at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference facility.

After the completion of the Merger, Gentiva will no longer file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement certain information we and Gentiva file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Certain information that we subsequently file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information in this prospectus supplement and in our and Gentiva's other filings with the SEC.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below, which we have already filed with the SEC, and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until all the securities offered by this prospectus supplement have been sold and all conditions to the consummation of such sales have been satisfied, except that we are not incorporating any information included in a Current Report on Form 8-K that has been or will be furnished (and not filed) with the SEC, unless such information is expressly incorporated herein by a reference to a furnished Current Report on Form 8-K or other furnished document:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed with the SEC on February 28, 2014 (the Kindred 2013 10-K) (the financial statements and related audit report and management discussion and analysis have been superseded by the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014);

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2014 filed with the SEC on May 9, 2014; June 30, 2014 filed with the SEC on August 11, 2014; and September 30, 2014 filed with the SEC on November 7, 2014;

portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 3, 2014 that are incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 4, 2011 (Exhibits 99.3 and 99.4 only); January 2, 2014; January 16, 2014; February 4, 2014; February 21, 2014 (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.2 only); March 26, 2014; March 27, 2014; March 28, 2014; April 14, 2014 (excluding Item 7.01 and Exhibit 99.1); April 17, 2014; May 8, 2014 (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.2 only); May 15, 2014 (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.1 only); May 23, 2014; June 3, 2014; June 16, 2014 (SEC Accession No. 0001193125-14-237656); June 16, 2014 (SEC Accession No. 0001193125-14-237710) (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.1 only); June 20, 2014; June 25, 2014; July 25,

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

2014; August 7, 2014 (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.2 only); October 9, 2014 (Item 8.01 only); October 14, 2014; October 23, 2014; October 31, 2014; November 3, 2014; November 6, 2014 (SEC Accession No. 0001193125-14-398918); November 6, 2014 (SEC Accession No. 0001193125-14-399781) (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.2 only); and November 12, 2014 (Item 1.01 only);

S-162

Table of Contents

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014 (including a recast presentation of certain sections of the Kindred 2013 10-K);

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 17, 2014 (including the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and for the year ended December 31, 2013);

the description of our common stock and preferred stock contained in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 16, 2014;

Part I. Financial Information Item 1. Financial Statements of Gentiva Health Services, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014;

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of Gentiva Health Services, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014; and

Gentiva Health Services, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A (Amendment No. 1) (Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 only) filed with the SEC on December 23, 2013.

The representations, warranties and covenants contained in the Merger Agreement were made only for purposes of such agreement and as of specific dates, were 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 are not third-party beneficiaries under the Merger Agreement and should not rely on the representations, warranties and covenants or any descriptions thereof as characterizations of the actual state of facts or condition of the parties thereto or any of their respective subsidiaries or affiliates. Moreover, information concerning the subject matter of representations and warranties may change after the date of the Merger Agreement, which subsequent information may or may not be fully reflected in Kindred's or Gentiva's public disclosures.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address: 680 South Fourth Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, Telephone: (502) 596-7300, Attention: Investor Relations.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Kindred Healthcare, Inc.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depositary Shares

Purchase Contracts

Units

We or selling stockholders may offer and sell from time to time, together or separately, shares of our common stock, par value \$0.25 per share, shares of our preferred stock, par value \$0.25 per share, depositary shares, purchase contracts and units, in amounts, at prices and on other terms to be determined at the time of the offering and to be described in an accompanying prospectus supplement.

In the case of an offering by a selling stockholder, the applicable prospectus supplement will include the identity of, and specific information required with respect to, any selling stockholder. Any prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and each related prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to sell these securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We or the selling stockholders may offer and sell these securities through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. We provide more information about how the securities may be offered and sold in the section entitled Plan of Distribution beginning on page 5. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol KND. On November 14, 2014, the last sale price of our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange was \$19.92 per share.

INVESTING IN THE OFFERED SECURITIES INVOLVES RISKS. YOU SHOULD READ THE RISK FACTORS SECTION ON PAGE 1 OF THIS PROSPECTUS AND CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE DISCUSSION OF RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES DESCRIBED UNDER THE HEADING RISK FACTORS

**IN ANY APPLICABLE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND IN THE DOCUMENTS WE INCORPORATE
BY REFERENCE.**

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

Prospectus dated November 17, 2014

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	i
<u>Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	i
<u>Kindred Healthcare, Inc.</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	2
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preference Dividends</u>	2
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	3
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	4
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	4
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	5
<u>Description of Units</u>	5
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	6
<u>Validity of the Securities</u>	7
<u>Experts</u>	7
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	8
<u>Documents Incorporated by Reference</u>	8

We and any selling stockholders are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on behalf of us. Neither we nor any selling stockholders have authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we or any selling stockholders take no responsibility for any other information that others may give you. We and any selling stockholders are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document containing the information.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC utilizing an automatic shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we or any selling stockholders may periodically sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides a general description of our securities that we or any selling stockholders may offer. Each time we or any selling stockholders offer securities, we or any selling stockholders will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information, including information about us, contained in this prospectus. Therefore, before making your investment decision, you should carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the documents referred to in [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

References to we, us, our, the Company and Kindred are references to Kindred Healthcare, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless it is clear from the context that we mean only Kindred Healthcare, Inc.

NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference contain statements about future events and expectations, or forward-looking statements, all of which are inherently uncertain. All statements regarding our expected future financial position, results of operations, cash flows, dividends, financing plans, business strategy, budgets, capital expenditures, competitive positions, growth

Table of Contents

opportunities, plans and objectives of management and statements containing the words such as anticipate, approximate, believe, plan, estimate, expect, project, could, would, should, will, intend, may, other similar expressions, are forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are inherently uncertain, and stockholders and other potential investors must recognize that actual results may differ materially from our expectations as a result of a variety of factors. Such forward-looking statements are based upon management's current expectations and include known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which we are unable to predict or control, that may cause our actual results or performance to differ materially from any future results or performance expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors detailed from time to time in our filings with the SEC.

We caution you that any forward-looking statements made by us are not guarantees of future performance. You should keep in mind that any forward-looking statement we make in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference or elsewhere speaks only as of the date on which we make it. New risks and uncertainties arise from time to time, and it is impossible for us to predict these events or how they may affect us. In any event, these and other important factors, including those set forth under the caption Risk Factors in a prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference, may cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by our forward-looking statements. We have no duty, and do not intend, to update or revise the forward-looking statements we make in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference or elsewhere, except as may be required by law. In light of these risks and uncertainties, you should keep in mind that the future events or circumstances described in any forward-looking statement we make in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference or elsewhere might not occur.

Table of Contents

KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC.

Kindred Healthcare, Inc. is a healthcare services company that through its subsidiaries operates transitional care (TC) hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation hospitals (IRFs), nursing centers, assisted living facilities, a contract rehabilitation services business and a home health and hospice business across the United States.

We are organized into four operating divisions: the hospital division, the nursing center division, the rehabilitation division and the care management division.

The hospital division operates TC hospitals and IRFs. The nursing center division operates nursing centers and assisted living facilities. The rehabilitation division provides rehabilitation services primarily in hospitals and long-term care settings. The care management division primarily provides home health, hospice and private duty services to patients in a variety of settings, including homes, nursing centers and other residential settings. We believe that the independent focus of each division on the unique aspects of its business enhances its ability to improve the quality of its operations and achieve operating efficiencies.

Based upon the authoritative accounting guidance for business segments, our operating divisions represent five reportable operating segments: (1) hospitals, (2) nursing centers, (3) skilled nursing rehabilitation services (SRS), (4) hospital rehabilitation services (HRS) and (5) home health and hospice services. The SRS and HRS operating segments are both contained within the rehabilitation division, while home health and hospice services are contained within the care management division.

All financial and statistical information presented or incorporated by reference in this registration statement reflects the continuing operations of our businesses for all periods presented unless otherwise indicated.

Kindred Healthcare, Inc. is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky and was incorporated in 1998. Our principal office is located at 680 South Fourth Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, and our telephone number is (502) 596-7300. Our website is www.kindredhealthcare.com. Our website is included in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement as an inactive textual reference only. Except for the documents specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus, information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement and should not be considered to be a part of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. Before deciding to invest in the securities, you should carefully consider the discussion of risks and uncertainties under the heading Risk Factors contained in any applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See the section entitled Where You Can Find More Information on page 8.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Except as otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from any sale of our securities by this prospectus for our general corporate purposes. The net proceeds may be invested temporarily in short-term marketable securities or applied to repay short-term debt.

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds from any sale of our securities by a selling stockholder.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERENCE DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference dividends for each of the periods indicated. You should read this table in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

	Year Ended December 31,					
	Nine Months Ended					
(dollars in thousands)	September 30,					
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preference Dividends(1)(2)(3)	1.05				1.19	1.30

- (1) For the purpose of computing these ratios, earnings consists of consolidated pretax income from continuing operations before adjustment for noncontrolling interests in consolidated subsidiaries and income or loss from equity investees, plus fixed charges, distributed income of equity investees and amortization of capitalized interest, less interest capitalized; fixed charges consists of interest expense from continuing and discontinued operations, amortized debt discounts and fees, interest capitalized related to indebtedness and an estimated interest component of rental expense; preference dividend is the amount of pre-tax earnings that is required to pay the dividends on outstanding preference securities. Kindred had no preferred stock outstanding during the periods indicated.
- (2) Kindred had no preferred stock outstanding during the periods indicated; therefore, the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference dividends is the same as the ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
- (3) For the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, there was a deficiency of earnings to cover fixed charges of \$53,054, \$17,228 and \$80,877, respectively.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The description below summarizes the general terms of our common stock. This section is a summary, and it does not describe every aspect of our common stock. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (the "Certificate of Incorporation") and our Amended and Restated Bylaws (the "By-Laws"), each as may be amended from time to time.

Authorized Shares

The Company is authorized to issue a total of 175,000,000 shares of common stock with 25 cent (\$0.25) par value per share. As of October 31, 2014, there were 64,623,953 shares of common stock outstanding. The issued and outstanding shares of common stock are, and any shares of common stock issuable under the stock option plans or upon the exercise of any warrants for common stock will be, duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

Dividends

Holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by the Company's board of directors out of funds legally available therefor. We are subject to certain limitations on the declaration and payment of dividends, other than stock dividends, pursuant to the terms of our outstanding indebtedness.

Voting

Holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders.

Rights Upon Liquidation, Dissolution or Winding Up

In the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, holders of common stock would have the right to a ratable portion of assets remaining after payment of liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any holders of preferred stock then outstanding. Holders of common stock will have no preemptive rights.

Listing

The Company's common stock is quoted on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "KND".

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The registrar and transfer agent for the common stock is Computershare, 250 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021, (800) 736-3001.

Certain Restrictions

In order to help ensure that Ventas, Inc. ("Ventas"), a former affiliate of the Company, continues to meet the requirements for treatment as a real estate investment trust, the Certificate of Incorporation contains a provision prohibiting Tenet Healthcare Corporation and its successors ("Tenet") from beneficially owning, directly or indirectly (including by application of certain attribution rules under the Internal Revenue Code), shares of our common stock in excess of the existing holder limit set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation for so long as Tenet remains a

significant shareholder in Ventas. Any shares of our common stock beneficially owned by Tenet in excess of such existing holder limit, including shares beneficially owned by persons that are or become related

Table of Contents

to Tenet under the attribution rules, will be designated as excess stock and treated as described in the Certificate of Incorporation. The certificates evidencing our common stock contain a legend referencing the above restriction. In addition, if we engage in an Accretive Transaction (as defined in the Certificate of Incorporation), we will purchase from Ventas such number of shares as are necessary to prevent Ventas from beneficially owning in excess of 9.9% of the Company after giving effect to such Accretive Transaction.

The Certificate of Incorporation also states that we may not issue nonvoting equity securities to the extent prohibited by Section 1123(6)(a) of Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code.

Certain Statutory Provisions

In the Certificate of Incorporation, the Company has elected not to be governed by Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (DGCL). Section 203 of the DGCL prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination transaction with an interested stockholder (a stockholder who purchases more than 15% of our common stock) for a period of three years after the interested stockholder became such unless the transaction fits within an applicable exemption, such as board approval of the business combination or the transaction that resulted in such stockholder becoming an interested stockholder. These provisions would apply even if the business combination could be considered beneficial by some stockholders. By opting out of Section 203 of the DGCL, a stockholder that becomes an interested stockholder will be able to engage in a business combination transaction with us without prior board approval.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

The description below summarizes the general terms of our preferred stock. This section is a summary, and it does not describe every aspect of our preferred stock. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and our By-Laws, each as may be amended from time to time.

The Certificate of Incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue preferred stock in one or more series and to establish the designations, powers, preferences and rights and the qualifications, limitations and restrictions of any series with respect to the number of shares included in such series, the rate and nature of dividends, the price and terms and conditions on which shares may be redeemed, the terms and conditions for conversion or exchange into any other class or series of stock, voting rights and other terms. We may issue, without the approval of holders of common stock, preferred stock which has voting, dividend or liquidation rights superior to the common stock and which may adversely affect the rights of holders of common stock. The issuance of preferred stock could, among other things, adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock and could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of us. We are subject to certain limitations on the issuance of preferred stock pursuant to the terms of our outstanding indebtedness.

The Company is authorized to issue a total of 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock with 25 cent (\$0.25) par value per share. We have no shares of preferred stock outstanding as of the date of this prospectus.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The Company may issue fractional interests in shares of common or preferred stock, rather than shares of common or preferred stock, with those rights and subject to the terms and conditions that we may specify in a related prospectus supplement. If we do so, we will provide for a depositary (either a bank or trust company depositary that has its principal office in the United States) to issue receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of common or preferred stock, as applicable. The shares of common

Table of Contents

or preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and the depositary. The prospectus supplement will include the name and address of the depositary.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

The Company may issue purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and us to sell to the holders, a specified or varying number of shares of common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares at a future date or dates. Alternatively, the purchase contracts may obligate us to purchase from holders, and obligate holders to sell to us, a specified or varying number of shares of common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares. The consideration per share of common stock, preferred stock or per depositary share may be fixed at the time the purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by a specific reference to a formula set forth in the purchase contracts. The purchase contracts may provide for settlement by delivery of shares of the underlying security, or they may provide for settlement by reference or linkage to the value, performance or trading price of the underlying security. The purchase contracts may be issued separately or as part of purchase units consisting of a purchase contract and an underlying security, which may include debt obligations of third parties, such as U.S. Treasury securities, that is pledged by the holder of a purchase contract to secure its obligations under the purchase contract. The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders thereof or vice versa, and these payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis and may be paid on a current or on a deferred basis. The purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner and may provide for the prepayment of all or part of the consideration payable by holders in connection with the purchase of the underlying security or other property pursuant to the purchase contracts.

The securities related to the purchase contracts may be pledged to a collateral agent for our benefit pursuant to a pledge agreement to secure the obligations of holders of purchase contracts to purchase the underlying security or property under the related purchase contracts. The rights of holders of purchase contracts to the related pledged securities will be subject to our security interest therein created by the pledge agreement. No holder of purchase contracts will be permitted to withdraw the pledged securities related to such purchase contracts from the pledge arrangement.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

The Company may issue units consisting of one or more purchase contracts, shares of preferred stock, shares of common stock or any combination of such of our securities, as specified in a related prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We or the selling stockholders may offer and sell from time to time, together or separately, the securities covered by this prospectus in one or more or any combination of the following transactions:

on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market or on any other national securities exchange on which our securities are listed or traded;

in privately negotiated transactions;

in underwritten transactions;

in a block trade in which a broker-dealer will attempt to sell the offered securities as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

through purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account pursuant to this prospectus; and

through any other method permitted by applicable law.

We or the selling stockholders may sell our securities at prices then prevailing or related to the then current market price or at negotiated prices. The offering price of our securities from time to time will be determined by us or the selling stockholders, as applicable, and, at the time of the determination, may be higher or lower than the market price of our securities on the New York Stock Exchange or any other exchange or market.

Our securities may be offered to the public, from time to time, through broker-dealers acting as agent or principal, including through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more of such firms in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the offered securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid by underwriters or dealers to other dealers may be changed from time to time. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the offered securities if they purchase any of the offered securities.

In connection with an underwritten offering, underwriters or agents may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from us or the selling stockholders, as applicable, or from purchasers of the offered securities for whom they may act as agents. In addition, underwriters may sell our securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents. The selling stockholders and any underwriters, dealers or agents participating in a distribution of our securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and any profit on the sale of the securities by the selling stockholders and any commissions received by broker-dealers may be deemed to be

underwriting commissions under the Securities Act.

We and the selling stockholders each may agree to indemnify an underwriter, broker-dealer or agent against certain liabilities related to the selling of our securities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

At any time a particular offer of securities covered by this prospectus is made, a revised prospectus or prospectus supplement, if required, will set forth the aggregate amount of securities covered by this prospectus being offered and the terms of the offering, including the name or names of any underwriters, dealers, brokers or agents. In addition, to the extent required, any discounts, commissions, concessions and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation, as well as any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers, will be set forth in such revised prospectus or prospectus supplement. Any such required prospectus or prospectus supplement, and, if necessary, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, will be filed with the SEC to reflect the disclosure of additional information with respect to the distribution of our securities covered by this prospectus.

Table of Contents

To facilitate the offering of the securities covered by this prospectus, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of our securities. This may include over-allotments or short sales of our securities, which involve the sale by persons participating in the offering of more securities than we or the selling stockholders sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option, if any. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of our securities by bidding for or purchasing our securities in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if our securities sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of our securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

In the ordinary course of their business activities, any underwriter, broker-dealer or agent and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and may at any time hold long and short positions in such securities and instruments. Such investment and securities activities may involve our securities and other instruments. Any underwriter, broker-dealer or agent and their respective affiliates may also engage in transactions with or perform services for us or provide other types of financing to us in the ordinary course of their business.

To the extent required, this prospectus may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time to describe a specific plan of distribution.

To comply with applicable state securities laws, our securities covered by this prospectus will be sold, if necessary, in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, our securities may not be sold in some states absent registration or pursuant to an exemption from applicable state securities laws.

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

The validity of the securities described in this prospectus will be passed upon for Kindred Healthcare, Inc. by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York. The validity of the securities described in this prospectus will be passed upon for any underwriters or agents, as the case may be, by counsel identified in the prospectus supplement with respect to any offering.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference to Kindred Healthcare, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 14, 2014 and the financial statement schedule and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Kindred Healthcare, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2013 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The consolidated financial statements of RehabCare Group, Inc. as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2010, incorporated in this prospectus by reference to Kindred Healthcare, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 4, 2011, have been incorporated by reference in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, which report appears in

Kindred Healthcare, Inc. s Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 4, 2011, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

The audit report covering the December 31, 2010 consolidated financial statements of RehabCare Group, Inc. refers to the adoption of FASB Financial Accounting Standard No. 141(R), Business Combinations (included in FASB ASC Topic 805, Business Combinations), as of January 1, 2009.

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to Gentiva Health Services, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report (which contain explanatory paragraphs relating to the Company's restatement of its financial statements as described in Note 2 to the financial statements, an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and an explanatory paragraph on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting due to the exclusion of certain elements of the internal control over financial reporting of Harden Healthcare Holdings, Inc. which the registrant acquired as of December 31, 2013) of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

The combined financial statements of Harden Healthcare Holdings, Inc. Net Assets Sold (Certain Assets, Liabilities and Operations Related to the Harden Home Health and Hospice Divisions) incorporated by reference in Gentiva Health Services, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A (Amendment No. 1) (Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 only) filed on December 23, 2013, for the year ended December 31, 2012, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such combined financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Please note that the SEC's website is included in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement as an inactive textual reference only. The information contained on the SEC's website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and should not be considered to be part of this prospectus, except as described in the following paragraph. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at its public reference facility at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference facility.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement certain information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Certain information that we subsequently file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information in this prospectus and in our other filings with the SEC. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below, which we have already filed with the SEC, and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, until all the securities offered by this prospectus have been sold and all conditions to the consummation of such sales have been satisfied, except that we are not incorporating any information included in a Current Report on Form 8-K that has been or will be furnished (and not filed) with the SEC, unless such information is expressly incorporated herein by a reference in a furnished Current Report on Form 8-K or other furnished document:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 (which financial statements and related audit report have been superseded by the financial statements and related audit report included in the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 14, 2014) filed with the SEC on February 28, 2014;

Table of Contents

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2014 filed with the SEC on May 9, 2014, June 30, 2014 filed with the SEC on August 11, 2014, and September 30, 2014 filed with the SEC on November 7, 2014;

portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 3, 2014 that are incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on

October 4, 2011 (Exhibits 99.3 and 99.4 only);

January 2, 2014;

January 16, 2014;

February 4, 2014;

February 21, 2014 (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.2 only);

March 26, 2014;

March 27, 2014;

March 28, 2014;

April 14, 2014 (excluding Item 7.01 and Exhibit 99.1);

April 17, 2014;

May 8, 2014 (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.2 only);

May 15, 2014 (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.1 only);

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

May 23, 2014;

June 3, 2014;

June 16, 2014 (SEC Accession No. 0001193125-14-237656);

June 16, 2014 (SEC Accession No. 0001193125-14-237710) (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.1 only);

June 20, 2014;

June 25, 2014;

July 25, 2014;

August 7, 2014 (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.2 only);

October 9, 2014 (Item 8.01 only);

October 14, 2014;

October 23, 2014;

October 31, 2014;

November 3, 2014;

November 6, 2014 (SEC Accession No. 0001193125-14-398918);

November 6, 2014 (SEC Accession No. 0001193125-14-399781) (Item 8.01 and Exhibit 99.2 only);

November 12, 2014 (Item 1.01 only);

November 14, 2014 (including a recast presentation of certain sections of Kindred Healthcare, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013); and

Edgar Filing: KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC - Form 424B5

November 17, 2014 (including the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and for the year ended December 31, 2013);

Table of Contents

the description of our common stock and preferred stock contained in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 16, 2014;

Part I. Financial Information Item 1. Financial Statements to Gentiva Health Services, Inc. s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2014 filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014;

Part II. Financial Information Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data to Gentiva Health Services, Inc. s Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed with the SEC on November 14, 2014; and

Gentiva Health Services, Inc. s Current Report on Form 8-K/A (Amendment No. 1) (Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 only) filed with the SEC on December 23, 2013.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address: 680 South Fourth Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, Telephone: (502) 596-7300, Attention: Investor Relations.

Table of Contents

150,000 % Tangible Equity Units

Kindred Healthcare, Inc.

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

, 2014

Book-Running Managers

Citigroup

J.P. Morgan

Guggenheim Securities

Morgan Stanley

Co-Managers

BMO Capital Markets
Deutsche Bank Securities
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey