

HCP, INC.
 Form 424B2
 July 24, 2012

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)
[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)
Registration No. 333-182824

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered(1) | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Security | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price | Amount of Registration Fee |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share | 2,257,465 | \$(2) | \$(2) | \$(2) |

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, this Registration Statement shall include any additional shares that may become issuable as a result of any stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization or other similar transaction effected without the receipt of consideration that results in an increase in the number of HCP, Inc.'s outstanding shares of Common Stock.

(2) As discussed below, pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act, this prospectus supplement only includes unsold securities that have been previously registered. Accordingly, there is no registration fee due in connection with this prospectus supplement.

Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act, the securities registered pursuant to this prospectus supplement consist of 2,257,465 unsold shares of common stock previously registered by HCP, Inc. on a prospectus supplement dated April 20, 2012 and the prospectus accompanying Registration Statement No. 333-161721 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 4, 2009 (the "Prior Prospectuses"). In connection with the registration of such unsold shares of common stock on the Prior Prospectuses, we paid a registration fee of \$10,178 which will continue to be applied to such unsold securities.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
To prospectus dated July 24, 2012

2,257,465 Shares

HCP, Inc.

Common Stock

This prospectus supplement is a supplement to the accompanying prospectus dated July 24, 2012 and relates to the possible issuance of up to 2,257,465 shares of our common stock, from time to time, to the holders of units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC upon tender of those units in exchange for shares of our common stock that we may issue in connection with a redemption of the tendered units.

Registration of the issuance of shares of our common stock as provided in this prospectus supplement does not necessarily mean that any of the holders of units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC will exercise their redemption rights with respect to the units or that we will elect, in our sole discretion, to issue shares of our common stock to satisfy our redemption obligation instead of cash.

We will not receive any cash proceeds from the issuance of the shares of our common stock to the holders of units tendered for redemption, but we will acquire units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC in exchange for shares of our common stock issued to a non-managing member upon redemption of its units.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "HCP." On July 23, 2012, the last reported sales price for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$45.50 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See "Risk Factors" on page S-2 of this prospectus supplement and page 2 of the accompanying prospectus and "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, as well as the risk factors relating to our business contained in documents we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined that this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus supplement is July 24, 2012

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale of these securities is not permitted. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of its respective date and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

| | Page |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u> | <u>S-1</u> |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>S-2</u> |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | <u>S-3</u> |
| <u>Operating Agreement</u> | <u>S-3</u> |
| <u>Comparison of HCP DR MCD, LLC and HCP</u> | <u>S-11</u> |
| <u>Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations of an Exchange or Redemption of Units</u> | <u>S-23</u> |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | <u>S-26</u> |
| <u>Validity of Common Stock</u> | <u>S-27</u> |

Prospectus

| | Page |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>About this Prospectus</u> | <u>ii</u> |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | <u>ii</u> |
| <u>Cautionary Language Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | <u>iii</u> |
| <u>Summary</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Description of Securities</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Description of Depositary Shares</u> | <u>10</u> |
| <u>Description of the Debt Securities</u> | <u>12</u> |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | <u>14</u> |
| <u>Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and HCP's Charter and Bylaws</u> | <u>16</u> |
| <u>Selling Security Holders</u> | <u>21</u> |
| <u>Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u> | <u>21</u> |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | <u>47</u> |
| <u>Validity of Securities</u> | <u>50</u> |
| <u>Experts</u> | <u>50</u> |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. This prospectus supplement also adds to, updates and changes information contained 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. The accompanying prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration statement. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer and sell debt securities, warrants or other rights, stock purchase contracts, units, common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares, or any combination thereof, in one or more offerings.

It is important that you read and consider all of the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in "Where You Can Find More Information" on page ii of the accompanying prospectus.

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise indicated herein or the context indicates, the terms "HCP," "we," "us," "our" and the "Company" mean HCP, Inc., together with its consolidated subsidiaries; the term "units" refers to units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC; and the term "common stock" refers to shares of HCP, Inc. common stock. Unless otherwise stated, currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are stated in United States, or U.S., dollars.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider any specific risks set forth below, the risks set forth on page 2 of the accompanying prospectus and the risks set forth under the caption "Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Exchange Act. You should consider carefully those risk factors together with all of the other information included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you decide to purchase shares of our common stock.

Risks Related to the Exchange of Units for Shares of Our Common Stock

The exchange of units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC for our common stock is a taxable transaction.

The exchange of units of HCP DR MCD, LLC for shares of our common stock (which may occur following the tender of such units for redemption if we elect to satisfy the redemption obligation in shares of our common stock) will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a sale of the units by the holders of such units. A holder of such units will recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares of our common stock received in the exchange, plus the amount of the HCP DR MCD, LLC liabilities allocable to the units being exchanged, less the holder's adjusted tax basis in the units exchanged. The recognition of any loss is subject to a number of limitations set forth in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, referred to herein as the Internal Revenue Code. It is possible that the amount of gain recognized or even the tax liability resulting from the gain could exceed the value of the shares of our common stock received upon the exchange. In addition, the ability of a holder of units to sell a substantial number of shares of our common stock in order to raise cash to pay tax liabilities associated with the exchange of units may be restricted and, as a result of stock price fluctuations, the price the holder receives for the shares of our common stock may not equal the value of the units at the time of the exchange.

An investment in our common stock is different from an investment in units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC.

If a unitholder exercises its right to redeem its units, the holder may receive cash or, at our election, shares of common stock in exchange for the units. If a unitholder tenders all of its units and receives cash, the holder will no longer have any interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC or us, will not benefit from any subsequent increases in the share price of our common stock and will not receive any future distributions from HCP DR MCD, LLC or us (unless the holder currently owns or acquires in the future additional shares of our common stock or additional units). If a unitholder receives shares of our common stock in exchange for its units, the holder will become one of our stockholders rather than a non-managing member in HCP DR MCD, LLC. Although the nature of an investment in shares of our common stock is substantially equivalent economically to an investment in units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC, there are differences between ownership of the units and ownership of our common stock. These differences, some of which may be material to you, include:

form of organization;

management control;

voting and consent rights;

liquidity; and

federal income tax considerations.

These differences are further described under "Comparison of HCP DR MCD, LLC and HCP."

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any cash proceeds from the issuance of shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement; however, we will acquire units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC in exchange for shares of our common stock issued to a non-managing member upon redemption of its units.

OPERATING AGREEMENT

The following summarizes the material provisions of the operating agreement, as amended and restated, of HCP DR MCD, LLC. The summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the operating agreement, as amended and restated, of HCP DR MCD, LLC, which is filed as an exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K dated April 20, 2012.

Management

HCP DR MCD, LLC is organized as a Delaware limited liability company under the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act and the terms of its operating agreement, the Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of HCP DR MCD, LLC, as the same has been amended to date. HCP is the sole managing member of HCP DR MCD, LLC. Generally, pursuant to the operating agreement, we have exclusive and complete responsibility and discretion in the management and control of HCP DR MCD, LLC, including, subject to the restrictions discussed below, the ability to cause it to enter into major transactions such as acquisitions, dispositions, financings, and refinancings, and to manage and operate its properties. We may not be removed as the managing member of HCP DR MCD, LLC, with or without cause, unless we consent to being removed. Non-managing members of HCP DR MCD, LLC have no authority to transact business for HCP DR MCD, LLC or participate in its management activities, except in limited circumstances described below and as required by any non-waivable provision of applicable law.

As the managing member, we may not take any action in contravention of the operating agreement, including:

taking any action that would make it impossible to carry out the ordinary business of HCP DR MCD, LLC, except as otherwise provided in the operating agreement;

possessing or assigning any rights in specific property owned by HCP DR MCD, LLC, other than for a HCP DR MCD, LLC purpose, except as otherwise provided in the operating agreement;

taking any action that would cause a non-managing member to be subject to liability as a managing member or any other liability, except as provided in the operating agreement or by law; or

entering into any agreement that would have the effect of restricting a member of HCP DR MCD, LLC from exercising its right to redeem its units as provided in the operating agreement and discussed below under "Exchange Rights," unless such member gives its prior written consent to such action, or the effect of restricting HCP DR MCD, LLC or us from satisfying our obligations under the operating agreement with respect to distributions and redemptions.

The consent of the holders of a majority of the outstanding non-managing member units is required before we will be permitted to take the following extraordinary actions involving HCP DR MCD, LLC, subject to limited exceptions:

the amendment, modification or termination of the operating agreement other than to reflect the permitted admission, substitution, termination or withdrawal of members;

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

Table of Contents

approving or acquiescing to the transfer of all or a portion of the membership interest held by us, other than a transfer to HCP DR MCD, LLC;

acquiring any real properties other than the contributed property and any assets or other real property subsequently acquired and directly related to the contributed property;

making a general assignment for the benefit of HCP DR MCD, LLC's creditors, appointing or acquiescing to the appointment of a custodian for any part of the assets of HCP DR MCD, LLC, or instituting any proceeding for bankruptcy on behalf of HCP DR MCD, LLC; or

incurring prohibited indebtedness.

In addition to the above restrictions, we, as the managing member, may not amend the operating agreement or take actions without the consent of any non-managing member who would be adversely affected if such amendments or actions would, among other things:

convert a non-managing member's interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC into a managing member interest;

modify the limited liability of a non-managing member;

alter the rights of a member to receive distributions or the allocation of income and loss to a member; or

alter the right of a member to redeem its non-managing member units or receive certain make whole payments described below.

As managing member, we may, however, amend the operating agreement without non-managing member consent:

to reflect the issuance of additional membership interests or the admission, substitution, termination or withdrawal of members as permitted by the operating agreement;

to reflect inconsequential changes to cure ambiguities or make other changes that do not adversely affect the non-managing members and are not inconsistent with law or the provisions of the operating agreement;

to satisfy any requirements, conditions or guidelines contained in any governmental order or required by law;

to reflect changes that are reasonably necessary for us, our affiliates or other members to maintain their status as a real estate investment trust ("REIT");

to modify the manner in which capital accounts are computed; or

to add to our obligations or surrender any right or power granted to us for the benefit of the non-managing members.

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

Until the earlier of February 9, 2019 or such time as the initial non-managing members of HCP DR MCD, LLC have disposed, in taxable transactions, of 70% of the non-managing member units issued to them in exchange for their contribution of property to HCP DR MCD, LLC, HCP DR MCD, LLC will be required to pay to the non-managing members a make whole payment in an amount equal to the aggregate federal, state and local income taxes imposed on certain income and gains recognized by the non-managing member as a result of the event, if we do any of the following without the consent of the holders of a majority of the non-managing member units held by non-managing members:

cause HCP DR MCD, LLC to merge with another entity, terminate its existence or sell all or substantially all of its assets;

S-4

Table of Contents

sell certain of HCP DR MCD, LLC's real properties;

fail to keep in place certain indebtedness, unless such indebtedness is replaced or refinanced with other debt satisfying certain requirements; or

fail to provide certain non-managing members the opportunity to execute a guarantee for such debt.

Transferability of Interests

The operating agreement provides that a non-managing member may transfer its units only after first offering those units to us and otherwise obtaining our consent, except that a non-managing member may, without obtaining our consent, pledge its units as security for the repayment of debt and transfer such units to the lender upon the foreclosure of such debt if such transfer would not otherwise violate the terms of the operating agreement. A non-managing member may also, without our consent, transfer its units in HCP DR MCD, LLC to a partner in such non-managing member in liquidation of that partner's interest in such non-managing member, to a family member of such non-managing member or to an organization described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A), 170(b)(c)(2) or 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The operating agreement further imposes the following restrictions on the transfer of the non-managing member units:

the person to whom any non-managing member units are transferred must assume all of the obligations of the transferor under the operating agreement;

we will have the right to receive an opinion of counsel that the proposed transfer may be effected without registration under the Securities Act and will not otherwise violate any federal or state securities laws or regulations;

we may prohibit any transfer otherwise permitted under the operating agreement if such transfer would require the filing of a registration statement under the Securities Act or would otherwise violate any applicable federal or state securities laws or regulations;

no transfer may be made to any person without our consent if, in the opinion of legal counsel to HCP DR MCD, LLC, such transfer could result in HCP DR MCD, LLC being treated as an association taxable as a corporation or for state income or franchise tax purposes, or such transfer could adversely affect our ability to qualify as a REIT or subject us to additional taxes under Sections 857 or 4981 of the Internal Revenue Code;

no transfer may be made if such transfer is effected through an "established securities market" or a "secondary market" within the meaning of Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code;

no transfer may be made to a lender of HCP DR MCD, LLC or any person related to such a lender whose loan constitutes "nonrecourse liability" within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code, without our consent as managing member;

transfers may be made only as of the first day of a calendar quarter of HCP DR MCD, LLC, unless we otherwise consent; and

no transfer may be made (1) to any person or entity who lacks the legal right, power or capacity to own a membership interest; (2) in violation of applicable law; (3) if such transfer would, in the opinion of legal counsel to HCP DR MCD, LLC, cause an increased tax liability to any other member as a result of the termination of HCP DR MCD, LLC; (4) if such transfer would cause HCP DR MCD, LLC to become a reporting company under the Exchange Act; or (5) if such transfer would cause HCP DR MCD, LLC to lose certain material tax benefits or become subject to certain regulations not currently

applicable to it.

S-5

Table of Contents

Capital Contributions

The operating agreement provides that if HCP DR MCD, LLC requires additional funds for its operation, we may fund those investments by making a capital contribution to HCP DR MCD, LLC. If we fund a capital contribution, we have the right to receive additional managing member units. In the event we receive additional managing member units in return for additional capital contributions, our membership interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC will be increased. Non-managing members of HCP DR MCD, LLC do not have the right to make additional capital contributions to HCP DR MCD, LLC unless permitted to do so by us in our discretion. Accordingly, the membership interest of non-managing members in HCP DR MCD, LLC will be diluted to the extent we receive an additional membership interest.

Tax Matters

Pursuant to the operating agreement, we are the tax matters partner of HCP DR MCD, LLC. The tax matters partner serves as HCP DR MCD, LLC's representative in most tax matters. For example, as the tax matters partner, we have the authority to file tax returns and make elections for HCP DR MCD, LLC, conduct audits, file refund claims on behalf of HCP DR MCD, LLC and settle adjustments. In addition, as the tax matters partner, we will receive notices and other information from the Internal Revenue Service. The designation of HCP as the tax matters partner of HCP DR MCD, LLC is not directly relevant to our tax status as a REIT.

Operations

The sole purposes of HCP DR MCD, LLC are to acquire, own, manage, operate, repair, renovate, maintain, improve, expand, redevelop, encumber, sell, lease, hold for appreciation, or otherwise dispose of the real properties contributed to it, and any other properties acquired by it, and to invest and ultimately distribute funds obtained from owning, operating or disposing of such properties. The operating agreement provides, however, that we, as managing member, may operate HCP DR MCD, LLC in a manner that will enable us to satisfy the requirements for being classified as a REIT and avoid any federal income tax liability. Under the operating agreement, HCP DR MCD, LLC assumes and pays when due, or reimburses us for payment of, all costs and expenses that we incur for the benefit of or relating to its operation.

Table of Contents

Distributions

Holders of non-managing member units are entitled to receive cumulative preferential distributions from the date of issuance of those non-managing member units, payable on a quarterly basis. The right of holders of non-managing member units to receive cumulative preferential distributions means that, unless and until each of those quarterly distributions are paid in full, HCP DR MCD, LLC cannot make any distributions to us. These preferred distributions are an amount per unit equal to the amount payable with respect to each share of our common stock for the corresponding quarter (subject to adjustment in the event we pay a dividend or distribution on our common stock in shares of our common stock, split or subdivide our common stock or effect a reverse stock split or other combination of our common stock into a smaller number of shares). Following the payment of the preferred distribution to holders of the non-managing member units, HCP DR MCD, LLC is required to distribute the remaining cash available for distribution to us until all distributions of cash, including prior distributions, have been made to the members of HCP DR MCD, LLC pro rata on the basis of the number of managing member or non-managing member units held by them as compared to the total number of managing member and non-managing member units then outstanding. Following the above payment to us, HCP DR MCD, LLC is required, to the extent there is cash available and subject to certain adjustments, to distribute a second-tier distribution to non-managing members equal to \$0.085 per outstanding unit. To the extent there is cash available following the second-tier distribution to the non-managing members, HCP DR MCD, LLC is required to distribute to us an amount such that the aggregate distributions of cash shall have been made to all members to equal each member's pro rata interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC. Thereafter, the managing member, in its sole discretion, may cause the remaining cash available for distribution to be distributed to the unitholders in proportion to their Sharing Percentages. The "Sharing Percentage" of a holder of non-managing member units is determined by multiplying 1% by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of non-managing member units then outstanding and the denominator of which is the number of non-managing member units issued to the initial non-managing members, and multiplying the result by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of non-managing member units held by such unitholder, and the denominator of which is the total number of non-managing member units then outstanding. Our "Sharing Percentage," as the managing member of HCP DR MCD, LLC is equal to 100% minus the aggregate Sharing Percentage of the holders of non-managing member units.

In the event of a taxable disposition of some of HCP DR MCD, LLC's real property, we may elect to distribute all or a portion of the net proceeds of the taxable disposition to the members. In this event, we must distribute these proceeds as follows:

first, to holders of non-managing member units to pay any previously unpaid preferred distribution on the non-managing member units held by them;

second, to us until all distributions of cash, including prior distributions, have been made to the members of HCP DR MCD, LLC pro rata on the basis of the number of managing member or non-managing member units held by them as compared to the total number of managing member and non-managing member units then outstanding;

third, to the holders of managing member units and non-managing member units in proportion to the number of managing member units and non-managing member units held by them in redemption of those units, as discussed below, until all non-managing member units have been redeemed; and

finally, the remaining balance to us.

The distribution of the net proceeds from the taxable disposition of real property will constitute a return of capital to the unitholders of HCP DR MCD, LLC. As such, we will cause HCP DR

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

Table of Contents

MCD, LLC to reduce the number of units outstanding at the time of such distributions by causing non-managing member units to be exchanged.

Upon the refinancing of a property or the incurrence of additional debt, the repayment of which is secured by a property owned by HCP DR MCD, LLC, we may elect to distribute all or a portion of the refinancing or other debt proceeds to the members. In this event, we must distribute such proceeds:

first, to the holders of non-managing member units to pay any previously unpaid preferred distribution on the non-managing member units held by them;

second, to us until all distributions of cash, including prior distributions, have been made to the members of HCP DR MCD, LLC pro rata on the basis of the number of managing member or non-managing member units held by them as compared to the total number of managing member and non-managing member units then outstanding; and

finally, the remaining balance to the members in proportion to their Sharing Percentages.

Allocation of Income and Loss

The operating net income and net loss of HCP DR MCD, LLC is generally allocated as follows:

operating net loss for any fiscal year is allocated to the unitholders in accordance with their Sharing Percentages; and

operating net income for any fiscal year is allocated as follows:

first, to each unitholder to the extent necessary to offset any operating net loss previously allocated to such unitholder;

second, to each unitholder in an amount that will cause the current allocation, together with all previous allocations of operating net income and net income resulting from the disposition of real property, to be in proportion to and to the extent of the cumulative distributions received by such unitholder for the current and all prior fiscal years; and

thereafter, to each unitholder pro rata to such unitholder's Sharing Percentage.

In the event HCP DR MCD, LLC sells or otherwise disposes of any of its real properties, however, the net income or net loss attributable to such sale or disposition is generally allocated as follows:

net loss attributable to the sale or other disposition of real property is allocated to the holders of units in proportion to their Sharing Percentages; and

net income attributable to the sale or other disposition of real property is allocated as follows:

first, to each unitholder to the extent necessary to offset any net loss previously allocated to such unitholder upon the sale or other disposition of a property;

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

second, to each unitholder in an amount that will cause the current allocation, together with all previous allocations of operating net income and net income resulting from the disposition of real property, to be in proportion to and to the extent of the cumulative distributions received by such unitholder for the current and all prior fiscal years; and

thereafter, to each unitholder pro rata to such unitholder's Sharing Percentage.

In the event HCP DR MCD, LLC liquidates, the net income or net loss for that year and any subsequent years is generally allocated as follows:

first, to holders of non-managing member units in such amounts as will cause their capital account per unit to be, to the greatest extent possible, equal to the sum of: (a) the holder's

S-8

Table of Contents

preferred return shortfall per unit (if any), (b) the value of our stock (subject to specified adjustments), and (c) their pro rata share of a 1% (subject to adjustment) sharing amount; and

thereafter, to us.

Each of the allocation provisions described above is subject to special allocations relating to depreciation deductions and to compliance with the provisions of Sections 704(b) and 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and related Treasury Regulations.

Term

The operating agreement provides that HCP DR MCD, LLC will continue until dissolved by us in accordance with the provisions of the operating agreement. HCP DR MCD, LLC also will dissolve if:

we withdraw as the managing member and the non-managing members holding a majority of the non-managing member units then outstanding do not appoint a substitute managing member and elect in writing to continue the business of HCP DR MCD, LLC within 90 days;

we elect to dissolve it in accordance with the provisions of the operating agreement;

it sells all or substantially all of its assets and properties;

it is dissolved by judicial order;

we dissolve or become bankrupt or otherwise incapacitated, unless within 90 days the non-managing members holding a majority of the outstanding non-managing member units elect in writing to continue the business of HCP DR MCD, LLC and to the appointment of a substitute managing member; or

all of the non-managing member units held by non-managing members have been exchanged for cash or our common stock.

Indemnification

The operating agreement provides that, to the fullest extent permitted by law, HCP DR MCD, LLC will indemnify us, our officers and directors and those other persons and entities that we may designate, unless:

the act taken by an indemnitee that was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding was in bad faith or was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct or was in material breach of such indemnitee's express duties, covenants or obligations;

an indemnitee received an improper personal benefit; or

in the case of any criminal proceeding, an indemnity had reasonable cause to believe the act was unlawful.

We are not liable to HCP DR MCD, LLC or its members for losses sustained, liabilities incurred or benefits not derived as a result of good faith errors, mistakes of fact or law, or any act or omission if we acted in good faith and have not engaged in gross negligence or breached our express covenants in the operating agreement. See "Comparison of HCP DR MCD, LLC and HCP Management Liability and Indemnification."

Exchange Rights

The non-managing member units that were originally issued on February 9, 2007 became exchangeable in whole or in part for cash on February 9, 2008. Accordingly, beginning February 9, 2008, each holder of non-managing member units has the right to cause HCP DR MCD, LLC to

S-9

Table of Contents

redeem all or a portion of the non-managing member units held by it for cash. If a non-managing member makes such an election, in lieu of having HCP DR MCD, LLC redeem the tendered units, we may, at our option, elect to acquire such units for cash or in exchange for shares of our common stock.

Upon redemption, the tendering holder will receive, at our election, either (a) that number of shares of our common stock equal to the sum of (i) an amount determined by multiplying the number of units tendered by an adjustment factor and (ii) in the case of a preferred return shortfall, an amount determined by multiplying the number of units tendered by the amount of such shortfall per unit, and dividing such product by the value of a share of our common stock (such sum, the "REIT Shares Amount"), or (b) an amount of cash equal to the market value of the REIT Shares Amount. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, the adjustment factor is 1.0; the adjustment factor will be adjusted to account for the economic effect of the payment of any dividends or other distributions on our common stock in shares of common stock, any split or subdivision in our outstanding common stock, and any reverse stock split or other combination of our outstanding common stock into a smaller number of shares. If we elect to deliver cash in exchange for the tendered units, the market value of each share comprising the REIT Shares Amount will be deemed to be the average of the closing trading price of our common stock for the 20 trading days ending on the second trading day immediately prior to the date on which the exchange occurs. Non-managing member units that are acquired by us pursuant to the exercise of a non-managing member's redemption rights will be held by us as non-managing member units, with the same rights and preferences of non-managing member units held by non-managing members of HCP DR MCD, LLC.

Our acquisition of non-managing member units acquired in exchange for shares of our common stock will be treated as a sale of the non-managing member units to us for U.S. federal income tax purposes. See "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations of an Exchange or Redemption of Units."

A tendering holder effecting an exchange of all or a portion of the holder's units must deliver to us a notice of redemption as required by the operating agreement. In general, a tendering holder shall have the right to receive shares of our common stock or cash, which is payable in connection with the exchange, on the thirtieth day following our receipt of the notice of redemption. All shares of our common stock delivered in exchange for non-managing member units will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable shares, free of any pledge, lien, encumbrance or restriction, other than those provided in our charter, our bylaws, the Securities Act and relevant state securities or blue sky laws. Notwithstanding any delay in delivery, the tendering holder shall be deemed the owner of such shares and vested with all rights of a stockholder as of the date on which the exchange occurs, including the right to vote or consent, and the right to receive dividends. Correspondingly, the tendering holder's right to receive distributions with respect to the tendered units will cease as of the date on which the exchange occurs.

We will not be obligated to effect an exchange of tendered units if the issuance of shares of our common stock to the tendering holder upon such exchange would be prohibited under the provisions of our charter, particularly those which are intended to protect our qualification as a REIT.

Table of Contents

COMPARISON OF HCP DR MCD, LLC AND HCP

Generally, the nature of an investment in our common stock is similar in several respects to an investment in units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC. However, there are also differences between ownership of such units and ownership of our common stock, some of which may be material to investors.

HCP DR MCD, LLC and HCP are organized and incorporated in Delaware and Maryland, respectively. Upon the exchange of units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC for shares of our common stock, the rights of stockholders of HCP will be governed by the Maryland General Corporation Law and by our charter and bylaws.

The information below highlights the material differences between HCP DR MCD, LLC and us, relating to, among other things, form of organization, management control, voting rights, compensation and fees, investor rights, liquidity and federal income tax considerations. These comparisons are intended to assist unitholders in understanding the ways in which their investment will be materially changed if they tender their units in exchange for shares of our common stock.

The following discussion is summary in nature and does not constitute a complete discussion of these matters. The differences between the rights of HCP DR MCD, LLC unitholders and HCP stockholders may be determined in full by reference to the Maryland General Corporation Law, the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act, our charter and bylaws, the operating agreement of HCP DR MCD, LLC, as amended and restated, and the balance of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus is a part.

| | HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law | HCP / Maryland Law |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Form of Organization and Assets Owned | HCP DR MCD, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company. HCP DR MCD, LLC currently owns one hospital tower, four medical office buildings and three parking garages. All of HCP DR MCD, LLC's assets were contributed to it by HCP and individuals and companies affiliated with Medical City Dallas Limited. | We are a Maryland corporation. We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1985, and intend to maintain our qualification as a REIT. As of December 31, 2011, we had total assets of \$17.4 billion. Our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Internal Revenue Code relating to, among other things, our actual annual operating results, asset composition, distribution levels, and diversity of stock ownership. See "United States Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying prospectus and "Supplemental United States Federal Income Tax Considerations" in this prospectus supplement. As of December 31, 2011, our portfolio of 936 properties consisted of: 314 senior housing facilities; |

Table of Contents

HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law

HCP / Maryland Law

313 post-acute/skilled nursing facilities;

104 life science facilities;

188 medical office buildings; and

17 hospitals.

Under our charter, we may engage in the ownership of real property and any other lawful act or activity for which corporations may be organized under Maryland law.

Purpose

HCP DR MCD, LLC's purpose is (i) to acquire, own, manage, operate, repair, renovate, maintain, improve, expand, redevelop, encumber, sell, lease, hold for appreciation or otherwise dispose of the properties owned by it (or ownership in subsidiaries engaged in the foregoing) and any other properties acquired by it, and to invest and ultimately distribute the funds obtained from owning, operating or disposing such properties (or ownership in subsidiaries engaged in the foregoing) and (ii) to do anything necessary or incidental to the foregoing.

Additional Equity

See "Operating Agreement Capital Contributions" above.

Our board of directors may, in its discretion, authorize the issuance of additional shares of common stock or preferred stock; provided, that the total number of shares issued cannot exceed the authorized number of shares of stock set forth in our charter.

Table of Contents

| | HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law | HCP / Maryland Law |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Borrowing Policies | <p>The operating agreement provides that HCP DR MCD, LLC is permitted to incur or assume debt, including debt to us or our affiliates, except that the managing member may cause HCP DR MCD, LLC to take any action to avoid a result that, or refrain from taking any action that, in the reasonable and good faith judgment of the managing member, (i) could adversely affect our or our affiliates' ability to continue to qualify as a REIT, (ii) could subject us or our affiliates to any additional taxes under Section 857 or Section 4981 of the Internal Revenue Code, or (iii) could violate any law or regulation of any governmental body or agency having jurisdiction over us or our affiliates, our securities or HCP DR MCD, LLC, unless such action (or inaction) shall have been specifically consented to by us in writing.</p> <p>The operating agreement provides that until February 9, 2019, or until the initial non-managing members have disposed, in taxable transactions, of 70% of the non-managing member units issued to them, HCP DR MCD, LLC will be required to pay to each non-managing member a make whole payment in an amount equal to the aggregate federal, state and local income taxes imposed on certain income and gains recognized by the non-managing member as a result of the event, if HCP DR MCD, LLC does any of the following without the consent of the holders of a majority of the non-managing member units held by non-managing members:</p> <p>fails to keep in place a managing member loan for which a guarantee has been delivered by an initial non-managing member, unless the managing member loan is replaced or refinanced with other debt satisfying certain requirements; or</p> | <p>We are not restricted under our charter or bylaws from incurring debt.</p> |

Table of Contents

HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law

HCP / Maryland Law

fails to continue to provide the opportunity to each initial non-managing member who delivered a guarantee with respect to a managing member loan, to execute a guarantee for such loan or for any debt replacing such loan in an amount up to the applicable managing member loan. See "Operating Agreement Management" above.

Management Control

All management powers over the business and affairs of HCP DR MCD, LLC are vested in us as the managing member. No non-managing member has any right to participate in or exercise control or management power over the business and affairs of HCP DR MCD, LLC, except for actions which require the consent of the holders of a majority of the non-managing member units held by non-managing members. See "Operating Agreement Management" and " Voting Rights" above.

Our board of directors has exclusive control over our business affairs subject only to the applicable provisions of Maryland law and the provisions in our charter and bylaws.

Duties of Managing Members and Directors

Under Delaware law, we, as managing member of HCP DR MCD, LLC, are accountable to HCP DR MCD, LLC as a fiduciary and, consequently, are required to exercise good faith and integrity in all of our dealings with respect to HCP DR MCD, LLC's affairs.

Under Maryland law, directors must perform their duties in good faith, in a manner that they reasonably believe to be in our best interests and with the care of an ordinarily prudent person in a like position under similar circumstances. Directors who act in such a manner generally will not be liable by reason of being a director. Under Maryland law, an act of a director is generally presumed to satisfy such standards.

Table of Contents

**Management
Liability and
Indemnification**

HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law

HCP DR MCD, LLC has agreed to indemnify us, our directors and officers and any other persons we designate from and against all claims and expenses, judgments, and other amounts incurred in connection with any actions relating to the operation of HCP DR MCD, LLC in which these indemnitees are involved, unless:

the act taken by an indemnitee was in bad faith or was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct or was in material breach of such indemnitee's express duties, covenants or obligations;

an indemnitee received an improper personal benefit;
or

in the case of any criminal proceeding, an indemnity had reasonable cause to believe the act was unlawful.

HCP DR MCD, LLC is obligated to reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by an indemnitee in advance of the final disposition of the proceeding if such indemnitee provides HCP DR MCD, LLC with an affirmation of its good faith belief that the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification has been met and an undertaking to repay the amount of the reimbursed expenses if it is determined that such standard was not met. No member of HCP DR MCD, LLC, including HCP, is obligated to make capital contributions to enable HCP DR MCD, LLC to fund these indemnification obligations.

HCP / Maryland Law

Our charter contains a provision which eliminates the liability of directors and officers to us and our stockholders for money damages to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law. Neither the provisions of our charter nor Maryland law limit the ability of us or our stockholders to obtain other relief, such as injunction or rescission. Our bylaws provide for indemnification of directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law. See "Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and HCP's Charter and Bylaws" in the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law

The operating agreement generally provides that neither we nor any of our directors, officers, agents or employees will incur liability to HCP DR MCD, LLC or any non-managing member for losses sustained or liabilities incurred as a result of errors in judgment or mistakes of fact or law or of any act or omission if we acted in good faith and did not engage in gross negligence or breach express covenants set forth in the operating agreement. In addition, we are not responsible for any misconduct or negligence on the part of our officers, directors or other agents, provided we have appointed such agents in good faith. We may consult with legal counsel, accountants, appraisers, management consultants, investment bankers and other consultants and advisors, and any action we take or omit to take in reliance upon their opinion, as to matters which we reasonably believe to be within their professional or expert competence, will be conclusively presumed to have been done or omitted in good faith and in accordance with their opinion.

S-16

HCP / Maryland Law

Table of Contents

Anti-Takeover Provisions

HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law

Except in limited circumstances (see " Voting Rights" below), we have exclusive management power over the business and affairs of HCP DR MCD, LLC. Accordingly, we may hinder the ability of HCP DR MCD, LLC to engage in a merger transaction or other business combination. We may not be removed as managing member by the other members with or without cause without our consent. Until February 9, 2019 or until the initial non-managing members have disposed, in taxable transactions, of 70% of the non-managing member units issued to them, HCP DR MCD, LLC will be required to pay a make whole payment to each non-managing member if we cause HCP DR MCD, LLC to merge with another entity (other than a subsidiary), sell all or substantially all of its assets or dissolve or otherwise terminate its existence without the consent of the holders of a majority of the non-managing member units held by non-managing members. These limitations may have the effect of hindering the ability of HCP DR MCD, LLC to enter into business combinations.

HCP / Maryland Law

Our charter and bylaws contain a number of provisions that may delay or discourage an unsolicited proposal for the acquisition of our company or the removal of incumbent management. These provisions include:

authorized capital stock that may be issued as preferred stock in the discretion of our board of directors, with voting or other rights superior to the common stock;

provisions designed to avoid concentration of share ownership in a manner that would jeopardize our status as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code;

super-majority stockholder vote for certain business combinations; and

the advance notice provisions of our bylaws.

Maryland law also contains provisions which could delay, defer or prevent a change of control or other transaction. See "Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and HCP's Charter and Bylaws" in the accompanying prospectus.

Our bylaws were amended on October 29, 2009 and now contain a provision exempting acquisitions of shares of our stock from the Maryland control share acquisition statute.

Table of Contents

HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law

A non-managing member generally may not transfer all or any portion of its membership interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC without first offering that membership interest to us and otherwise obtaining our consent. Accordingly, we may elect to exercise our right of first refusal to prevent a membership interest from being transferred to a particular third party. Furthermore, upon the transfer by a non-managing member of its membership interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC, the transferee may become a member of HCP DR MCD, LLC only upon our approval, which we may give or withhold in our sole and absolute discretion. Until admitted to HCP DR MCD, LLC as a member, a transferee of a membership interest is not entitled to vote on any matter submitted to the members for their approval. The ability of a non-managing member to transfer its membership interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC may be further hindered by other factors. See "Operating Agreement Transferability of Interests" above.

Voting Rights

Under the operating agreement, the non-managing members have voting rights only as to specified matters including:

amending the operating agreement, except in limited circumstances; and

those other actions discussed above under "Operating Agreement Management" above.

The non-managing members generally do not otherwise have the right to vote on decisions relating to the operation or management of HCP DR MCD, LLC.

HCP / Maryland Law

Common stockholders elect each director on our board of directors at each annual meeting of the stockholders to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is elected and qualifies.

Maryland law requires that major corporate transactions, including most amendments to our charter, must have stockholder approval as described below. All shares of common stock have one vote per share. Our charter permits our board of directors to classify and issue preferred stock in one or more series having voting power which may differ from that of the common stock. See "Description of Capital Stock" in the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

The following is a comparison of the voting rights of the non-managing members of HCP DR MCD, LLC and of our stockholders as they relate to major transactions:

| <i>A. Amendment of the Charter Documents</i> | HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law | HCP / Maryland Law |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Amendments to the operating agreement may be proposed by us as managing member of HCP DR MCD, LLC or by holders of a majority of the non-managing member units held by non-managing members. Such proposal, in order to be effective, must be approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding units. In addition, amendments that would, among other things: | Under our charter, most amendments to our charter must be approved by our board of directors and by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter. |
| | convert a non-managing member's interest into a managing member interest; | The affirmative vote of holders of at least two-thirds of our voting stock is required to repeal or amend the provisions of the charter relating to: |
| | modify the limited liability of any non-managing member; | business combinations; |
| | alter the interest of any non-managing member in profits, losses or distributions; | the removal and setting of the minimum and maximum number of our directors; and |
| | alter or modify the right of a non-managing member to its non-managing member units for our common stock; or | certain limitations on ownership of our voting capital stock. See "Description of Capital Stock" in the accompanying prospectus. |
| | amend the section of the operating agreement requiring non-managing member consent to certain amendments, | |
| | must be approved by each non-managing member that would be adversely affected by such amendment. We may amend the operating agreement without the consent of the non-managing members if the purpose or the effect of such amendment is to make administrative or inconsequential changes or comply with any federal or state agency rulings, guidelines directives or laws, or as are necessary for us to maintain our status as a REIT. | |

Table of Contents

| | HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law | HCP / Maryland Law |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>B. Vote Required to Dissolve, Sell Assets, Merge or Transfer Properties</i> | <p>Until February 9, 2019, HCP DR MCD, LLC will be required to pay to the non-managing members a make whole payment unless we first obtain the consent of the holders of a majority of the non-managing member units held by non-managing members before we:</p> <p>merge, consolidate or combine with or into any other partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, corporation or other entity (other than a subsidiary);</p> <p>sell all or substantially all of HCP DR MCD, LLC's assets;</p> <p>dissolve or otherwise terminate HCP DR MCD, LLC's existence; or</p> <p>subject to certain exceptions, sell, dispose, convey or otherwise transfer all or any portion of HCP DR MCD, LLC's properties in a transaction that causes the non-managing members to recognize taxable income.</p> <p>These restrictions are removed, however, if the initial non-managing members have disposed of 70% of the non-managing member units issued to them in taxable transactions.</p> <p>Also, see " Anti-Takeover Provisions."</p> | <p>Our dissolution must be approved by our board of directors by a majority vote of the entire board and by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter. Our charter requires that, subject to certain exceptions set forth in our charter, "Business Combinations" between us and a beneficial holder of 10% or more of our outstanding voting stock be approved by the affirmative vote of at least 90% of our outstanding voting shares. See the disclosure under "Description of Capital Stock Business Combination Provisions" in the accompanying prospectus. Generally, mergers, consolidations and sales of all or substantially all of our assets must be approved by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on the matter. No approval of our stockholders is required for any sale of less than substantially all of our assets which is not a business combination.</p> |
| Compensation, Fees and Distributions | <p>We do not receive any compensation for our services as managing member of HCP DR MCD, LLC. HCP DR MCD, LLC will, however, reimburse HCP for all expenses incurred relating to the ongoing operation of HCP DR MCD, LLC and any other offering of additional interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC.</p> | <p>Our officers and outside directors receive compensation for their services as more fully described in the compensation information incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.</p> |
| Liability of Investors | <p>Under the operating agreement and applicable Delaware law, the liability of the non-managing members for the debts and obligations of HCP DR MCD, LLC is generally limited to the amount of their investment in HCP DR MCD, LLC, together with their interest in any undistributed income, if any.</p> | <p>Under Maryland law, our stockholders are not personally liable for our debts or obligations solely as a result of their status as stockholders.</p> |

Table of Contents

Liquidity

HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law

Except in limited circumstances, see "Operating Agreement Transferability of Interests" above, a non-managing member may not transfer all or any portion of its membership interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC without first offering that membership interest to us and otherwise obtaining our consent. HCP has the right to receive an opinion of counsel in connection with the transfer of a membership interest by a non-managing member to the effect that the transfer may be effected without registration under the Securities Act and will not otherwise violate any applicable federal or state securities law.

A transferee of a non-managing member's interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC may not become a member of HCP DR MCD, LLC without our consent.

HCP / Maryland Law

Shares of common stock issued pursuant to this prospectus will be freely transferable, subject to prospectus delivery and other requirements of the Securities Act, and the transfer restrictions in our charter.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The breadth and strength of this secondary market will depend, among other things, upon the number of shares outstanding, our financial results and prospects, the general interest in our and other real estate investments, and our dividend yield compared to that of other debt and equity securities.

S-21

Table of Contents

| | HCP DR MCD, LLC / Delaware Law | HCP / Maryland Law |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Taxes | <p>HCP DR MCD, LLC itself is not subject to federal income taxes. Instead, each holder of units includes its allocable share of HCP DR MCD, LLC's taxable income or loss in determining its individual federal income tax liability. Cash distributions from HCP DR MCD, LLC generally are not taxable to a holder of non-managing member units except to the extent they exceed such holder's basis in its interest in HCP DR MCD, LLC (which will include such holder's allocable share of HCP DR MCD, LLC's debt).</p> <p>Income and loss from HCP DR MCD, LLC generally are subject to the "passive activity" limitations. Under the "passive activity" limitations, income and loss from HCP DR MCD, LLC that is considered "passive income" generally can be offset against income and loss from other investments that constitute "passive activities."</p> <p>Holders of units are required, in some cases, to file state income tax returns and/or pay state income taxes in the states in which HCP DR MCD, LLC owns property, even if they are not residents of those states.</p> | <p>As long as we qualify as a REIT, distributions out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, other than capital gain dividends discussed below, generally will constitute dividends taxable to our taxable U.S. stockholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction in the case of U.S. stockholders that are corporations. In addition, these distributions generally will not be eligible for treatment as "qualified dividend income" for individual U.S. stockholders. Distributions that we properly designate as capital gain dividends will be taxable to our taxable U.S. stockholders as gain from the sale or disposition of a capital asset, to the extent that such gain does not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits will be treated as a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of a stockholder's adjusted basis in his, her or its common stock, with the excess taxed as capital gain.</p> <p>Distributions we make and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. stockholder of our shares will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. stockholders generally will not be able to apply any "passive losses" against this income or gain.</p> <p>Stockholders who are individuals generally will not be required to file state income tax returns and/or pay state income taxes outside of their state of residence with respect to our operations and distributions. We may be required to pay state income taxes in various states.</p> |

Table of Contents

**MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS OF AN EXCHANGE
OR REDEMPTION OF UNITS**

The following is a general summary of the material United States federal income tax considerations regarding the tender of units in exchange for shares of our common stock in connection with a redemption of the tendered units as described in this prospectus supplement. This summary does not purport to be a complete analysis of all of the potential tax considerations relating thereto. This summary is based on current law, is for general information only and is not tax advice.

The information in this summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code; current, temporary and proposed Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code; the legislative history of the Internal Revenue Code; current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service; and court decisions, in each case, as of the date of this prospectus supplement. In addition, the administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service include its practices and policies as expressed in private letter rulings that are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service except with respect to the particular taxpayers who requested and received those rulings. Future legislation, Treasury Regulations, administrative interpretations and practices and/or court decisions may change or adversely affect the tax considerations described in this prospectus supplement. Any such change could apply retroactively to transactions preceding the date of the change. We have not requested and do not intend to request a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service regarding any matter discussed in this prospectus supplement, and the statements in this prospectus supplement are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or any court. Thus, we can provide no assurance that the tax considerations contained in this summary will not be challenged by the Internal Revenue Service or will be sustained by a court if so challenged.

This summary assumes that the units are held as "capital assets" (generally, property held for investment within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code). Your tax treatment will vary depending on your particular situation. This discussion does not purport to deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to holders of units in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to holders of units who receive special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws except to the extent discussed specifically herein. Holders of units receiving special treatment include, without limitation:

banks, insurance companies or other financial institutions;

brokers or dealers in securities or commodities;

traders in securities;

expatriates and certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States;

tax-exempt organizations;

persons who are subject to the alternative minimum tax;

persons who hold units as a position in a "straddle" or as part of a "hedging," "conversion" or other risk reduction transaction;

persons deemed to sell units under the constructive sale provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;

United States persons that have a functional currency other than the United States dollar;

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

except to the extent specifically discussed below, holders of units who are not United States persons; or

persons that are S corporations, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, partnerships or other pass-through entities.

S-23

Table of Contents

The United States federal income tax consequences to a holder of units that tenders its units in exchange for shares of our common stock depends in some instances on determinations of fact and interpretations of complex provisions of United States federal income tax law. No clear precedent or authority may be available on some questions.

EACH HOLDER OF UNITS IS ADVISED TO CONSULT HIS OR HER TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE SPECIFIC FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN INCOME AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES TO HIM OR HER AS A RESULT OF A SALE, EXCHANGE OR REDEMPTION OF UNITS TENDERED FOR REDEMPTION, AND OF POTENTIAL CHANGES IN APPLICABLE TAX LAWS.

Exchange or Redemption of Units

If HCP, Inc. acquires a unit for cash or tendered for redemption in exchange for shares of common stock, a tendering holder of units will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the amount realized in the transaction (i.e., the sum of the cash and the fair market value of any shares of common stock plus the amount of the partnership liabilities allocable to such tendered unit at such time) and (ii) the holder's tax basis in the unit disposed of, which tax basis will be adjusted for the unit's allocable share of HCP DR MCD, LLC's income, gain or loss for the taxable year of disposition. The tax liability resulting from the gain recognized on the disposition of a unit could exceed the amount of cash and the fair market value of any shares of common stock received in exchange therefor. The use of any loss recognized upon an exchange is subject to a number of limitations set forth in the Internal Revenue Code. A holder's adjusted tax basis in any of our common stock received in exchange for units will be the fair market value of those shares on the date of the exchange. Similarly, a holder's holding period in such shares will begin following the exchange.

If HCP DR MCD, LLC redeems a tendered unit for cash (which is not contributed by us to effect the redemption), the tax consequences generally would be the same as described in the preceding paragraph, except that if HCP DR MCD, LLC redeems less than all of a holder's units, the holder would recognize no taxable loss and would recognize taxable gain only to the extent that the cash, plus the amount of HCP DR MCD, LLC liabilities allocable to the redeemed units, exceeded the holder's adjusted tax basis in all of such holder's units immediately before the redemption.

Disguised Sales

Under the Internal Revenue Code, a transfer of property by a partner to a partnership followed by a related transfer by the partnership of money or other property to the partner is treated as a disguised sale if (i) the second transfer would not have occurred but for the first transfer and (ii) the second transfer is not dependent on the entrepreneurial risks of the partnership's operations. In a disguised sale, the partner is treated as if he or she sold the contributed property to the partnership as of the date the property was contributed to the partnership. Transfers of money or other property between a partnership and a partner that are made within two years of each other, including redemptions of units made within two years of a contribution of property by a holder of units to HCP DR MCD, LLC, must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service and are presumed to be a disguised sale unless the facts and circumstances clearly establish that the transfers do not constitute a sale.

A redemption of units by HCP DR MCD, LLC within two years of the date of a contribution of property by a holder of units to HCP DR MCD, LLC may be treated as a disguised sale. If this treatment were to apply, such holder of units would be treated for United States federal income tax purposes as if, on the date of its contribution of property to HCP DR MCD, LLC, HCP DR MCD, LLC transferred to such holder an obligation to pay such holder the redemption proceeds. In that case, the holder of units would be required to recognize gain on the disguised sale in such earlier year.

Table of Contents

Character of Gain or Loss Recognized

Except as described below, the gain or loss that a holder of units recognizes on a sale, exchange or redemption of a tendered unit will be treated as a capital gain or loss and will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the holding period for the unit exceeds twelve months. Long-term capital gains recognized by individuals and certain other noncorporate taxpayers generally will be subject to a maximum United States federal income tax rate of 15% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012). If the amount realized with respect to a unit that is attributable to a holder's share of "unrealized receivables" of HCP DR MCD, LLC exceeds the tax basis attributable to those assets, such excess will be treated as ordinary income. Among other things, unrealized receivables include depreciation recapture for certain types of property. In addition, the maximum United States federal income tax rate applicable to persons who are noncorporate taxpayers for net capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property (which may be determined to include an interest in a partnership such as HCP DR MCD, LLC) held for more than twelve months is currently 25% (rather than 15%) to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions that would not be treated as unrealized receivables.

Medicare Tax

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, a United States person that is an individual will be subject to a 3.8% tax on the lesser of (1) such person's "net investment income" for the relevant taxable year and (2) the excess of such person's modified adjusted gross income for the taxable year over a certain threshold (which will be between \$125,000 and \$250,000, depending on the individual's circumstances). Estates and trusts (other than certain classes of trusts exempt from such tax) are subject to the same 3.8% tax on the lesser of their undistributed net investment income and the excess of their adjusted gross income over a certain threshold. Net investment income generally will include gain from the redemption of units or the exchange of units for shares of our common stock. If you are a U.S. person that is an individual, estate or trust, you are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the applicability of this tax.

Passive Activity Losses

The passive activity loss rules of the Internal Revenue Code limit the use of losses derived from passive activities, which generally include investments in limited liability company interests such as the units. You are urged to consult your tax advisor concerning whether, and the extent to which, you have available suspended passive activity losses from HCP DR MCD, LLC or other investments that may be used to offset gain from the sale, exchange or redemption of your units tendered for redemption.

Tax Reporting

If a unit is exchanged or redeemed, the holder must report the transaction by filing a statement with its United States federal income tax return for the year of the disposition which provides certain required information to the Internal Revenue Service. To prevent the possible application of backup withholding with respect to payment of the consideration, a holder of units must provide HCP, Inc. or HCP DR MCD, LLC with its correct taxpayer identification number.

Foreign Offerees

Gain recognized by a foreign person on a sale, exchange or redemption of a unit tendered for redemption will be subject to United States federal income tax under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 ("FIRPTA"). If you are a foreign person, HCP, Inc. or HCP DR MCD, LLC will be required, under the FIRPTA provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, to deduct and withhold 10% of the amount realized by you on the disposition, and you will be required to file a United States

Table of Contents

federal income tax return to report your gain and pay any additional tax due. The amount withheld would be creditable against your United States federal income tax liability and, if the amount withheld exceeds your actual tax liability, you could claim a refund from the Internal Revenue Service.

Withholding of Foreign Accounts

Recently enacted legislation and administrative guidance will require withholding at a rate of 30% on gross proceeds (which would include any cash or the value of our common stock exchanged for units) paid after December 31, 2014 from the sale of units held by or through certain foreign financial institutions (including investment funds), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information with respect to shares in the institution held by certain United States persons and by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by United States persons and to withhold on certain payments. Accordingly, the entity through which shares of our common stock are held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, gross proceeds from the sale of units held by an investor that is a non-financial non-U.S. entity will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%, unless such entity either (i) certifies to us that such entity does not have any "substantial United States owners" or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's "substantial United States owners," which we will in turn provide to the Secretary of the Treasury. We will not pay any additional amounts to holders in respect of any amounts withheld. Non-U.S. holders are encouraged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of the legislation on their investment in shares of our common stock.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

This prospectus supplement relates to the possible issuance by us of up to 2,284,765 shares of our common stock if, and to the extent that, holders of units representing non-managing member membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC tender such units for redemption and we elect, in our discretion, to satisfy our redemption obligation by issuing shares of our common stock in exchange for such tendered units. Registration of the issuance of such shares does not necessarily mean that any of the holders of units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC will exercise their redemption rights with respect to the units or that we will issue any shares of our common stock to satisfy such redemption obligation. Upon the tender of any units for redemption, we may elect to pay cash for some or all of such units rather than issue shares of our common stock in exchange for such units.

We will not receive any cash proceeds from the issuance of the shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement to holders of units tendered for redemption, but we will acquire units representing non-managing membership interests in HCP DR MCD, LLC in exchange for shares of our common stock issued to a non-managing member upon redemption of its units.

We have agreed to pay the following expenses, estimated to be approximately \$40,000, for the registration of the shares:

all registration and filing fees;

printing and distribution expenses;

the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the listing of the shares on each securities exchange on which similar securities issued by us are currently listed; and

fees and disbursements of our legal counsel and our independent public accountants.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF COMMON STOCK

The validity of the shares of our common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Ballard Spahr LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. In addition, the description of material federal income tax consequences contained in this prospectus supplement under the heading "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations of an Exchange or Redemption of Units" is based upon the opinion of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

S-27

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

HCP, Inc.
Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Depository Shares
Debt Securities
Warrants

We may from time to time offer to sell together or separately in one or more offerings:

common stock;

preferred stock;

depository shares;

debt securities; and

warrants.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. We will provide the specific prices and terms of these securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus at the time of the offering. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

We may offer and sell these securities through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The securities may also be resold by selling security holders. The prospectus supplement for each offering will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering and will set forth the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the offering and any applicable fees, commissions or discount arrangements.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement or a free writing prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "HCP." Each prospectus supplement will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated herein by reference and described under the heading "Risk Factors" beginning on page 2.

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

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

The date of this prospectus is July 24, 2012.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <u>About This Prospectus</u> | <u>ii</u> |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | <u>ii</u> |
| <u>Cautionary Language Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u> | <u>iii</u> |
| <u>Summary</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Description of Securities</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Description of Capital Stock</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Description of Depositary Shares</u> | <u>10</u> |
| <u>Description of the Debt Securities</u> | <u>12</u> |
| <u>Description of Warrants</u> | <u>14</u> |
| <u>Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and HCP's Charter and Bylaws</u> | <u>16</u> |
| <u>Selling Security Holders</u> | <u>21</u> |
| <u>Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations</u> | <u>21</u> |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | <u>47</u> |
| <u>Validity of Securities</u> | <u>50</u> |
| <u>Experts</u> | <u>50</u> |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") using a "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering, including the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities offered. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read both this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement or other offering materials, together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement or other offering materials do not contain all of the information included in the registration statement as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information, we refer you to the registration statement on Form S-3, including its exhibits. We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Exchange Act"), and, therefore, file reports and other information with the SEC. Statements contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement or other offering materials about the provisions or contents of any agreement or other document are only summaries. If SEC rules require that any agreement or document be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, you should refer to that agreement or document for its complete contents.

You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any other offering materials is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of each document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since then.

In this prospectus, unless otherwise indicated herein or the context otherwise indicates the terms "HCP," "we," "us," "our" and the "Company" refer to HCP, Inc., together with its consolidated subsidiaries. Currency amounts in this prospectus are stated in United States, or U.S., dollars.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You may inspect without charge any documents filed by us at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site, www.sec.gov, that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including HCP, Inc.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" certain information we file with the SEC into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to the other information we have filed with the SEC. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement the following documents we filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 of the Exchange Act (other than any

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

Table of Contents

portions of any such documents that are not deemed "filed" under the Exchange Act in accordance with applicable SEC rules promulgated under the Exchange Act):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, as updated by our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 24, 2012;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012;

portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 13, 2012 that are incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on January 18, 2012 and our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 23, 2012, February 1, 2012, March 7, 2012, March 22, 2012, March 27, 2012 (as to item 8.01 only), March 29, 2012 (as to items 1.01 and 2.03 only), April 20, 2012, May 1, 2012 (as to item 5.07 only), June 22, 2012, July 23, 2012 and July 24, 2012; and

the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 10 dated May 7, 1985 (File No. 1-08895), including the amendments dated May 20, 1985 and May 23, 1985, and any other amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description, including the description of amendments to our charter contained in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended June 30, 2001, June 30, 2004 and September 30, 2007.

We are also incorporating by reference additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and the date all of the securities offered hereby are sold or the offering is otherwise terminated (other than any portions of any such documents that are not deemed "filed" under the Exchange Act in accordance with applicable SEC rules promulgated under the Exchange Act). These documents include periodic reports, such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as Proxy Statements. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding all exhibits unless we have specifically incorporated by reference the exhibit in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement. You may obtain documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement by requesting them in writing or by telephone from:

Legal Department
HCP, Inc.
3760 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 300
Long Beach, California 90806
(562) 733-5100
legaldept@hpci.com

CAUTIONARY LANGUAGE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements in this prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement that are not historical factual statements are "forward-looking statements." We intend to have our forward-looking statements covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private

Table of Contents

Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include this statement for purposes of complying with those provisions. Forward-looking statements include, among other things, statements regarding our and our officers' intent, belief or expectations as identified by the use of words such as "may," "will," "project," "expect," "believe," "intend," "anticipate," "seek," "forecast," "plan," "estimate," "could," "would," "should" and other comparable and derivative terms or the negatives thereof. In addition, we, through our officers, from time to time, make forward-looking oral and written public statements concerning our expected future operations, strategies, securities offerings, growth and investment opportunities, dispositions, capital structure changes, budgets and other developments. Readers are cautioned that, while forward-looking statements reflect our good faith belief and reasonable assumptions based upon current information, we can give no assurance that our expectations or forecasts will be attained. Therefore, readers should be mindful that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and that they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. As more fully set forth herein under "Risk Factors" and under "Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations contained in the forward-looking statements include:

- (a) Changes in global, national and local economic conditions, including a prolonged period of weak economic growth;
- (b) Continued volatility in the capital markets, including changes in interest rates and the availability and cost of capital;
- (c) Our ability to manage our indebtedness level and changes in the terms of such indebtedness;
- (d) Changes in federal, state or local laws and regulations, including those affecting the healthcare industry that affect our costs of compliance or increase the costs, or otherwise affect the operations of our operators, tenants and borrowers;
- (e) The potential impact of future litigation matters, including the possibility of larger than expected litigation costs, adverse results and related developments;
- (f) Competition for tenants and borrowers, including with respect to new leases and mortgages and the renewal or rollover of existing leases;
- (g) Our ability to negotiate the same or better terms with new tenants or operators if existing leases are not renewed or we exercise our right to replace an existing operator or tenant upon default;
- (h) Availability of suitable properties to acquire at favorable prices and the competition for the acquisition and financing of those properties;
- (i) The financial, legal, regulatory and reputational difficulties of significant operators of our properties;
- (j) The risk that we may not be able to achieve the benefits of investments within expected time-frames or at all, or within expected cost projections;
- (k) The ability to obtain financing necessary to consummate acquisitions on favorable terms;
- (l) Changes in the reimbursement available to our operators, tenants and borrowers by governmental or private payors (including the July 2011 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services final rule reducing Medicare skilled nursing facility Prospective Payment System payments in fiscal year 2012 by 11.1% compared to fiscal year 2011) and other potential changes in Medicare and Medicaid payment levels, which, among other effects, could negatively impact the value of our approximately 10% equity interest in the operations of HCR ManorCare, Inc. ("HCR");

Table of Contents

- (m) The risks associated with our investments in joint ventures and unconsolidated entities, including our lack of sole decision-making authority and our reliance on our joint venture partners' financial condition and continued cooperation;
- (n) The ability of our operators, tenants and borrowers to conduct their respective businesses in a manner sufficient to maintain or increase their revenues and to generate sufficient income to make rent and loan payments to us and our ability to recover investments made, if applicable, in their operations; and
- (o) The financial weakness of some operators and tenants, including potential bankruptcies and downturns in their businesses, which results in uncertainties regarding our ability to continue to realize the full benefit of such operators' and/or tenants' leases.

Except as required by law, we undertake no, and hereby disclaim any, obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, changed circumstances or otherwise.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This is only a summary and may not contain all the information that is important to you. You should carefully read both this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and any other offering materials, together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

HCP, Inc.

We invest primarily in real estate serving the healthcare industry in the United States. We are a Maryland corporation and were organized to qualify as a self-administered real estate investment trust, or REIT, in 1985. We are headquartered in Long Beach, California, with offices in Nashville, Tennessee and San Francisco, California. We acquire, develop, lease, manage and dispose of healthcare real estate, and provide financing to healthcare providers. Our portfolio is comprised of investments in the following five healthcare segments: (i) senior housing, (ii) post-acute/skilled nursing, (iii) life science, (iv) medical office and (v) hospital. We make investments within our healthcare segments using the following five investment products: (i) properties under lease, (ii) debt investments, (iii) developments and redevelopments, (iv) investment management and (v) RIDEA, which represents investments in senior housing operations utilizing the structure permitted by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

Our executive offices are located at 3760 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 300, Long Beach, California 90806, and our telephone number is (562) 733-5100. Our website address is www.hcpi.com. The information on, or accessible through, our website is not part of this prospectus and should not be relied upon in connection with making any investment decision with respect to the securities offered by this prospectus.

Table of Contents**RISK FACTORS**

You should consider the specific risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, the risk factors described under the caption "Risk Factors" in any applicable prospectus supplement and any risk factors set forth in our other filings with the SEC, pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, before making an investment decision. Each of the risks described in these documents could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and could result in a partial or complete loss of your investment. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of the securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds in the event that the securities are sold by a selling security holder.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges and our ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated. In computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings have been based on consolidated pre-tax income from continuing operations before fixed charges (exclusive of capitalized interest). Fixed charges consist of interest on debt, including amounts capitalized, an estimate of interest in rental expense, and interest expense related to the guaranteed debt of the partnerships and limited liability companies in which we hold an interest. In computing the ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, preferred stock dividends consist of dividends on our 7.25% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock and 7.10% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock. In April 2012, we redeemed all of our 7.25% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock and 7.10% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock.

| | Three Months Ended March 31, 2012 | Year Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 2011 Pro forma(1) | 2011 Actual | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges | 2.51 | 2.20 | 2.03 | 2.13 | 1.21 | 1.50 | 1.26 |
| Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends | 2.18 | 2.10 | 1.94 | 1.99 | 1.14 | 1.42 | 1.20 |

(1)

The unaudited pro forma condensed consolidated statement of income data used in the pro forma calculations for the year ended December 31, 2011 was prepared under the purchase method of accounting as if the acquisition of HCR Properties, Inc. ("HCR PropCo.") and the approximate 10% ownership interest in the operations of HCR ManorCare, Inc. had been completed on January 1, 2011. We have included this information only for purposes of illustration, and it does not necessarily indicate what the ratios would have been if the acquisitions had actually been completed on that date. Moreover, this information does not necessarily indicate what the future ratios of earnings to fixed charges will be.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the common stock, preferred stock, depository shares, debt securities and warrants that we may offer and sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. The particular terms of any security will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description summarizes the material provisions of the common stock and preferred stock we may offer. This description is not complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our charter and our bylaws and applicable provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law, or the MGCL. The specific terms of any series of preferred stock will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Any series of preferred stock we issue will be governed by our charter and by the articles supplementary related to that series. We will file the articles supplementary with the SEC and incorporate it by reference as an exhibit to our registration statement at or before the time we issue any preferred stock of that series of authorized preferred stock.

Our authorized capital stock consists of 750,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, and 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. The following description does not contain all the information that might be important to you.

Common Stock

As of July 23, 2012, there were 429,523,697 shares of common stock outstanding. All shares of common stock participate equally in dividends payable to holders of common stock, when, as and if authorized by our board and declared by us, and in net assets available for distribution to holders of common stock on liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of our stockholders. Holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors.

All issued and outstanding shares of common stock are, and the common stock offered by this prospectus will be upon issuance, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. Holders of common stock do not have preference, conversion, exchange or preemptive rights. The common stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE Symbol: HCP).

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for our common stock is Wells Fargo Shareowner Services.

Preferred Stock

Under our charter, our board is authorized without further stockholder action to establish and issue, from time to time, up to 50,000,000 shares of our preferred stock, in one or more series, with such designations, preferences, powers and relative participating, optional or other special rights, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, including, but not limited to, dividend rights, dividend rate or rates, conversion rights, voting rights, rights and terms of redemption (including sinking fund provisions), the redemption price or prices, and the liquidation preferences as shall be stated in the resolution providing for the issue of a series of such stock, adopted, at any time or from time to time, by our board. As of July 23, 2012 we had no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

The following description of the terms of the preferred stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The preferred stock shall have the dividend, liquidation, redemption and voting rights set forth below unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock. The terms of any particular series of preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that particular series of preferred stock, including:

the number of shares constituting the series and the distinctive designation thereof;

the voting rights, if any, of the series;

the rate of dividends payable on the series, the time or times when dividends will be payable, the preference to, or any relation to, the payment of dividends to any other class or series of stock and whether the dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative;

Table of Contents

whether there shall be a sinking or similar fund for the purchase of shares of the series and, if so, the terms and provisions that shall govern the fund;

the rights of the holders of shares of the series upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up;

the rights, if any, of holders of shares of the series to convert their shares into or to exchange the shares for, shares of any other class or classes or any other series of the same or of any other class or classes of stock of the corporation or any other securities, the price or prices or rate or rates of exchange, with such adjustments as shall be provided, at which the shares shall be convertible or exchangeable, whether such rights of conversion or exchange shall be exercisable at the option of the holder of the shares or upon the happening of a specified event and any other terms or conditions of such conversion or exchange; and

any other preferences, powers and relative participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions of shares of the series.

The preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and will have no preemptive rights. Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, each series of preferred stock will rank on a parity as to dividends and distributions of assets with each other series of preferred stock. The rights of the holders of each series of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

Dividend Rights of Preferred Stock

Holders of shares of preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, out of funds legally available therefor, cash dividends on the dates and at rates as will be set forth in, or as are determined by the method described in, the prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock. The rate may be fixed or variable or both. Each dividend will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on the record dates fixed by our board of directors, as specified in the prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock.

Dividends may be cumulative or noncumulative, as provided in the prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock. If our board of directors fails to declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the holders of the series of preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on the dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for such period, whether or not dividends on the series are declared payable on any future dividend payment dates. Dividends on the shares of each series of preferred stock for which dividends are cumulative will accrue from the date on which we initially issue shares of the series.

So long as the shares of any series of preferred stock are outstanding, except as otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to such series, we may not declare any dividends on our common stock or any other stock ranking as to dividends or distributions of assets junior to the series of preferred stock or make any payment on account of, or set apart money for, the purchase, redemption or other retirement of, or for a sinking or other analogous fund for, any shares of junior stock or make any distribution in respect thereof, whether in cash or property or in obligations or stock, other than junior stock which is neither convertible into, nor exchangeable or exercisable for, any securities other than junior stock:

unless, if the preferred stock is cumulative, full dividends for prior dividend periods shall have been paid or declared and set apart for payment on all outstanding shares of preferred stock of the series and all other series of our preferred stock (other than junior stock); and

Table of Contents

unless we are not in default or in arrears with respect to the mandatory or optional redemption or mandatory repurchase or other mandatory retirement of, or with respect to any sinking or other analogous fund for, any shares of preferred stock of the series or any shares of any other series of our preferred stock (other than junior stock).

Liquidation Preference

In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us, voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each series of the preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of our assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution of assets or payment is made to the holders of common stock or any other shares of our stock ranking junior as to such distribution or payment to such series of preferred stock, the amount set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock. If, upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us, the amounts payable with respect to the preferred stock of any series and any other shares of preferred stock (including any other series of the preferred stock) ranking as to any such distribution on a parity with such series of preferred stock are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of such series and of such other shares of preferred stock will share ratably in any such distribution of our assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. After payment to the holders of the preferred stock of each series of the full preferential amounts of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, the holders of each such series of preferred stock will be entitled to no further participation in any distribution of our assets.

If such payment shall have been made in full to all holders of shares of preferred stock, our remaining assets will be distributed among the holders of any other classes of stock ranking junior to the preferred stock upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective number of shares. For such purposes, our consolidation or merger with or into any other corporation, or the sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business, shall not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us.

In determining whether a distribution (other than upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation) by dividend, redemption or other acquisition of shares of our stock or otherwise is permitted under the MGCL, no effect shall be given to amounts that would be needed, if we would be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of holders of shares of our stock whose preferential rights upon dissolution are superior to those receiving the distribution.

Redemption

A series of preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or from time to time in part, at our option, and may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, in each case upon terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. Shares of the preferred stock redeemed by us will be restored to the status of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock.

In the event that fewer than all of the outstanding shares of a series of the preferred stock are to be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, the number of shares to be redeemed will be determined by lot or pro rata (subject to rounding to avoid fractional shares) as may be determined by us or by any other method as may be determined by us in our sole discretion to be equitable. From and after the redemption date (unless default shall be made by us in providing for the payment of the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any), dividends shall cease to accumulate on the shares of the preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of the holders thereof (except the right to receive the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any) shall cease.

Table of Contents

So long as any dividends on shares of any series of preferred stock or any other series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends and distributions of assets with such series of preferred stock are in arrears, no shares of any such series of the preferred stock or such other series of preferred stock will be redeemed (whether by mandatory or optional redemption) unless all such shares are simultaneously redeemed, and we will not purchase or otherwise acquire any such shares. However, the foregoing will not prevent the purchase or acquisition of such shares of preferred stock of such series or of shares of such other series of preferred stock in order to ensure that we continue to meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT for federal and state income tax purposes or pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding shares of preferred stock of such series and, unless the full cumulative dividends on all outstanding shares of any cumulative preferred stock of such series and any other stock ranking on a parity with such series as to dividends and upon liquidation shall have been paid or contemporaneously are declared and paid for all past dividend periods, we will not purchase or otherwise acquire directly or indirectly any shares of preferred stock of such series (except by conversion into or exchange for our stock) ranking junior to the preferred stock of such series as to dividends and upon liquidation.

Notice of redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of shares of preferred stock to be redeemed at the address shown on our stock transfer books. After the redemption date, dividends will cease to accrue on the shares of preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of the holders of such shares will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price without interest plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any.

Conversion Rights

The terms, if any, on which shares of preferred stock of any series may be exchanged for or converted (mandatorily or otherwise) into shares of common stock or another series of preferred stock (or any other securities) will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

Voting Rights

Except as indicated below or in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, the holders of the preferred stock will not be entitled to vote for any purpose.

So long as any shares of preferred stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the consent or the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the shares of each series of preferred stock outstanding at the time given in person or by proxy, either in writing or at a meeting (such series voting separately as a class):

authorize, create or issue, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any series of stock ranking prior to such series of preferred stock with respect to payment of dividends, or the distribution of assets on liquidation, dissolution or winding up or reclassifying any of our authorized stock into any such shares, or create, authorize or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares; or

repeal, amend or otherwise change any of the provisions of our charter applicable to the preferred stock of such series in any manner which materially and adversely affects the powers, preferences, voting power or other rights or privileges of such series of preferred stock or the holders thereof; provided, however, that any increase in the amount of the authorized preferred stock or the creation or issuance of other series of preferred stock, or any increase in the amount of authorized shares of such series or of any other series of preferred stock, in each case ranking on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of such series, shall not be deemed to materially and adversely affect such rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers.

Table of Contents

The foregoing voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which such vote would otherwise be required shall be effected, all outstanding shares of the preferred stock shall have been redeemed or called for redemption and sufficient funds shall have been deposited in trust to effect such redemption.

Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Common Stock

Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our voting stock that are intended to assist us in complying with the requirements to continue to qualify as a REIT. Subject to limited exceptions, no person or entity may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, more than 9.8% (by number or value, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Our board may, but is in no event required to, waive the applicable ownership limit with respect to a particular stockholder if it determines that such ownership will not jeopardize our status as a REIT and our board otherwise decides such action would be in our best interests.

These charter provisions further prohibit:

any person from actually or constructively owning shares of our stock that would result in our being "closely held" under Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a real estate investment trust (including but not limited to ownership that would result in us owning, actually or constructively, an interest in a tenant as described in Section 856(d)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code if the income derived by us, either directly or indirectly, from such tenant would cause us to fail to satisfy any of the gross income requirements of Section 856(c) of the Internal Revenue Code); and

any person from transferring shares of our capital stock if such transfer would result in shares of our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons (determined without reference to any rules of attribution).

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire actual or constructive ownership of shares of our stock that will or may violate any of these restrictions on ownership and transfer is required to give notice immediately to us and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of the transfer on our status as a REIT. Under our charter, if any purported transfer of our stock or any other event would otherwise result in any person violating the applicable ownership limit or such other limit as permitted by our board, then any such purported transfer is void and of no force or effect with respect to the purported transferee as to that number of shares of our stock in excess of the ownership limit or such other limit, and the transferee will acquire no right or interest in such excess shares. Any excess shares described above are transferred automatically, by operation of law, to a trust, the beneficiary of which is a qualified charitable organization selected by us. Such automatic transfer will be deemed to be effective as of the close of business on the business day prior to the date of such violative transfer. Within 20 days of receiving notice from us of the transfer of shares to the trust, the trustee of the trust is required to sell the excess shares to a person or entity who could own the shares without violating the applicable ownership limit, or such other limit as permitted by our board, and distribute to the prohibited transferee an amount equal to the lesser of the price paid by the prohibited transferee for the excess shares or the sales proceeds received by the trust for the excess shares. Any proceeds in excess of the amount distributable to the prohibited transferee are distributed to the beneficiary of the trust. Prior to a sale of any such excess shares by the trust, the trustee is entitled to receive, in trust for the beneficiary, all dividends and other distributions paid by us with respect to such excess shares, and also is entitled to exercise all voting rights with respect to such excess shares.

Table of Contents

Subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that such shares have been transferred to the trust, the trustee will have the authority, at the trustee's sole discretion:

to rescind as void any vote cast by a prohibited transferee prior to the discovery by us that the shares have been transferred to the trust; or

to recast such vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the beneficiary of the trust.

However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action, then the trustee will not have the authority to rescind and recast such vote. Any dividend or other distribution paid to the prohibited transferee, prior to the discovery by us that such shares had been automatically transferred to a trust as described above, are required to be repaid to the trustee upon demand for distribution to the beneficiary of the trust. In the event that the transfer to the trust as described above is not automatically effective, for any reason, to prevent violation of the ownership limit or such other limit as permitted by our board, then our charter provides that the transfer of the excess shares is void ab initio.

In addition, shares of common stock held in the trust shall be deemed to have been offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of:

the price per share in the transaction that resulted in such transfer to the trust or, in the case of a devise or gift, the market price at the time of such devise or gift; and

the market price on the date we, or our designee, accepted the offer.

We will have the right to accept the offer until the trustee has sold the shares of stock held in the trust. Upon a sale to us, the interest of the beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the prohibited transferee.

If any purported transfer of shares of common stock would cause us to be beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons, such transfer will be null and void ab initio in its entirety and the intended transferee will acquire no rights to the stock.

All certificates representing shares of common stock bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above. The foregoing ownership limitations could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of us that might involve a premium price for the common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders.

In addition, if our board of directors shall, at any time and in good faith, be of the opinion that direct or indirect ownership of at least 9.9% of the voting shares of capital stock has or may become concentrated in the hands of one beneficial owner, it shall have the power:

by lot or other means deemed equitable by it to call for the purchase from any stockholder of a number of voting shares sufficient, in the opinion of our board of directors, to maintain or bring the direct or indirect ownership of voting shares of capital stock of the beneficial owner to a level of no more than 9.9% of our outstanding voting shares; and

to refuse to transfer or issue voting shares of capital stock to any person whose acquisition of such voting shares would, in the opinion of the board of directors, result in the direct or indirect ownership by that person of more than 9.9% of the outstanding voting shares of our capital stock.

If our board of directors fails to grant an exemption from this 9.9% ownership limitation, then the transfer of shares, options, warrants, or other securities convertible into voting shares that would create a beneficial owner of more than 9.9% of the outstanding voting shares shall be deemed void ab initio, and the intended transferee shall be deemed never to have had an interest in the transferred securities. The purchase price for any voting shares of capital stock so redeemed shall be equal to the fair market value of the shares reflected in the closing sales price for the shares, if then listed on a national

Table of Contents

securities exchange, or the average of the closing sales prices for the shares if then listed on more than one national securities exchange, or if the shares are not then listed on a national securities exchange, the latest bid quotation for the shares if then traded over-the-counter, on the last business day immediately preceding the day on which we send notices of such acquisitions, or, if no such closing sales prices or quotations are available, then the purchase price shall be equal to the net asset value of such stock as determined by the board of directors in accordance with the provisions of applicable law. From and after the date fixed for purchase by the board of directors, the holder of any shares so called for purchase shall cease to be entitled to distributions, voting rights and other benefits with respect to such shares, except the right to payment of the purchase price for the shares.

Business Combination Provisions

Our charter requires that, except in some circumstances, "business combinations" between us and a beneficial holder of 10% or more of our outstanding voting stock (a "Related Person") be approved by the affirmative vote of at least 90% of our outstanding voting shares. A "business combination" is defined in our charter as:

any merger or consolidation with or into a Related Person;

any sale, lease, exchange, transfer or other disposition, including without limitation a mortgage or any other security device, of all or any "Substantial Part" (as defined below) of our assets, including any voting securities of a subsidiary, to a Related Person;

any merger or consolidation of a Related Person with or into us;

any sale, lease, exchange, transfer or other disposition of all or any Substantial Part of the assets of a Related Person to us;

the issuance of any of our securities, other than by way of pro rata distribution to all stockholders, to a Related Person; and

any agreement, contract or other arrangement providing for any of the transactions described above.

The term "Substantial Part" means more than 10% of the book value of our total assets as of the end of our most recent fiscal year ending prior to the time the determination is being made.

In addition to the restrictions on business combinations contained in our charter, Maryland law also contains restrictions on business combinations. See "Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and HCP's Charter and Bylaws Business Combinations."

The foregoing provisions may have the effect of discouraging unilateral tender offers or other takeover proposals which stockholders might deem to be in their interests or in which they might receive a substantial premium. The HCP board's authority to issue and establish the terms of currently authorized preferred stock, without stockholder approval, may also have the effect of discouraging takeover attempts. See " Preferred Stock."

The foregoing provisions could also have the effect of insulating current management against the possibility of removal and could, by possibly reducing temporary fluctuations in market price caused by accumulations of shares of our common stock, deprive stockholders of opportunities to sell at a temporarily higher market price. Our board believes, however, that inclusion of the business combination provisions in our charter may help assure fair treatment of our stockholders and preserve our assets.

Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Preferred Stock

Our charter may contain restrictions on the ownership and transfer of preferred stock that are intended to assist us in complying with the requirements to maintain its status as a REIT. Subject to

Table of Contents

limited exceptions, unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock, no person or entity may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, more than 9.8% (by number or value, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of such series of preferred stock. Our board of directors may, but in no event will be required to, waive the applicable ownership limit with respect to a particular stockholder if it determines that such ownership will not jeopardize our status as a REIT and our board of directors otherwise decides such action would be in our best interests. The mechanics for the ownership limits on our preferred stock will be similar to the mechanics related to our common stock, as described in "Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Common Stock" above, unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do so, we may issue receipts for depositary shares that each represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. The prospectus supplement will indicate that fraction. The shares of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under one or more depositary agreement between us and a bank or trust company that meets certain requirements and is selected by us (the "bank depositary"). Each owner of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the depositary agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the offering.

We have summarized some common provisions of a depositary agreement and the related depositary receipts. The description in the applicable prospectus supplement of any depositary shares we offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable depositary agreement and the depositary receipts relating to any particular issue of depositary shares, which will be filed with the SEC if we offer depositary shares. For more information on how you can obtain copies of any depositary agreement and the depositary receipts if we offer depositary shares, see "Where You Can Find More Information." We urge you to read the applicable depositary agreement and the depositary receipts relating to any particular issue of depositary shares and any applicable prospectus supplement in their entirety.

Dividends and Other Distributions

If we pay a cash distribution or dividend on a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the bank depositary will distribute such dividends to the record holders of such depositary shares. If the distributions are in property other than cash, the bank depositary will distribute the property to the record holders of the depositary shares. However, if the bank depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution of property, the bank depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to the record holders of the depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If we redeem a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the bank depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds received by the bank depositary in connection with the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will equal the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share of the preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares are

Table of Contents

redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as the bank depositary may determine.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock represented by depositary shares are entitled to vote, the bank depositary will mail the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such preferred stock. Each record holder of these depositary shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, may instruct the bank depositary as to how to vote the preferred stock represented by such holder's depositary shares. The bank depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will take all action that the bank depositary deems necessary in order to enable the bank depositary to do so. The bank depositary will abstain from voting shares of the preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock.

Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the depositary agreement may be amended by agreement between the bank depositary and us. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The depositary agreement may be terminated by the bank depositary or us only if (i) all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or (ii) there has been a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our Company and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

Charges of Bank Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the bank depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the depositary agreement.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Except as may be provided otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the bank depositary, subject to the terms of the depositary agreement, the owner of the depositary shares may demand delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented by those depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the bank depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn may not thereafter deposit those shares under the depositary agreement or receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefor.

Miscellaneous

The bank depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the bank depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock.

Table of Contents

Neither the bank depositary nor we will be liable if we are prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our obligations under the depositary agreement. The obligations of the bank depositary and us under the depositary agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of our duties thereunder, and we will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

Resignation and Removal of Bank Depositary

The bank depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the bank depositary. Any such resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor bank depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. The successor bank depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company meeting the requirements of the depositary agreement.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

We may offer debt securities, which may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and may be convertible or non-convertible, as well as secured or unsecured.

The following description briefly sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which these general provisions may apply to the debt securities, will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, our debt securities will be issued in one or more series under an indenture to be entered into between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. A form of the indenture is attached as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The terms of the debt securities will include those set forth in the indenture and those made a part of the indenture by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "TIA"). You should read the summary below, the applicable prospectus supplement and the provisions of the indenture and supplemental indenture and/or officer's certificate, if any, in their entirety before investing in our debt securities. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

The aggregate principal amount of debt securities that may be issued under the indenture is unlimited. The prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities that we may offer will contain the specific terms of the debt securities. These terms may include the following:

the title and aggregate principal amount of the debt securities and any limit on the aggregate principal amount;

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated;

whether the debt securities will be secured or unsecured and the terms of any securities agreement or arrangement;

any applicable subordination provisions for any subordinated debt securities;

the maturity date(s) or method for determining the same;

the interest rate(s) or the method for determining the same;

the dates on which interest will accrue or the method for determining dates on which interest will accrue and dates on which interest will be payable and whether interest shall be payable in cash or additional securities;

Table of Contents

whether the debt securities are convertible or exchangeable into other securities and any related terms and conditions;

redemption or early repayment provisions, including at our option or at the option of the holders;

authorized denominations;

if other than the principal amount, the principal amount of debt securities payable upon acceleration;

place(s) where payment of principal and interest may be made, where debt securities may be presented and where notices or demands upon the Company may be made;

whether such debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities and the date as which the securities are dated if other than the date of original issuance;

amount of discount or premium, if any, with which such debt securities will be issued;

any covenants applicable to the particular debt securities being issued;

any additions or changes in the defaults and events of default applicable to the particular debt securities being issued;

the guarantors of each series, if any, and the extent of the guarantees (including provisions relating to seniority, subordination and release of the guarantees), if any;

the currency, currencies or currency units in which the purchase price for, the principal of and any premium and any interest on, such debt securities will be payable;

the time period within which, the manner in which and the terms and conditions upon which the holders of the debt securities or the company can select the payment currency;

our obligation or right to redeem, purchase or repay debt securities under a sinking fund, amortization or analogous provision;

any restriction or conditions on the transferability of the debt securities;

provisions granting special rights to holders of the debt securities upon occurrence of specified events;

additions or changes relating to compensation or reimbursement of the trustee of the series of debt securities;

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

additions or changes to the provisions for the defeasance of the debt securities or to provisions related to satisfaction and discharge of the indenture;

provisions relating to the modification of the indenture both with and without the consent of holders of debt securities issued under the indenture and the execution of supplemental indentures for such series; and

any other terms of the debt securities (which terms shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the TIA, but may modify, amend, supplement or delete any of the terms of the indenture with respect to such series of debt securities).

General

We may sell the debt securities, including original issue discount securities, at par or at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. Unless we inform you otherwise in a

Table of Contents

prospectus supplement, we may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series or any other series outstanding at the time of issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, may constitute a single series of securities under the indenture.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement any other special considerations for any debt securities we sell which are denominated in a currency or currency unit other than U.S. dollars. In addition, debt securities may be issued where the amount of principal and/or interest payable is determined by reference to one or more currency exchange rates, commodity prices, equity indices or other factors. Holders of such securities may receive a principal amount or a payment of interest that is greater than or less than the amount of principal or interest otherwise payable on such dates, depending upon the value of the applicable currencies, commodities, equity indices or other factors. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest, if any, payable on any date, the currencies, commodities, equity indices or other factors to which the amount payable on such date is linked.

United States federal income tax consequences and special considerations, if any, applicable to any such series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

We expect most debt securities to be issued in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$2,000 and any integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. Subject to the limitations provided in the indenture and in the prospectus supplement, debt securities that are issued in registered form may be transferred or exchanged at the designated corporate trust office of the trustee, without the payment of any service charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

Global Securities

Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Global securities will be issued in registered form and in either temporary or definitive form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for the individual debt securities, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository for such global security to a nominee of such depository or by a nominee of such depository to such depository or another nominee of such depository or by such depository or any such nominee to a successor of such depository or a nominee of such successor. The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any debt securities of a series and the rights of and limitations upon owners of beneficial interests in a global security will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of New York.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities. We may issue warrants independently or together with any offered securities. The warrants may be attached to or separate from those offered securities. We will issue the warrants under one or more warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a warrant agent to be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the

Table of Contents

warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants that we may offer will contain the specific terms of the warrants. These terms may include the following:

the title of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are to be issued and the number of warrants issued with each other security;

the aggregate number of warrants;

any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable;

a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the exercise of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;

the maximum or minimum number of warrants that may be exercised at any time;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder of the warrant to purchase for cash the amount of debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities at the exercise price stated or determinable in the applicable prospectus supplement for the warrants. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date shown in the applicable prospectus supplement, unless otherwise specified in such prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void. Warrants may be exercised as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. When the warrant holder makes the payment and properly completes and signs the warrant certificate at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

possible, forward the debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities that the warrant holder has purchased. If the warrant holder exercises the warrant for less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate, we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining warrants.

The description in the applicable prospectus supplement of any warrants we offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable warrant agreement and warrant certificate, which will be filed with the SEC if we offer warrants. For more information on how you can obtain copies of any warrant certificate or warrant agreement if we offer warrants, see "Where You Can Find More Information." We urge you to read the applicable warrant certificate, the applicable warrant agreement and any applicable prospectus supplement in their entirety.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND HCP'S CHARTER AND BYLAWS

The following paragraphs summarize certain provisions of Maryland law and of our charter and bylaws. This is a summary, and does not completely describe Maryland law, our charter or our bylaws. For a complete description, we refer you to the MGCL, our charter and our bylaws. We have incorporated by reference our charter and bylaws as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Election of Directors

Our bylaws provide that our board of directors may establish, increase or decrease the number of directors, provided that the number thereof shall never be less than three nor more than eleven. Our bylaws also provide for the election of directors, in uncontested elections, by a majority of the votes cast. In contested elections, the election of directors shall be by a plurality of the votes cast. Holders of common stock have no right to cumulative voting for the election of directors. Consequently, at each annual meeting of stockholders, the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock can elect all of our directors. A vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors may be filled by a majority vote of the entire board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our shares then entitled to vote at an election of directors. Other vacancies may be filled by the vote of a majority of the remaining directors.

Removal of Directors

Our charter provides that a director of ours may be removed by the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of our voting stock or by a unanimous vote of all other directors. Our stockholders may elect a successor to fill any vacancy which results from the removal of a director.

Business Combinations

Under Maryland law, "business combinations" between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. An interested stockholder is defined as:

any person who beneficially owns ten percent or more of the voting power of the corporation's shares; or

an affiliate of the corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting stock of the corporation.

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between the Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by the board of directors of the corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of voting stock of the corporation; and

two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or which are held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

Table of Contents

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if the corporation's common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares. None of these provisions of the Maryland law will apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of directors of the corporation prior to the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder.

In addition to the restrictions on business combinations provided under Maryland law, our charter also contains restrictions on business combinations. See "Description of Capital Stock Business Combination Provisions."

Control Share Acquisitions

Maryland law provides that "control shares" of a Maryland corporation acquired in a "control share acquisition" have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares of stock owned by the acquiror, by officers or by directors who are employees of the corporation are excluded from shares entitled to vote on the matter. "Control shares" are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other shares of stock owned by the acquiror or shares of stock for which the acquiror is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy, would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-tenth or more but less than one-third;

one-third or more but less than a majority; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. Except as otherwise specified in the statute, a "control share acquisition" means the acquisition of control shares.

Once a person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition has undertaken to pay expenses and satisfied other conditions, the person may compel the board of directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then the corporation may be able to redeem any or all of the control shares for fair value, except for control shares for which voting rights previously have been approved. The right of the corporation to redeem control shares is subject to certain conditions and limitations. Fair value is determined without regard to the absence of voting rights for control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of control shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of these appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition. Some of the limitations and restrictions otherwise applicable to the exercise of dissenters' rights do not apply in the context of a control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction or to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation. Our bylaws contain a provision exempting

Table of Contents

acquisitions of shares of our stock from the control share acquisition statute. However, our board of directors may amend our bylaws in the future to repeal or modify this exemption, in which case any control shares of our company acquired in a control share acquisition will be subject to the control share acquisition statute.

Unsolicited Takeovers

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation with a class of equity securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and at least three independent directors may elect to be subject to certain statutory provisions relating to unsolicited takeovers which, among other things, would automatically classify the board of directors into three classes with staggered terms of three years each and vest in the board of directors the exclusive right to determine the number of directors and the exclusive right, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, to fill vacancies on the board of directors, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum. These statutory provisions relating to unsolicited takeovers also provide that any director elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred, rather than the next annual meeting of directors as would otherwise be the case, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

An election to be subject to any or all of the foregoing statutory provisions may be made in our charter or bylaws, or by resolution of our board of directors without stockholder approval. Any such statutory provision to which we elect to be subject will apply even if other provisions of Maryland law or our charter or bylaws provide to the contrary. Neither our charter nor our bylaws provides that we are subject to any of the foregoing statutory provisions relating to unsolicited takeovers. However, our board of directors could adopt a resolution, without stockholder approval, to elect to become subject to some or all of these statutory provisions.

If we made an election to be subject to such statutory provisions and our board of directors were divided into three classes with staggered terms of office of three years each, the classification and staggered terms of office of our directors would make it more difficult for a third party to gain control of our board of directors since at least two annual meetings of stockholders, instead of one, generally would be required to effect a change in the majority of our board of directors.

Amendments to the Charter

Provisions of our charter on business combinations, the number of directors and certain ownership restrictions may be amended only if approved by our board of directors and by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter. Other amendments to our charter require approval by our board of directors and approval by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter.

Amendment to the Bylaws

Provisions of our bylaws on the number of directors, in certain circumstances, and the vote required to amend the bylaws may be amended only by unanimous vote of the board of directors or by the affirmative vote of not less than 90% of all of the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter. Other amendments to our bylaws require the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire board of directors or the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter.

Table of Contents

Dissolution of HCP, Inc.

Our dissolution must be approved by our board of directors by a majority vote of the entire board and by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter.

Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business; Procedures of Special Meetings Requested by Stockholders

Our bylaws provide that nominations of persons for election to the board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders at the annual or special meeting of stockholders may be made only:

pursuant to our notice of the meeting;

by or at the direction of the board of directors; or

by a stockholder who was a stockholder at the time the notice of meeting was given and is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures, including the minimum time period, described in the bylaws.

Our bylaws also provide that only the business specified in our notice of meeting may be brought before a special meeting of stockholders. Our bylaws provide that our stockholders have the right to call a special meeting only upon the written request of the stockholders holding in the aggregate not less than 50% of the outstanding shares entitled to vote on the business proposed to be transacted at such meeting.

Anti-Takeover Effect of Provisions of Maryland Law and of the Charter and Bylaws

The provisions in the charter on removal of directors and business combinations, the business combinations and control share acquisition provisions of Maryland law, the unsolicited takeover provisions of Maryland law (if we elect to become subject to such provisions), the advance notice provisions of our bylaws and the provisions of our bylaws relating to stockholder-requested special meetings may delay, defer or prevent a change of control or other transaction in which holders of some, or a majority, of the common stock might receive a premium for their common stock over the then prevailing market price or which such holders might believe to be otherwise in their best interests.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages. However, a Maryland corporation may not limit liability resulting from actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services. Also, liability resulting from active and deliberate dishonesty may not be eliminated if a final judgment establishes that the dishonesty is material to the cause of action. Our charter contains a provision which limits the liability of directors and officers for money damages to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law. This provision does not limit our right or that of our stockholders to obtain equitable relief, such as an injunction or rescission.

Our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify and, without requiring a preliminary determination as to the ultimate entitlement to indemnification, to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses before final disposition of a proceeding to:

any present or former director or officer who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his service in that capacity; or

Table of Contents

any individual who, while one of our directors or officers and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee of such corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise and who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his service in that capacity.

The bylaws authorize us, with the approval of our board of directors, to provide indemnification and advancement of expenses to our agents and employees.

Unless limited by a corporation's charter, Maryland law requires a corporation to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he is made a party by reason of his service in that capacity, or in the defense of any claim, issue or matter in the proceeding. Our charter does not alter this requirement.

Maryland law permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against:

judgments;

penalties;

finest;

settlements; and

reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities.

Maryland law does not permit a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers if it is established that:

the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or

in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation. Also, a Maryland corporation generally may not indemnify for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. In either of these cases, a Maryland corporation may indemnify for expenses only if a court so orders.

Maryland law permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer. First, however, the corporation must receive a written affirmation by the director or officer of his good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation. The corporation must also receive a written undertaking, either by the director or officer or on his behalf, to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it shall ultimately be determined that the standard of conduct was not met. The termination of any proceeding by conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, or an entry of any order of probation prior to judgment, creates a rebuttable presumption that the director or officer did not meet the requisite standard of conduct required for indemnification to be permitted.

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

It is the position of the Commission that indemnification of directors and officers for liabilities arising under the Securities Act is against public policy and is unenforceable pursuant to Section 14 of the Securities Act.

Table of Contents

SELLING SECURITY HOLDERS

Information about selling security holders, where applicable, will be set forth in a prospectus supplement, in a post-effective amendment, or in filings we make with the SEC under the Exchange Act which are incorporated by reference.

MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a general summary of the material United States federal income tax considerations regarding our election to be taxed as a REIT and the ownership and disposition of certain of the securities offered by this prospectus. This summary does not purport to be a complete analysis of all of the potential tax considerations relating thereto. This summary is based on current law, is for general information only and is not tax advice. For purposes of this summary under the heading "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations," references to "HCP," "we," "our," and "us" mean only HCP, Inc., and not its subsidiaries, except as otherwise indicated.

The information in this summary is based on:

the Internal Revenue Code;

current, temporary and proposed Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code;

the legislative history of the Internal Revenue Code;

current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service; and

court decisions;

in each case, as of the date of this prospectus. In addition, the administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service include its practices and policies as expressed in private letter rulings that are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service except with respect to the particular taxpayers who requested and received those rulings. Future legislation, Treasury Regulations, administrative interpretations and practices and/or court decisions may change or adversely affect the tax considerations described in this prospectus. Any such change could apply retroactively to transactions preceding the date of the change. We have not requested and do not intend to request a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service that we qualify as a REIT or concerning the treatment of the securities offered by this prospectus, and the statements in this prospectus are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or any court. Thus, we can provide no assurance that the tax considerations contained in this summary will not be challenged by the Internal Revenue Service or will be sustained by a court if so challenged.

This summary assumes that the securities offered by this prospectus are held as "capital assets" (generally, property held for investment within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code). Your tax treatment will vary depending on the terms of the specific securities that you acquire, as well as your particular situation. Supplemental United States federal income tax considerations relevant to your ownership of the particular securities offered by this prospectus may be provided in the prospectus supplement that relates to those securities. This discussion does not purport to deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to holders of our securities in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to holders who receive special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws except to the extent discussed specifically herein. Holders of securities offered by this prospectus receiving special treatment include, without limitation:

banks, insurance companies or other financial institutions;

brokers or dealers in securities or commodities;

Table of Contents

traders in securities;

expatriates and certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States;

tax-exempt organizations;

persons who are subject to the alternative minimum tax;

persons who hold the securities offered by this prospectus as a position in a "straddle" or as part of a "hedging," "conversion" or other risk reduction transaction;

persons deemed to sell the securities offered by this prospectus under the constructive sale provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;

United States persons that have a functional currency other than the United States dollar;

except to the extent specifically discussed below, non-U.S. holders (as defined below); or

persons that are S corporations, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, partnerships or other pass-through entities.

In addition, this discussion does not address any state, local or foreign tax consequences associated with the ownership of the securities offered by this prospectus or our election to be taxed as a REIT.

You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of:

the acquisition, ownership and sale or other disposition of the securities offered by this prospectus, including the United States federal, state, local, foreign and other tax consequences;

our election to be taxed as a REIT for United States federal income tax purposes; and

potential changes in applicable tax laws.

Taxation of the Company

General

We elected to be taxed as a REIT under Sections 856 through 860 of the Internal Revenue Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1985. We believe we have been organized and have operated in a manner which allows us to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1985. We currently intend to continue to be organized and operate in this manner. However, qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Internal Revenue Code, including through actual annual operating results, asset composition, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that we have been organized and have operated, or will continue to be organized and operate, in a manner so as to qualify or remain qualified as a REIT. See " Failure to Qualify."

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

The sections of the Internal Revenue Code and the corresponding Treasury Regulations that relate to the qualification and taxation as a REIT are highly technical and complex. The following sets forth the material aspects of the sections of the Internal Revenue Code that govern the United States federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its stockholders. This summary is qualified in its entirety by the applicable Internal Revenue Code provisions, Treasury Regulations, and related administrative and judicial interpretations thereof. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has acted as our tax counsel in connection with this prospectus and our election to be taxed as a REIT.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has rendered an opinion to us to the effect that, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1985, we have been organized and have operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT, and that our

Table of Contents

proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. It must be emphasized that this opinion was based on various assumptions and representations as to factual matters, including representations made by us in factual certificates provided by one or more of our officers. In addition, this opinion was based upon our factual representations set forth in this prospectus. Moreover, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Internal Revenue Code which are discussed below, including through actual annual operating results, asset composition, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership, all of the results of which have not been and will not be reviewed by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that our actual results of operation for any particular taxable year have satisfied or will satisfy those requirements. See " Failure to Qualify." Further, the anticipated income tax treatment described in this prospectus may be changed, perhaps retroactively, by legislative, administrative or judicial action at any time. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has no obligation to update its opinion subsequent to its date.

Provided we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be required to pay United States federal corporate income taxes on our REIT taxable income that is currently distributed to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the "double taxation" that ordinarily results from investment in a C corporation. A C corporation is a corporation that is generally required to pay tax at the corporate-level. Double taxation generally means taxation that occurs once at the corporate level when income is earned and once again at the stockholder level when the income is distributed. We will be required to pay United States federal income tax, however, as follows:

We will be required to pay tax at regular corporate tax rates on any undistributed REIT taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains.

We may be required to pay the "alternative minimum tax" on our items of tax preference under some circumstances.

If we have: (a) net income from the sale or other disposition of "foreclosure property" which is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business; or (b) other nonqualifying income from foreclosure property, we will be required to pay tax at the highest corporate rate on this income. Foreclosure property generally is defined as property we acquired through foreclosure or after a default on a loan secured by the property or a lease of the property and for which an election is in effect.

We will be required to pay a 100% tax on any net income from prohibited transactions. Prohibited transactions are, in general, sales or other taxable dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.

If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as described below, but have otherwise maintained our qualification as a REIT because certain other requirements are met, we will be required to pay a tax equal to (a) the greater of (i) the amount by which 75% of our gross income exceeds the amount qualifying under the 75% gross income test and (ii) the amount by which 95% of our gross income (90% for our taxable years ended on or prior to December 31, 2004) exceeds the amount qualifying under the 95% gross income test, multiplied by (b) a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

If we fail to satisfy any of the REIT asset tests (other than a de minimis failure of the 5% or 10% asset tests), as described below, due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, and we nonetheless maintain our REIT qualification because of specified cure provisions, we will be required to pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate tax rate multiplied by the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets that caused us to fail such test.

Table of Contents

If we fail to satisfy any provision of the Internal Revenue Code that would result in our failure to qualify as a REIT (other than a violation of the REIT gross income tests or certain violations of the asset tests described below) and the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we may retain our REIT qualification but will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.

We will be required to pay a 4% excise tax to the extent we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods.

If we acquire any asset from a corporation which is or has been a C corporation in a transaction in which the basis of the asset in our hands is determined by reference to the basis of the asset in the hands of the C corporation (as we expect occurred as a result of the merger with CNL Retirement Corp. ("CRC") in 2006, the acquisition of Slough Estates USA, Inc. ("SEUSA") in 2007, and the acquisition of HCR PropCo. with respect to the acquisition of certain real property from HCR in 2011), and we subsequently recognize gain on the disposition of the asset during the ten-year period beginning on the date on which we acquired the asset, then we will be required to pay tax at the highest regular corporate tax rate on this gain to the extent of the excess of (a) the fair market value of the asset over (b) our adjusted basis in the asset, in each case determined as of the date on which we acquired the asset. The results described in this paragraph with respect to the recognition of gain assume that certain elections specified in applicable Treasury Regulations are either made or forgone by us or by the entity from which the assets are acquired, in each case, depending upon the date such acquisition occurred.

We will be required to pay a 100% tax on any "redetermined rents," "redetermined deductions" or "excess interest." In general, redetermined rents are rents from real property that are overstated as a result of services furnished to any of our tenants by a "taxable REIT subsidiary" of ours. Redetermined deductions and excess interest generally represent amounts that are deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary of ours for amounts paid to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been deducted based on arm's-length negotiations.

Certain of our subsidiaries are C corporations, the earnings of which will be subject to United States federal corporate income tax.

Requirements for Qualification as a REIT

The Internal Revenue Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- (2) that issues transferable shares or transferable certificates to evidence its beneficial ownership;
- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for special Internal Revenue Code provisions applicable to REITs;
- (4) that is not a financial institution or an insurance company within the meaning of certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (5) that is beneficially owned by 100 or more persons;
- (6) not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, actually or constructively, by five or fewer individuals, including certain specified entities, during the last half of each taxable year; and

Table of Contents

(7) that meets other tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions.

The Internal Revenue Code provides that conditions (1) to (4), inclusive, must be met during the entire taxable year and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of twelve months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than twelve months. Conditions (5) and (6) do not apply until after the first taxable year for which an election is made to be taxed as a REIT. For purposes of condition (6), the term "individual" includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefit plan, a private foundation or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes, but generally does not include a qualified pension plan or profit sharing trust.

We believe that we have been organized, have operated and have issued sufficient shares of capital stock with sufficient diversity of ownership to allow us to satisfy conditions (1) through (7) inclusive, during the relevant time periods. In addition, our charter documents provide for restrictions regarding ownership and transfer of our shares which are intended to assist us in continuing to satisfy the ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. These stock ownership and transfer restrictions are described in "Description of Capital Stock Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Common Stock," "Description of Capital Stock Business Combination Provisions" and "Description of Capital Stock Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Preferred Stock." These restrictions, however, may not ensure that we will, in all cases, be able to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. If we fail to satisfy these share ownership requirements, except as provided in the next two sentences, our status as a REIT will terminate. See "Failure to Qualify." If, however, we comply with the rules contained in applicable Treasury Regulations that require us to ascertain the actual ownership of our shares and we do not know, or would not have known through the exercise of reasonable diligence, that we failed to meet the requirement described in condition (6) above, we will be treated as having met this requirement.

In addition, we may not maintain our status as a REIT unless our taxable year is the calendar year. We have and will continue to have a calendar taxable year.

Ownership of Interests in Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies

We own and operate one or more properties through partnerships and limited liability companies. Treasury Regulations provide that if we are a partner in a partnership, we will be deemed to own our proportionate share of the assets of the partnership based on our interest in partnership capital, subject to special rules relating to the 10% REIT asset test described below. Also, we will be deemed to be entitled to our proportionate share of the income of the partnership. The assets and gross income of the partnership retain the same character in our hands, including for purposes of satisfying the gross income tests and the asset tests. In addition, for these purposes, the assets and items of income of any partnership in which we own a direct or indirect interest include such partnership's share of assets and items of income of any partnership in which it owns an interest. A brief summary of the rules governing the United States federal income taxation of partnerships and their partners is included below in "Tax Aspects of the Partnerships." The treatment described above also applies with respect to the ownership of interests in limited liability companies or other entities that are treated as partnerships for tax purposes.

We have direct or indirect control of certain partnerships and limited liability companies and intend to continue to operate them in a manner consistent with the requirements for our qualification as a REIT. We are a limited partner or non-managing member in certain partnerships and limited liability companies. If any such partnership or limited liability company were to take actions that could jeopardize our status as a REIT or require us to pay tax, we may be forced to dispose of our interest in such entity. In addition, it is possible that a partnership or limited liability company could take an

Table of Contents

action which could cause us to fail a REIT income or asset test, and that we would not become aware of such action in a time frame which would allow us to dispose of our interest in the applicable entity or take other corrective action on a timely basis. In that case, unless we were entitled to relief, as described below, we would fail to qualify as a REIT.

Ownership of Interests in Qualified REIT Subsidiaries

We may, from time to time, own interests in subsidiary corporations. We own and operate a number of properties through our wholly-owned subsidiaries that we believe will be treated as "qualified REIT subsidiaries" under the Internal Revenue Code. A corporation will qualify as our qualified REIT subsidiary if we own 100% of its outstanding stock and if we do not elect with the subsidiary to treat it as a "taxable REIT subsidiary," as described below. A corporation that is a qualified REIT subsidiary is not treated as a separate corporation for United States federal income tax purposes, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of a qualified REIT subsidiary are treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit (as the case may be) of the parent REIT for all purposes under the Internal Revenue Code (including all REIT qualification tests). Thus, in applying the United States federal tax requirements described in this prospectus, the subsidiaries in which we own a 100% interest (other than any taxable REIT subsidiaries) are ignored, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of such subsidiaries are treated as our assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit. A qualified REIT subsidiary is not required to pay United States federal income tax, and our ownership of the stock of a qualified REIT subsidiary does not violate the restrictions on ownership of securities of any one issuer which constitute more than 10% of the voting power or value of such issuer's securities or more than 5% of the value of our total assets, as described below in " Asset Tests."

Ownership of Interests in Subsidiary REITs

We own interests in other corporations that have elected to be taxed as a REIT. Provided that each of these REITs qualifies as a REIT, our interest in each of these REITs will be treated as a qualifying real estate asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests and any dividend income or gains derived by us will generally be treated as income that qualifies for purposes of the REIT gross income tests. To qualify as a REIT, each of these REITs must independently satisfy the various REIT qualification requirements described in this summary. If any of these REITs were to fail to qualify as a REIT, and certain relief provisions do not apply, it would be treated as a regular taxable corporation and its income would be subject to United States federal income tax. In addition, a failure of any of these REITs to qualify as a REIT would have an adverse effect on our ability to comply with the REIT income and asset tests, and thus our ability to qualify as a REIT.

Ownership of Interests in Taxable REIT Subsidiaries

A taxable REIT subsidiary of ours is an entity treated as a corporation (other than a REIT) in which we directly or indirectly hold stock, and that has made a joint election with us to be treated as a taxable REIT subsidiary. A taxable REIT subsidiary also includes any entity treated as a corporation (other than a REIT) with respect to which a taxable REIT subsidiary owns securities possessing more than 35% of the total voting power or value of the outstanding securities of such corporation. A taxable REIT subsidiary generally may engage in any business, including the provision of customary or non-customary services to tenants of its parent REIT, except that a taxable REIT subsidiary may not directly or indirectly operate or manage a lodging or healthcare facility or directly or indirectly provide to any other person (under a franchise, license or otherwise) rights to any brand name under which any lodging or healthcare facility is operated. A taxable REIT subsidiary is subject to United States federal income tax, and state and local income tax where applicable, as a regular C corporation. In addition, a taxable REIT subsidiary may be prevented from deducting interest on debt funded directly or indirectly

Table of Contents

by its parent REIT if certain tests regarding the taxable REIT subsidiary's debt to equity ratio and interest expense are not satisfied. We currently own interests in several taxable REIT subsidiaries, and may acquire interests in additional taxable REIT subsidiaries in the future. Our ownership of securities of our taxable REIT subsidiaries will not be subject to the 5% or 10% asset tests described below. See " Asset Tests."

Income Tests

We must satisfy two gross income requirements annually to maintain our qualification as a REIT:

First, in each taxable year, we must derive directly or indirectly at least 75% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, certain hedging transactions entered into after July 30, 2008, and certain foreign currency gains recognized after July 30, 2008, from (a) certain investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including "rents from real property" and, in certain circumstances, interest, or (b) some types of temporary investments; and

Second, in each taxable year, we must derive at least 95% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, certain hedging transactions entered into on or after January 1, 2005, and certain foreign currency gains recognized after July 30, 2008, from the real property investments described above, dividends, interest and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, or from any combination of the foregoing.

For these purposes, the term "interest" generally does not include any amount received or accrued, directly or indirectly, if the determination of all or some of the amount depends in any way on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from the term "interest" solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales.

Rents we receive from a tenant will qualify as "rents from real property" for the purpose of satisfying the gross income requirements for a REIT described above only if all of the following conditions are met:

The amount of rent is not based in any way on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount we receive or accrue generally will not be excluded from the term "rents from real property" solely because it is based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales;

We do not, or an actual or constructive owner of 10% or more of our capital stock does not, actually or constructively own 10% or more of the interests in the assets or net profits of the tenant, or, if the tenant is a corporation, 10% or more of the voting power or value of all classes of stock of the tenant. Rents we receive from such a tenant that is our taxable REIT subsidiary, however, will not be excluded from the definition of "rents from real property" as a result of this condition if at least 90% of the space at the property to which the rents relate is leased to third parties, and the rents paid by the taxable REIT subsidiary are substantially comparable to rents paid by our other tenants for comparable space. Whether rents paid by our taxable REIT subsidiary are substantially comparable to rents paid by our other tenants is determined at the time the lease with the taxable REIT subsidiary is entered into, extended, and modified, if such modification increases the rents due under such lease. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, if a lease with a "controlled taxable REIT subsidiary" is modified and such modification results in an increase in the rents payable by such taxable REIT subsidiary, any such increase will not qualify as "rents from real property." For purposes of this rule, a "controlled taxable REIT subsidiary" is a taxable REIT subsidiary in which we own stock possessing more than 50% of the voting power or more than 50% of the total value of the outstanding stock. In addition, rents we receive from a tenant that also is our taxable REIT subsidiary will not be excluded from the

Table of Contents

definition of "rents from real property" as a result of our ownership interest in the taxable REIT subsidiary if the property to which the rents relate is a qualified lodging facility, or on or after January 1, 2009, a qualified health care property, and such property is operated on behalf of the taxable REIT subsidiary by a person who is an independent contractor and certain other requirements are met. Our taxable REIT subsidiaries will be subject to United States federal income tax on their income from the operation of these properties.

Rent attributable to personal property, leased in connection with a lease of real property, is not greater than 15% of the total rent we receive under the lease. If this condition is not met, then the portion of rent attributable to the personal property will not qualify as "rents from real property;" and

We generally do not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to our tenants, subject to a 1% de minimis exception and except as provided below. We may, however, perform services that are "usually or customarily rendered" in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not otherwise considered "rendered to the occupant" of the property. Examples of such services include the provision of light, heat, or other utilities, trash removal and general maintenance of common areas. In addition, we may employ an independent contractor from whom we derive no revenue to provide customary services, or a taxable REIT subsidiary, which may be wholly or partially owned by us, to provide both customary and non-customary services to our tenants without causing the rent we receive from those tenants to fail to qualify as "rents from real property." Any amounts we receive from a taxable REIT subsidiary with respect to the taxable REIT subsidiary's provision of non-customary services will, however, be nonqualifying income under the 75% gross income test and, except to the extent received through the payment of dividends, the 95% gross income test.

We generally do not intend to receive rent which fails to satisfy any of the above conditions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we may have taken and may continue to take actions which fail to satisfy one or more of the above conditions to the extent that we determine, based on the advice of our tax counsel, that those actions will not jeopardize our tax status as a REIT. In addition, with respect to the limitation on the rental of personal property, we have not obtained appraisals of the real property and personal property leased to tenants. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service will agree with our determinations of value.

Income we receive that is attributable to the rental of parking spaces at our properties will constitute rents from real property for purposes of the REIT gross income tests if any services provided with respect to the parking facilities are performed by independent contractors from whom we derive no income, either directly or indirectly, or by a taxable REIT subsidiary, and certain other requirements are met. With the exception of some parking facilities we operate, we believe that the income we receive that is attributable to parking facilities meets these tests and, accordingly, will constitute rents from real property for purposes of the REIT gross income tests.

From time to time, we enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Our hedging activities may include entering into interest rate swaps, caps, and floors, options to purchase these items, and futures and forward contracts. Income from a hedging transaction, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, that is clearly identified as a hedging transaction as specified in the Internal Revenue Code will not constitute gross income and thus will be exempt from the 95% gross income test to the extent such a hedging transaction is entered into on or after January 1, 2005, and from the 75% gross income test to the extent such hedging transaction is entered into after July 30, 2008. Income and gain from a hedging transaction, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction will be treated as nonqualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test if entered into on or prior to July 30, 2008 and will be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test if entered into prior to January 1, 2005. The term

Table of Contents

"hedging transaction," as used above, generally means any transaction we enter into in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of (1) interest rate changes or fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made by us to acquire or carry real estate assets, or (2) for hedging transactions entered into after July 30, 2008, currency fluctuations with respect to an item of qualifying income under the 75% or 95% gross income test. To the extent that we do not properly identify such transactions as hedges, we hedge other risks or we hedge with other types of financial instruments, the income from those transactions is not likely to be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our status as a REIT.

We have made an investment in a property located in Mexico. This investment could cause us to incur foreign currency gains or losses. Prior to July 30, 2008, the characterization of any such foreign currency gains for purposes of the REIT gross income tests was unclear, though the Internal Revenue Service had indicated that REITs may apply the principles of proposed Treasury Regulations to determine whether such foreign currency gain constitutes qualifying income under the REIT income tests. As a result, we anticipate that any foreign currency gain we recognized relating to rents we receive from our property located in Mexico was qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Any foreign currency gains recognized after July 30, 2008, to the extent attributable to specific items of qualifying income or gain, or specific qualifying assets, however, generally will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, and therefore will be exempt from these tests.

Dividends we receive from our taxable REIT subsidiaries will qualify under the 95%, but not the 75%, REIT gross income test.

The Department of Treasury has the authority to determine whether any item of income or gain recognized after July 30, 2008, which does not otherwise qualify under the 75% or 95% gross income tests, may be excluded as gross income for purposes of such tests or may be considered income that qualifies under either such test.

We believe that the aggregate amount of our nonqualifying income, from all sources, in any taxable year will not exceed the limit on nonqualifying income under the gross income tests. If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for the year if we are entitled to relief under certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Commencing with our taxable year beginning January 1, 2005, we generally may make use of the relief provisions if:

following our identification of the failure to meet the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we file a schedule with the Internal Revenue Service setting forth each item of our gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for such taxable year in accordance with Treasury Regulations to be issued; and

our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect.

It is not possible, however, to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions. For example, if we fail to satisfy the gross income tests because nonqualifying income that we intentionally accrue or receive exceeds the limits on nonqualifying income, the Internal Revenue Service could conclude that our failure to satisfy the tests was not due to reasonable cause. If these relief provisions do not apply to a particular set of circumstances, we will not qualify as a REIT. As discussed above in "Taxation of the Company General," even if these relief provisions apply, and we retain our status as a REIT, a tax would be imposed with respect to our nonqualifying income. We may not always be able to comply with the gross income tests for REIT qualification despite our periodic monitoring of our income.

Table of Contents

Prohibited Transaction Income

Any gain that we realize on the sale of property held as inventory or otherwise held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business will be treated as income from a prohibited transaction that is subject to a 100% penalty tax. Our gain would include any gain realized by our qualified REIT subsidiaries and our share of any gain realized by any of the partnerships or limited liability companies in which we own an interest. This prohibited transaction income may also adversely affect our ability to satisfy the income tests for qualification as a REIT. Under existing law, whether property is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business is a question of fact that depends on all the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular transaction. We intend to hold our properties for investment with a view to long-term appreciation and to engage in the business of acquiring, developing and owning our properties. We have made, and may in the future make, occasional sales of the properties consistent with our investment objectives. We do not intend to enter into any sales that are prohibited transactions. The Internal Revenue Service may contend, however, that one or more of these sales is subject to the 100% penalty tax.

Like-Kind Exchanges

We have in the past disposed of properties in transactions intended to qualify as like-kind exchanges under the Internal Revenue Code, and may continue this practice in the future. Such like-kind exchanges are intended to result in the deferral of gain for United States federal income tax purposes. The failure of any such transaction to qualify as a like-kind exchange could subject us to United States federal income tax, possibly including the 100% prohibited transaction tax, depending on the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular transaction.

Penalty Tax

Any redetermined rents, redetermined deductions or excess interest we generate will be subject to a 100% penalty tax. In general, redetermined rents are rents from real property that are overstated as a result of any services furnished by one of our taxable REIT subsidiaries to any of our tenants, and redetermined deductions and excess interest represent any amounts that are deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary of ours for amounts paid to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been deducted based on arm's-length negotiations. Rents we receive will not constitute redetermined rents if they qualify for certain safe harbor provisions contained in the Internal Revenue Code.

We believe that, in all instances in which our taxable REIT subsidiaries provide services to our tenants, the fees paid to such taxable REIT subsidiaries for such services are at arm's-length rates, although the fees paid may not satisfy the safe harbor provisions referenced above. These determinations are inherently factual, and the Internal Revenue Service has broad discretion to assert that amounts paid between related parties should be reallocated to clearly reflect their respective incomes. If the Internal Revenue Service successfully made such an assertion, we would be required to pay a 100% penalty tax on the excess of an arm's-length fee for tenant services over the amount actually paid.

Asset Tests

At the close of each calendar quarter of our taxable year, we also must satisfy four tests relating to the nature and diversification of our assets.

First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets, including assets held by our qualified REIT subsidiaries and our allocable share of the assets held by the partnerships and other entities treated as partnerships for United States federal income tax purposes in which we own an interest, must be represented by real estate assets, cash, cash items and government securities. For purposes of this test, the term "real estate assets" generally means real property (including interests in real property and

Table of Contents

interests in mortgages on real property) and shares (or transferable certificates of beneficial interest) in other REITs, as well as any stock or debt instrument attributable to the investment of the proceeds of a stock offering or a public debt offering with a term of at least five years, but only for the one-year period beginning on the date we receive such proceeds.

Second, not more than 25% of the value of our total assets may be represented by securities other than those securities includable in the 75% asset test.

Third, of the investments included in the 25% asset class and except for certain investments in other REITs, our qualified REIT subsidiaries and our taxable REIT subsidiaries, the value of any one issuer's securities may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets, and we may not own more than 10% of the total vote or value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer, except, in the case of the 10% value test, securities satisfying the "straight debt" safe-harbor or securities issued by a partnership that itself would satisfy the 75% income test if it were a REIT. Certain types of securities are disregarded as securities solely for purposes of the 10% value test, including, but not limited to, any loan to an individual or an estate, any obligation to pay rents from real property and any security issued by a REIT. In addition, commencing with our taxable year beginning January 1, 2005, solely for purposes of the 10% value test, the determination of our interest in the assets of a partnership or limited liability company in which we own an interest will be based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership or limited liability company, excluding for this purpose certain securities described in the Internal Revenue Code. For years prior to 2001, the 10% limit applies only with respect to voting securities of any issuer and not to the value of the securities of any issuer.

Fourth, commencing with our taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009, not more than 25% (20% for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2001 and ending on or before December 31, 2008) of the value of our total assets may be represented by the securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries.

We currently own some or all of the outstanding stock of several subsidiaries that have elected, together with us, to be treated as taxable REIT subsidiaries. So long as these subsidiaries qualify as taxable REIT subsidiaries, we will not be subject to the 5% asset test, the 10% voting securities limitation or the 10% value limitation with respect to our ownership of their securities. We may acquire securities in other taxable REIT subsidiaries in the future. We believe that the aggregate value of our taxable REIT subsidiaries did not exceed 20% of the aggregate value of our gross assets in any taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2001 and ending on or before December 31, 2008, and we believe that since that time, the aggregate value of our taxable REIT subsidiaries has not exceeded and in the future will not exceed 25% of the aggregate value of our gross assets. With respect to each issuer in which we currently own an interest that does not qualify as a REIT, a qualified REIT subsidiary or a taxable REIT subsidiary, we believe that our ownership of the securities of any such issuer has complied with the 5% value limitation, the 10% voting securities limitation and the 10% value limitation. No independent appraisals have been obtained to support these conclusions. In addition, there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service will not disagree with our determinations of value. We also own, and may continue to make, certain loans that do not constitute real estate assets and which must qualify under the "straight debt safe harbor" in order to satisfy the 10% value limitation described above. We believe, based on the advice of our tax counsel, that all of these loans have qualified under this safe harbor.

In addition, from time to time, we may acquire certain mezzanine loans secured by equity interests in pass-through entities that directly or indirectly own real property. Revenue Procedure 2003-65 (the "Revenue Procedure") provides a safe harbor pursuant to which mezzanine loans meeting the requirements of the safe harbor will be treated by the Internal Revenue Service as real estate assets for purposes of the REIT asset tests. In addition, any interest derived from such mezzanine loans will be treated as qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test (described above).

Table of Contents

Although the Revenue Procedure provides a safe harbor on which taxpayers may rely, it does not prescribe rules of substantive tax law. The mezzanine loans that we hold or acquire may not meet all of the requirements of the safe harbor. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not challenge the qualification of such assets as real estate assets or the interest generated by these loans as qualifying income under the 75% gross income test (described above).

The asset tests described above must be satisfied at the close of each calendar quarter of our taxable year. After initially meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, we will not lose our status as a REIT for failure to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a later quarter solely by reason of changes in asset values unless we (directly or through our partnerships or limited liability companies) acquire securities in the applicable issuer, increase our ownership of securities of such issuer (including as a result of increasing our interest in a partnership or limited liability company which owns such securities), or acquire other assets. For example, our indirect ownership of securities of an issuer may increase as a result of our capital contributions to a partnership or limited liability company. If we fail to satisfy an asset test because we acquire securities or other property during a quarter (including as a result of an increase in our interests in a partnership or limited liability company), we can cure this failure by disposing of sufficient nonqualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. We believe that we have maintained and intend to maintain adequate records of the value of our assets to ensure compliance with the asset tests. In addition, we intend to take such actions within 30 days after the close of any calendar quarter as may be required to cure any noncompliance.

Certain relief provisions may be available to us if we discover a failure to satisfy the asset tests described above after the 30 day cure period. Under these provisions, we will be deemed to have met the 5% and 10% REIT asset tests if the value of our nonqualifying assets (i) does not exceed the lesser of (a) 1% of the total value of our assets at the end of the applicable quarter or (b) \$10,000,000, and (ii) we dispose of the nonqualifying assets or otherwise satisfy such asset tests within (a) six months after the last day of the quarter in which the failure to satisfy the asset tests is discovered or (b) the period of time prescribed by Treasury Regulations to be issued. For violations of any of the asset tests due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and that are, in the case of the 5% and 10% asset tests, in excess of the de minimis exception described above, we may avoid disqualification as a REIT after the 30 day cure period, by taking steps including (i) the disposition of sufficient nonqualifying assets, or the taking of other actions, which allow us to meet the asset tests within (a) six months after the last day of the quarter in which the failure to satisfy the asset tests is discovered or (b) the period of time prescribed by Treasury Regulations to be issued, (ii) paying a tax equal to the greater of (a) \$50,000 or (b) the highest corporate tax rate multiplied by the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets, and (iii) disclosing certain information to the Internal Revenue Service.

Although we believe that we have satisfied the asset tests described above and plan to take steps to ensure that we satisfy such tests for any quarter with respect to which retesting is to occur, there can be no assurance that we will always be successful or will not require a reduction in our overall interest in an issuer (including in a taxable REIT subsidiary). If we fail to cure any noncompliance with the asset tests in a timely manner and the relief provisions described above are not available, we would cease to qualify as a REIT. See " Failure to Qualify" below.

Annual Distribution Requirements

To maintain our qualification as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to our stockholders in an amount at least equal to the sum of:

90% of our "REIT taxable income"; and

90% of our after tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property; minus

Table of Contents

the excess of the sum of specified items of our non-cash income over 5% of our "REIT taxable income" as described below.

For these purposes, our "REIT taxable income" is computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain. In addition, for purposes of this test, non-cash income means income attributable to leveling of stepped rents, original issue discount on purchase money debt, cancellation of indebtedness, and any like-kind exchanges that are later determined to be taxable.

In addition, if we dispose of any asset we acquired from a corporation which is or has been a C corporation in a transaction in which our basis in the asset is determined by reference to the basis of the asset in the hands of that C corporation (such as CRC), within the ten-year period following our acquisition of such asset, we would be required to distribute at least 90% of the after-tax gain, if any, we recognized on the disposition of the asset, to the extent that gain does not exceed the excess of (a) the fair market value of the asset, over (b) our adjusted basis in the asset, in each case, on the date we acquired the asset.

We generally must pay, or be treated as paying, the distributions described above in the taxable year to which they relate. At our election, a distribution will be treated as paid in a taxable year if it is declared before we timely file our tax return for such year and paid on or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration, provided such payment is made during the twelve-month period following the close of such year. These distributions generally are taxable to our existing stockholders, other than tax-exempt entities, in the year in which paid. This is so even though these distributions relate to the prior year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement. The amount distributed must not be preferential. To avoid being preferential, every stockholder of the class of stock to which a distribution is made must be treated the same as every other stockholder of that class, and no class of stock may be treated other than according to its dividend rights as a class. To the extent that we do not distribute all of our net capital gain, or distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our "REIT taxable income," as adjusted, we will be required to pay tax on the undistributed amount at regular corporate tax rates. We believe we have made, and intend to continue to make, timely distributions sufficient to satisfy these annual distribution requirements and to minimize our corporate tax obligations.

We expect that our REIT taxable income will be less than our cash flow because of depreciation and other non-cash charges included in computing REIT taxable income. Accordingly, we anticipate that we generally will have sufficient cash or liquid assets to enable us to satisfy the distribution requirements described above. However, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash or other liquid assets to meet these distribution requirements due to timing differences between the actual receipt of income and payment of deductible expenses, and the inclusion of income and deduction of expenses in determining our taxable income. In addition, we may decide to retain our cash, rather than distribute it, in order to repay debt or for other reasons. If these timing differences occur, we may be required to borrow funds to pay cash dividends or we may be required to pay dividends in the form of taxable stock dividends in order to meet the distribution requirements.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to rectify an inadvertent failure to meet the 90% distribution requirement for a year by paying "deficiency dividends" to our stockholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Thus, we may be able to avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, subject to the 4% excise tax described below. However, we will be required to pay interest to the Internal Revenue Service based upon the amount of any deduction claimed for deficiency dividends.

Furthermore, we will be required to pay a 4% excise tax to the extent we fail to distribute during each calendar year, or in the case of distributions with declaration and record dates falling in the last three months of the calendar year, by the end of January immediately following such year, at least the sum of 85% of our ordinary income for such year, 95% of our capital gain net income for the year and

Table of Contents

any undistributed taxable income from prior periods. Any ordinary income and net capital gain on which this excise tax is imposed for any year is treated as an amount distributed during that year for purposes of calculating such tax.

For purposes of the 90% distribution requirement and excise tax described above, distributions declared during the last three months of the taxable year, payable to stockholders of record on a specified date during such period and paid during January of the following year, will be treated as paid by us and received by our stockholders on December 31 of the year in which they are declared.

Failure to Qualify

Specified cure provisions are available to us in the event that we discover a violation of a provision of the Internal Revenue Code that would result in our failure to qualify as a REIT. Except with respect to violations of the REIT income tests and assets tests (for which the cure provisions are described above), and provided the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, these cure provisions generally impose a \$50,000 penalty for each violation in lieu of a loss of REIT status. If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions of the Internal Revenue Code do not apply, we will be required to pay tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate tax rates. Distributions to our stockholders in any year in which we fail to qualify as a REIT will not be deductible by us, and we will not be required to distribute any amounts to our stockholders. As a result, we anticipate that our failure to qualify as a REIT would reduce the cash available for distribution by us to our stockholders. In addition, if we fail to qualify as a REIT, all distributions to our stockholders will be taxable as regular corporate dividends to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. In this event, subject to certain limitations under the Internal Revenue Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends-received deduction and individuals may be eligible for preferential tax rates on any qualified dividend income. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we will also be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year in which we lost our qualification. It is not possible to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

Tax Aspects of the Partnerships

General

We own, directly or indirectly, interests in various partnerships and limited liability companies which are treated as partnerships or disregarded entities for United States federal income tax purposes and may own interests in additional partnerships and limited liability companies in the future. Our ownership interests in such partnerships and limited liability companies involve special tax considerations. These special tax considerations include, for example, the possibility that the Internal Revenue Service might challenge the status of one or more of the partnerships or limited liability companies in which we own an interest as partnerships or disregarded entities, as opposed to associations taxable as corporations, for United States federal income tax purposes. If a partnership or limited liability company in which we own an interest, or one or more of its subsidiary partnerships or limited liability companies, were treated as an association, it would be taxable as a corporation and would therefore be subject to an entity-level tax on its income. In this situation, the character of our assets and items of gross income would change, and could prevent us from satisfying the REIT asset tests and possibly the REIT income tests. See "Taxation of the Company Asset Tests" and "Taxation of the Company Income Tests." This, in turn, could prevent us from qualifying as a REIT. See "Failure to Qualify" for a discussion of the effect of our failure to meet these tests. In addition, a change in the tax status of one or more of the partnerships or limited liability companies in which we own an interest might be treated as a taxable event. If so, we might incur a tax liability without any related cash distributions.

Table of Contents

Treasury Regulations that apply for tax periods beginning on or after January 1, 1997, provide that a domestic business entity not organized or otherwise required to be treated as a corporation (an "eligible entity") may elect to be taxed as a partnership or disregarded entity for United States federal income tax purposes. Unless it elects otherwise, an eligible entity in existence prior to January 1, 1997, will have the same classification for United States federal income tax purposes that it claimed under the entity classification Treasury Regulations in effect prior to this date. In addition, an eligible entity which did not exist or did not claim a classification prior to January 1, 1997, will be classified as a partnership or disregarded entity for United States federal income tax purposes unless it elects otherwise. With the exception of certain limited liability companies that have elected to be treated as corporations and have also elected with us to be treated as taxable REIT subsidiaries of ours, the partnerships and limited liability companies in which we own an interest intend to claim classification as partnerships or disregarded entities under these Treasury Regulations. As a result, we believe that these partnerships and limited liability companies will be classified as partnerships or disregarded entities for United States federal income tax purposes and the remainder of the discussion under this section " Tax Aspects of the Partnerships" is applicable only to such partnerships and limited liability companies.

Allocations of Income, Gain, Loss and Deduction

A partnership or limited liability company agreement generally will determine the allocation of income and losses among partners or members. These allocations, however, will be disregarded for tax purposes if they do not comply with the provisions of Section 704(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury Regulations. Generally, Section 704(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury Regulations require that partnership and limited liability company allocations respect the economic arrangement of the partners or members. If an allocation is not recognized for United States federal income tax purposes, the relevant item will be reallocated according to the partners' or members' interests in the partnership or limited liability company, as the case may be. This reallocation will be determined by taking into account all of the facts and circumstances relating to the economic arrangement of the partners or members with respect to such item. The allocations of taxable income and loss in each of the entities treated as partnerships in which we own an interest are intended to comply with the requirements of Section 704(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and the applicable Treasury Regulations.

Tax Allocations with Respect to the Properties

Under Section 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, income, gain, loss and deduction attributable to appreciated or depreciated property that is contributed to a partnership or limited liability company in exchange for an interest in the partnership or limited liability company must be allocated in a manner so that the contributing partner or member is charged with the unrealized gain or benefits from the unrealized loss associated with the property at the time of the contribution. The amount of the unrealized gain or unrealized loss generally is equal to the difference between the fair market value or book value and the adjusted tax basis of the contributed property at the time of contribution. These allocations are solely for United States federal income tax purposes and do not affect the book capital accounts or other economic or legal arrangements among the partners or members. Some of the partnerships and/or limited liability companies in which we own an interest were formed by way of contributions of appreciated property. The relevant partnership and/or limited liability company agreements require that allocations be made in a manner consistent with Section 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. This could cause us to be allocated lower amounts of depreciation deductions for tax purposes than would be allocated to us if the contributed properties were acquired in a cash purchase, and could cause us to be allocated taxable gain upon a sale of the contributed properties in excess of the economic or book income allocated to us as a result of such sale. These adjustments could make it more difficult for us to satisfy the REIT distribution requirements.

Table of Contents

Tax Liabilities and Attributes Inherited from Other Entities

From time to time, we have and may continue to acquire entities organized as C corporations and REITs. Depending on how such acquisitions are structured, we may inherit tax liabilities and other tax attributes from the acquired entities.

Acquisitions of C Corporations in Carry-Over Basis Transactions

We have and may continue to acquire C corporations in transactions in which the basis of the corporations' assets in our hands is determined by reference to the basis of the asset in the hands of the acquired corporations (a "Carry-Over Basis Transaction"). Our merger with CRC in 2006 was structured as a merger that qualified as a reorganization under the Internal Revenue Code and, thus, was a Carry-Over Basis Transaction. In addition, we acquired the stock of SEUSA in 2007 and HCR PropCo. with respect to the acquisition of certain real property from HCR in 2011 in Carry-Over Basis Transactions.

In the case of assets we acquire from a C corporation in a Carry-Over Basis Transaction, if we dispose of any such asset in a taxable transaction during the ten-year period beginning on the date of the Carry-Over Basis Transaction, then we will be required to pay tax at the highest regular corporate tax rate on the gain recognized to the extent of the excess of (a) the fair market value of the asset over (b) our adjusted basis in the asset, in each case determined as of the date of the Carry-Over Basis Transaction. The foregoing result with respect to the recognition of gain assumes that certain elections specified in applicable Treasury Regulations are either made or forgone by us or by the entity from which the assets are acquired, in each case, depending upon the date the acquisition occurred. Any taxes we pay as a result of such gain would reduce the amount available for distribution to our stockholders.

Our tax basis in the assets we acquire in a Carry-Over Basis Transaction may be lower than the assets' fair market values. This lower tax basis could cause us to have lower depreciation deductions and more gain on a subsequent sale of the assets than would be the case if we had directly purchased the assets in a taxable transaction.

In addition, in a Carry-Over Basis Transaction, we may succeed to the tax liabilities and earnings and profits of the acquired C corporation. To qualify as a REIT, we must distribute any such earnings and profits by the close of the taxable year in which transaction occurs. Any adjustments to the acquired corporation's income for taxable years ending on or before the date of the transaction, including as a result of an examination of the corporation's tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service, could affect the calculation of the corporation's earnings and profits. If the Internal Revenue Service were to determine that we acquired earnings and profits from a corporation that we failed to distribute prior to the end of the taxable year in which the Carry-Over Basis Transaction occurred, we could avoid disqualification as a REIT by using "deficiency dividend" procedures. Under these procedures, we generally would be required to distribute any such earnings and profits to our stockholders within 90 days of the determination and pay a statutory interest charge at a specified rate to the Internal Revenue Service. We believe that we have satisfied the distribution requirements described above in connection with the CRC merger, the acquisition of SEUSA, and the acquisition of HCR PropCo.

At the closing of the CRC merger, we received an opinion of our counsel substantially to the effect that, on the basis of the facts, representations and assumptions set forth or referred to in such opinions, for United States federal income tax purposes the CRC merger qualified as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. This opinion represents the best legal judgment of our counsel and is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or the courts. If, contrary to such opinion, the CRC merger did not qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, the CRC merger would have been treated as a sale of CRC's assets to us in a taxable transaction, and CRC would have recognized taxable gain. In such a case, as CRC's successor-in-interest, we would be required to pay the tax on any such gain.

Table of Contents

Acquisition of CRP

In October 2006, we acquired CNL Retirement Properties, Inc. ("CRP") pursuant to a taxable merger. In connection with the CRP merger, CRP's REIT counsel rendered an opinion to us, dated as of the closing date of the merger, substantially to the effect that on the basis of the facts, representations and assumptions set forth or referred to in such opinion, CRP qualified as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code for the taxable years ending December 31, 1999 through the closing date of the merger. The opinion of counsel delivered in connection with the CRP merger represents the best legal judgment of CRP's counsel and is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or the courts. If, however, contrary to the opinion of CRP's REIT counsel, CRP failed to qualify as a REIT for any of its taxable years, it would be required to pay federal income tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on its taxable income at regular corporate rates. Because the CRP merger was treated for United States federal income tax purposes as if CRP sold all of its assets in a taxable transaction, if CRP did not qualify as a REIT for the taxable year of the merger, it would be subject to tax on the excess of the fair market value of its assets over their adjusted tax basis. As a successor in interest to CRP, we would be required to pay this tax.

Taxation of Holders of Our Stock

The following summary describes certain of the United States federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of our stock.

Taxable U.S. Stockholders Generally

If you are a "U.S. holder," as defined below, this section or the section entitled "Tax-Exempt Stockholders" applies to you. Otherwise, the section entitled "non-U.S. Stockholders," applies to you.

Definition of U.S. Holder

A "U.S. holder" is a beneficial holder of our capital stock or debt securities who is:

an individual citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other entity taxable as a corporation or partnership for United States federal income tax purposes created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust that (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and the control of one or more United States persons or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a United States person.

A "non-U.S. holder" is a beneficial holder of shares of our common stock who is not a U.S. holder.

Distributions Generally

Distributions out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits will be treated as dividends and, other than capital gain dividends and certain amounts that have previously been subject to corporate level tax, discussed below, will be taxable to taxable U.S. holders as ordinary income when actually or constructively received. See " Tax Rates" below. As long as we qualify as a REIT, these distributions will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction in the case of U.S. holders that are corporations or, except to the extent provided in " Tax Rates" below, the preferential rates on qualified dividend income applicable to non-corporate taxpayers. For purposes of determining whether

Table of Contents

distributions to holders of our stock are out of current or accumulated earnings and profits, our earnings and profits will be allocated first to our outstanding preferred stock and then to our outstanding common stock.

To the extent that we make distributions on our stock in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, these distributions will be treated first as a tax-free return of capital to a U.S. holder. This treatment will reduce the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in its shares of our stock by the amount of the distribution, but not below zero. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits and in excess of a U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in its shares will be taxable as capital gain. Such gain will be taxable as long-term capital gain if the shares have been held for more than one year. Dividends we declare in October, November, or December of any year and which are payable to a holder of record on a specified date in any of these months will be treated as both paid by us and received by the holder on December 31 of that year, provided we actually pay the dividend on or before January 31 of the following year. U.S. holders may not include in their own income tax returns any of our net operating losses or capital losses.

Certain stock dividends, including dividends partially paid in our common stock and partially paid in cash that comply with recent Internal Revenue Service guidance, will be taxable to recipient U.S. holders to the same extent as if paid in cash. See "Taxation of the Company Annual Distribution Requirements" above.

Capital Gain Dividends

Dividends that we properly designate as capital gain dividends will be taxable to taxable U.S. holders as gains from the sale or disposition of a capital asset, to the extent that such gains do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year. These dividends may be taxable to non-corporate U.S. holders at preferential rates applicable to capital gains. See "Tax Rates" below. U.S. holders that are corporations may, however, be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income. If we properly designate any portion of a dividend as a capital gain dividend then, except as otherwise required by law, we are required by the terms of our corporate charter to allocate a portion of the total capital gain dividends paid or made available to holders of all classes of our stock for the year to the holders of our preferred stock in proportion to the amount that our total dividends, as determined for United States federal income tax purposes, paid or made available to the holders of such stock for the year bears to the total dividends, as determined for United States federal income tax purposes, paid or made available to holders of all classes of our stock for the year.

Retention of Net Capital Gains

We may elect to retain, rather than distribute as a capital gain dividend, all or a portion of our net capital gains. If we make this election, we would pay tax on our retained net capital gains. In addition, to the extent we so elect, a U.S. holder generally would:

include its pro rata share of our undistributed net capital gains in computing its long-term capital gains in its return for its taxable year in which the last day of our taxable year falls, subject to certain limitations as to the amount that is includable;

be deemed to have paid the capital gains tax imposed on us on the designated amounts included in the U.S. holder's long-term capital gains;

receive a credit or refund for the amount of tax deemed paid by it;

increase the adjusted basis of its stock by the difference between the amount of includable gains and the tax deemed to have been paid by it; and

Table of Contents

in the case of a U.S. holder that is a corporation, appropriately adjust its earnings and profits for the retained capital gains in accordance with Treasury Regulations to be promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service.

Passive Activity Losses and Investment Interest Limitations

Distributions we make and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. holder of our shares will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. holders generally will not be able to apply any "passive losses" against this income or gain. A U.S. holder may elect to treat capital gain dividends, capital gains from the disposition of stock and qualified dividend income as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation, but in such case, the holder will be taxed at ordinary income rates on such amount. Other distributions made by us, to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital, generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation.

Dispositions of Our Stock

If a U.S. holder sells or disposes of shares of our stock to a person other than us, it will recognize gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on the sale or other disposition and its adjusted basis in the shares for tax purposes. This gain or loss, except as provided below, will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder has held the stock for more than one year at the time of such sale or disposition. If, however, a U.S. holder recognizes loss upon the sale or other disposition of our stock that it has held for six months or less, after applying certain holding period rules, the loss recognized will be treated as a long-term capital loss, to the extent the U.S. holder received distributions from us which were required to be treated as long-term capital gains.

Redemption of Our Stock

A redemption of shares of our stock will be treated under the Internal Revenue Code as a distribution taxable as a dividend to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits at ordinary income rates unless the redemption satisfies one of the tests set forth in Section 302(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and is therefore treated as a sale or exchange of the redeemed shares. The redemption will be treated as a sale or exchange if it:

is "substantially disproportionate" with respect to the U.S. holder;

results in a "complete termination" of the U.S. holder's stock interest in the Company; or

is "not essentially equivalent to a dividend" with respect to the U.S. holder;

all within the meaning of Section 302(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In determining whether any of these tests have been met, shares of capital stock, including common stock and other equity interests in us, considered to be owned by the U.S. holder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in the Internal Revenue Code, as well as shares of capital stock actually owned by the U.S. holder, must generally be taken into account. Because the determination as to whether any of the alternative tests of Section 302(b) of the Internal Revenue Code will be satisfied with respect to the U.S. holder depends upon the facts and circumstances at the time of the redemption, U.S. holders are advised to consult their tax advisors to determine the appropriate tax treatment.

If a redemption of shares of our stock is treated as a distribution taxable as a dividend, the amount of the distribution will be measured by the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received. A U.S. holder's adjusted basis in the redeemed shares for tax purposes will be

Table of Contents

transferred to its remaining shares of our capital stock, if any. If a U.S. holder owns no other shares of our capital stock, such basis may, under certain circumstances, be transferred to a related person or it may be lost entirely.

If a redemption of shares of our stock is not treated as a distribution taxable as a dividend, it will be treated as a taxable sale or exchange in the manner described above under " Dispositions of Our Stock."

Tax Rates

The maximum tax rate for non-corporate taxpayers for (1) capital gains, including certain "capital gain dividends," is currently 15% (although depending on the characteristics of the assets which produced these gains and on designations which we may make, certain capital gain dividends may be taxed at a 25% rate); (2) "qualified dividend income" is currently 15%; and (3) ordinary income is currently 35%, which rate is scheduled to increase to 39.6%, as of January 1, 2013. In general, dividends payable by REITs are not eligible for the reduced tax rate on corporate dividends, except to the extent that certain holding requirements have been met and the REIT's dividends are attributable to dividends received from taxable corporations (such as its taxable REIT subsidiaries), to income that was subject to tax at the corporate/REIT level (for example, if it distributed taxable income that it retained and paid tax on in the prior taxable year), or to dividends properly designated by the REIT as "capital gain dividends." The currently applicable provisions of the United States federal income tax laws relating to the 15% tax rate are currently scheduled to "sunset" or revert to the provisions of prior law effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, at which time the capital gains tax rate generally will be increased to 20% and the rate applicable to dividends will be increased to the tax rate then applicable to ordinary income. In addition, U.S. holders that are corporations may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income.

Tax-Exempt Stockholders

Dividend income from us and gain arising upon a sale of shares of our stock generally should not be unrelated business taxable income to a tax-exempt holder, except as described below. This income or gain will be unrelated business taxable income, however, if a tax-exempt holder holds its shares as "debt-financed property" within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code or if the shares are used in a trade or business of the tax-exempt holder. Generally, debt-financed property is property the acquisition or holding of which was financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt holder.

For tax-exempt holders which are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, or qualified group legal services plans exempt from United States federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) or (c)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code, respectively, income from an investment in our shares will constitute unrelated business taxable income unless the organization is able to properly claim a deduction for amounts set aside or placed in reserve for specific purposes so as to offset the income generated by its investment in our shares. These prospective investors should consult their tax advisors concerning these "set aside" and reserve requirements.

Notwithstanding the above, however, a portion of the dividends paid by a "pension-held REIT" may be treated as unrelated business taxable income as to certain trusts that hold more than 10%, by value, of the interests in the REIT. A REIT will not be a "pension-held REIT" if it is able to satisfy the "not closely held" requirement without relying on the "look-through" exception with respect to certain trusts or if such REIT is not "predominantly held" by "qualified trusts." As a result of limitations on the transfer and ownership of stock contained in our charter, we do not expect to be classified as a "pension-held REIT," and as a result, the tax treatment described in this paragraph

Table of Contents

should be inapplicable to our holders. However, because our stock is publicly traded, we cannot guarantee that this will always be the case.

Non-U.S. Stockholders

The following discussion addresses the rules governing United States federal income taxation of the ownership and disposition of our stock by non-U.S. holders. These rules are complex, and no attempt is made herein to provide more than a brief summary of such rules. Accordingly, the discussion does not address all aspects of United States federal income taxation that may be relevant to a non-U.S. holder in light of its particular circumstances and does not address any state, local or foreign tax consequences. We urge non-U.S. holders to consult their tax advisors to determine the impact of United States federal, state, local and foreign income tax laws on the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of shares of our stock, including any reporting requirements.

Distributions Generally

Distributions (including certain stock dividends) that are neither attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of United States real property interests nor designated by us as capital gain dividends will be treated as dividends of ordinary income to the extent that they are made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. Such distributions ordinarily will be subject to withholding of United States federal income tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty unless the distributions are treated as effectively connected with the conduct by the non-U.S. holder of a United States trade or business. Under certain treaties, however, lower withholding rates generally applicable to dividends do not apply to dividends from a REIT. Certain certification and disclosure requirements must be satisfied to be exempt from withholding under the effectively connected income exemption. Dividends that are treated as effectively connected with such a trade or business will be subject to tax on a net basis at graduated rates, in the same manner as dividends paid to U.S. holders are subject to tax, and are generally not subject to withholding. Any such dividends received by a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation may also be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a non-U.S. holder to the extent that such distributions do not exceed the non-U.S. holder's adjusted basis in our stock, but rather will reduce the non-U.S. holder's adjusted basis of such common stock. To the extent that these distributions exceed a non-U.S. holder's adjusted basis in our stock, they will give rise to gain from the sale or exchange of such stock. The tax treatment of this gain is described below.

For withholding purposes, we expect to treat all distributions as made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. As a result, except with respect to certain distributions attributable to the sale of United States real property interests described below, we expect to withhold United States income tax at the rate of 30% on any distributions made to a non-U.S. holder unless:

a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. holder files with us an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN evidencing eligibility for that reduced treaty rate; or

the non-U.S. holder files an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is income effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's trade or business.

However, amounts withheld should generally be refundable if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, provided that certain conditions are met.

Table of Contents

Capital Gain Dividends and Distributions Attributable to a Sale or Exchange of United States Real Property Interests

Distributions to a non-U.S. holder that we properly designate as capital gain dividends, other than those arising from the disposition of a United States real property interest, generally should not be subject to United States federal income taxation, unless:

- (1) the investment in our stock is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's United States trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. holder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. holders with respect to such gain, except that a non-U.S. holder that is a foreign corporation may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax, as discussed above; or
- (2) the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and certain other conditions are met, in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gains.

Pursuant to the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act, which is referred to as "FIRPTA," distributions to a non-U.S. holder that are attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of United States real property interests (whether or not designated as capital gain dividends) will cause the non-U.S. holder to be treated as recognizing such gain as income effectively connected with a United States trade or business. non-U.S. holders would generally be taxed at the same rates applicable to U.S. holders, subject to a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals. We also will be required to withhold and to remit to the Internal Revenue Service 35% (or 15% to the extent provided in Treasury Regulations) of any distribution to a non-U.S. holder that is designated as a capital gain dividend, or, if greater, 35% (or 15% to the extent provided in Treasury Regulations) of a distribution to the non-U.S. holder that could have been designated as a capital gain dividend. The amount withheld is creditable against the non-U.S. holder's United States federal income tax liability. However, any distribution with respect to any class of stock which is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States is not subject to FIRPTA, and therefore, not subject to the 35% U.S. withholding tax described above, if the non-U.S. holder did not own more than 5% of such class of stock at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution. Instead, such distributions generally will be treated in the same manner as ordinary dividend distributions.

Retention of Net Capital Gains

Although the law is not clear on the matter, it appears that amounts we designate as retained capital gains in respect of the common stock held by U.S. holders generally should be treated with respect to non-U.S. holders in the same manner as actual distributions by us of capital gain dividends. Under this approach, a non-U.S. holder would be able to offset as a credit against its United States federal income tax liability resulting from its proportionate share of the tax paid by us on such retained capital gains, and to receive from the Internal Revenue Service a refund to the extent of the non-U.S. holder's proportionate share of such tax paid by us exceeds its actual United States federal income tax liability.

Sale of Our Stock

Gain recognized by a non-U.S. holder upon the sale or exchange of our stock generally will not be subject to United States federal income taxation unless such stock constitutes a United States real property interest within the meaning of FIRPTA. Our stock will not constitute a United States real property interest so long as we are a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity. As discussed above, a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity includes a REIT in which at all times during a specified testing period less than 50% in value of its stock is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. holders. We believe, but cannot guarantee, that we have been a "domestically-controlled

Table of Contents

qualified investment entity." Even if we have been a "domestically-controlled qualified investment entity," because our capital stock is publicly traded, no assurance can be given that we will continue to be a "domestically-controlled qualified investment entity."

Notwithstanding the foregoing, gain from the sale or exchange of our stock not otherwise subject to FIRPTA will be taxable to a non-U.S. holder if either (1) the investment in our stock is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's United States trade or business or (2) the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and certain other conditions are met. In general, even if we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, upon disposition of our stock (subject to the 5% exception applicable to "regularly traded" stock described above), a non-U.S. holder may be treated as having gain from the sale or exchange of United States real property interest if the non-U.S. holder (1) disposes of our stock within a 30-day period preceding the ex-dividend date of a distribution, any portion of which, but for the disposition, would have been treated as gain from the sale or exchange of a United States real property interest and (2) acquires, enters into a contract or option to acquire, or is deemed to acquire other shares of our stock during the 61-day period beginning with the first day of the 30-day period described in clause (1). Non-U.S. holders should contact their tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of any sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition of our stock.

Even if we do not qualify as a "domestically-controlled qualified investment entity" at the time a non-U.S. holder sells or exchanges our stock, gain arising from such a sale or exchange would not be subject to United States taxation under FIRPTA as a sale of a "United States real property interest" if:

- (1) our stock is "regularly traded," as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations, on an established securities market such as the NYSE; and
- (2) such non-U.S. holder owned, actually and constructively, 5% or less of our stock throughout the five-year period ending on the date of the sale or exchange.

If gain on the sale or exchange of our stock were subject to United States taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. holder would be subject to regular United States federal income tax with respect to such gain in the same manner as a taxable U.S. holder (subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals). In addition, if our stock is not then traded on an established securities market, the purchaser of the stock would be required to withhold and remit to the Internal Revenue Service 10% of the purchase price. If amounts withheld on a sale, redemption, repurchase, or exchange of our stock exceed the holder's substantive tax liability resulting from such disposition, such excess may be refunded or credited against such non-U.S. holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided that the required information is provided to the Internal Revenue Service on a timely basis. Amounts withheld on any such sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our stock may not satisfy a non-U.S. holder's entire tax liability under FIRPTA, and such non-U.S. holder remains liable for the timely payment of any remaining tax liability.

Taxation of Holders of Our Debt Securities

The following summary describes certain of the principal United States federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of our debt securities. This discussion assumes the debt securities will be issued without original issue discount, sometimes referred to as "OID." OID with respect to a debt security is the excess, if any, of the debt security's "stated redemption price at maturity" over its "issue price." The "stated redemption price at maturity" is the sum of all payments provided by the debt security, whether designated as interest or as principal, other than payments of "qualified stated interest." Interest on debt security generally will constitute qualified stated interest if the interest is unconditionally payable, or will be constructively received under Section 451 of the Internal Revenue Code, in cash or in property, other than debt instruments issued by us, at least

Table of Contents

annually at a single fixed rate. The "issue price" of a debt security is the first price at which a substantial amount of the debt securities in the issuance that includes such debt security is sold for money, excluding sales to bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers. The amount of OID with respect to a debt security will be treated as zero if the OID is less than an amount equal to 0.0025 multiplied by the product of the stated redemption price at maturity and the number of complete years to maturity, or, in the case of a debt security that provides for payment of any amount other than qualified stated interest prior to maturity, the weighted average maturity of the debt security. If one or more series of debt securities are issued with OID, disclosure concerning the tax considerations arising therefrom will be included with the applicable prospectus supplement.

Taxable U.S. Holders of Our Debt Securities

Stated Interest

U.S. holders generally must include interest on the debt securities in their United States federal taxable income as ordinary income:

when it accrues, if the U.S. holder uses the accrual method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes; or

when the U.S. holder actually or constructively receives it, if the U.S. holder uses the cash method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes.

If we redeem or otherwise repurchase the debt securities, we may be obligated to pay additional amounts in excess of stated principal and interest. We intend to take the position that the debt securities should not be treated as contingent payment debt instruments because of this additional payment. Assuming such position is respected, a U.S. holder would be required to include in income the amount of any such additional payment at the time such payment is received or accrued in accordance with such U.S. holder's method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes. If the Internal Revenue Service successfully challenged this position, and the debt securities were treated as contingent payment debt instruments, U.S. holders could be required to accrue interest income at a rate higher than the stated interest rate on the debt securities and to treat as ordinary income, rather than capital gain, any gain recognized on a sale, exchange or redemption of a debt security. U.S. holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the potential application to the debt securities of the contingent payment debt instrument rules and the consequences thereof.

Sale, Exchange or Other Taxable Disposition of the Debt Securities

Unless a nonrecognition provision applies, U.S. holders must recognize taxable gain or loss on the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a debt security. The amount of gain or loss equals the difference between (i) the amount the U.S. holder receives for the debt security in cash or other property, valued at fair market value, less the amount thereof that is attributable to accrued but unpaid interest on the debt security and (ii) the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the debt security. A U.S. holder's initial tax basis in a debt security generally will equal the price the U.S. holder paid for the debt security.

Gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time the debt security is disposed of it has been held for more than one year. Otherwise, it will be a short-term capital gain or loss.

Payments attributable to accrued interest which have not yet been included in income will be taxed as ordinary interest income. Currently, the maximum federal income tax rate on long-term capital gain on capital assets held by an individual generally is 15%. The United States federal income tax laws relating to this 15% tax rate are scheduled to "sunset" or revert to provisions of prior law effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, at which time the capital gains tax rate will be increased to 20%. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Table of Contents

Non-U.S. Holders of Our Debt Securities

This section applies to you if you are a non-U.S. holder of the debt securities. The term "non-U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of a debt security that is not a U.S. holder, as defined above.

Special rules may apply to certain non-U.S. holders such as "controlled foreign corporations" and "passive foreign investment companies." Such entities are encouraged to consult their tax advisors to determine the United States federal, state, local and other tax consequences that may be relevant to them.

Payments of Interest

Interest paid to a non-U.S. holder will not be subject to United States federal income taxes or withholding tax if the interest is not effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States, and the non-U.S. holder:

does not actually or constructively own a 10% or greater interest in the total combined voting power of all classes of our voting stock;

is not a controlled foreign corporation with respect to which we are a "related person" within the meaning of Section 864(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code;

is not a bank that received such debt securities on an extension of credit made pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of its trade or business; and

provides the appropriate certification as to the non-U.S. holder's status. A non-U.S. holder can generally meet this certification requirement by providing a properly executed Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or appropriate substitute form to us or our paying agent. If the debt securities are held through a financial institution or other agent acting on the non-U.S. holder's behalf, the non-U.S. holder may be required to provide appropriate documentation to the agent. The agent will then generally be required to provide appropriate certifications to us or our paying agent, either directly or through other intermediaries. Special certification rules apply to foreign partnerships, estates and trusts, and in certain circumstances certifications as to foreign status of partners, trust owners or beneficiaries may have to be provided to us or our paying agent.

If a non-U.S. holder does not qualify for an exemption under these rules, interest income from the debt securities may be subject to withholding tax at the rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) at the time such interest is paid. The payment of interest effectively connected with a United States trade or business, however, would not be subject to a 30% withholding tax so long as the non-U.S. holder provides us or our paying agent an adequate certification (currently on Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI), but such interest would be subject to United States federal income tax on a net basis at the rates applicable to United States persons generally. In addition, if the payment of interest is effectively connected with a foreign corporation's conduct of a United States trade or business, that foreign corporation may also be subject to a 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) branch profits tax. To claim the benefit of a tax treaty, a non-U.S. holder must provide a properly executed Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN before the payment of interest and a non-U.S. holder may be required to obtain a United States taxpayer identification number and provide documentary evidence issued by foreign governmental authorities to prove residence in the foreign country.

Table of Contents

Sale, Exchange or Other Taxable Disposition of Debt Securities

Non-U.S. holders generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax on any amount which constitutes capital gain upon a sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a debt security, unless either of the following is true:

the non-U.S. holder's investment in the debt securities is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business; or

the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual holding the debt security as a capital asset, is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year within which the sale, redemption or other disposition takes place, and certain other requirements are met.

For non-U.S. holders described in the first bullet point above, the net gain derived from the retirement or disposition of the debt securities generally would be subject to United States federal income tax at the rates applicable to United States persons generally (or lower applicable treaty rate). In addition, foreign corporations may be subject to a 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) branch profits tax if the investment in the debt security is effectively connected with the foreign corporation's conduct of a United States trade or business. Non-U.S. holders described in the second bullet point above will be subject to a flat 30% United States federal income tax on the gain derived from the retirement or disposition of their debt securities, which may be offset by United States source capital losses, even though non-U.S. holders are not considered residents of the United States.

Other Tax Considerations

State, Local and Foreign Taxes

We may be required to pay tax in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which we transact business, and holders of our securities may be required to pay tax in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which they reside. Our state and local tax treatment may not conform to the United States federal income tax consequences discussed above. In addition, a holder's state and local tax treatment may not conform to the United States federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws on an investment in our securities.

Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs

The present U.S. federal income tax treatment of REITs may be modified, possibly with retroactive effect, by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time. The REIT rules are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department which may result in statutory changes as well as revisions to regulations and interpretations. Changes to the U.S. federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our common stock.

Medicare 3.8% Tax on Investment Income

Under recently enacted legislation, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, certain U.S. holders who are individuals, estates or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on dividends and certain other investment income, including capital gains from the sale or other disposition of our common stock.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act

Recently enacted legislation will require, after December 31, 2013, withholding at a rate of 30% on dividends in respect of, and, after December 31, 2014, gross proceeds from the sale of, our common

Table of Contents

stock held by or through certain foreign financial institutions (including investment funds), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information with respect to shares in the institution held by certain U.S. persons and by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by U.S. persons and to withhold on certain payments. Accordingly, the entity through which our common stock is held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, dividends in respect of, and gross proceeds from the sale of, our common stock held by an investor that is a non-financial non-U.S. entity will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%, unless such entity either (i) certifies to us that such entity does not have any "substantial United States owners" or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's "substantial United States owners," which we will in turn provide to the Secretary of the Treasury. We will not pay any additional amounts to stockholders in respect of any amounts withheld. Non-U.S. stockholders are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of the legislation on their investment in our common stock.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered by this prospectus from time to time in one or more transactions, including without limitation:

directly to one or more purchasers;

through agents;

to or through underwriters, brokers or dealers;

through a combination of any of these methods.

A distribution of the securities offered by this prospectus may also be effected through the issuance of derivative securities, including without limitation, warrants, subscriptions, exchangeable securities, forward delivery contracts and the writing of options.

In addition, the manner in which we may sell some or all of the securities covered by this prospectus includes, without limitation, through:

a block trade in which a broker-dealer will attempt to sell as agent, but may position or resell a portion of the block, as principal, in order to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer, as principal, and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker solicits purchasers; or

privately negotiated transactions.

We may also enter into hedging transactions. For example, we may:

enter into transactions with a broker-dealer or affiliate thereof in connection with which such broker-dealer or affiliate will engage in short sales of the common stock pursuant to this prospectus, in which case such broker-dealer or affiliate may use shares of common stock received from us to close out its short positions;

sell securities short and redeliver such shares to close out our short positions;

Edgar Filing: HCP, INC. - Form 424B2

enter into option or other types of transactions that require us to deliver common stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who will then resell or transfer the common stock under this prospectus; or

loan or pledge the common stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who may sell the loaned shares or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged shares pursuant to this prospectus.

Table of Contents

In addition, we may enter into derivative or hedging transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. In connection with such a transaction, the third parties may sell securities covered by and pursuant to this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be. If so, the third party may use securities borrowed from us or others to settle such sales and may use securities received from us to close out any related short positions. We may also loan or pledge securities covered by this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement to third parties, who may sell the loaned securities or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged securities pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

A prospectus supplement with respect to each offering of securities will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of any underwriters or agents and the amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them, if any;

the public offering price or purchase price of the securities and the net proceeds to be received by us from the sale;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or markets on which the securities may be listed.

The offer and sale of the securities described in this prospectus by us, the underwriters or the third parties described above may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions, including privately negotiated transactions, either:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

in "at the market offerings," within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act, to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise;

at prices related to the prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

General

Any public offering price and any discounts, commissions, concessions or other items constituting compensation allowed or reallocated or paid to underwriters, dealers, agents or remarketing firms may be changed from time to time. Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms that participate in the distribution of the offered securities may be "underwriters" as defined in the Securities Act. Any discounts or commissions they receive from us and any profits they receive on the resale of the offered securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will identify any underwriters, agents or dealers and describe their commissions, fees or discounts in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

Table of Contents

Underwriters and Agents

If underwriters are used in a sale, they will acquire the offered securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the offered securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions. These sales may be made at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of the sale, at prices related to such prevailing market price or at negotiated prices. We may offer the securities to the public through an underwriting syndicate or through a single underwriter. The underwriters in any particular offering will be mentioned in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the offered securities will be subject to certain conditions contained in an underwriting agreement that we will enter into with the underwriters at the time of the sale to them. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities of the series offered if any of the securities are purchased, unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities. Any initial offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed, reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

We may designate agents to sell the offered securities. Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities, the agents will agree to use their best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment. We may also sell the offered securities to one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. These firms will remarket the offered securities upon purchasing them in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to the terms of the offered securities. A prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be will identify any remarketing firm and will describe the terms of its agreement, if any, with us and its compensation.

In connection with offerings made through underwriters or agents, we may enter into agreements with such underwriters or agents pursuant to which we receive our outstanding securities in consideration for the securities being offered to the public for cash. In connection with these arrangements, the underwriters or agents may also sell securities covered by this prospectus to hedge their positions in these outstanding securities, including in short sale transactions. If so, the underwriters or agents may use the securities received from us under these arrangements to close out any related open borrowings of securities.

Dealers

We may sell the offered securities to dealers as principals. We may negotiate and pay dealers' commissions, discounts or concessions for their services. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public either at varying prices to be determined by the dealer or at a fixed offering price agreed to with us at the time of resale. Dealers engaged by us may allow other dealers to participate in resales.

Direct Sales

We may choose to sell the offered securities directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved.

Institutional Purchasers

We may authorize agents, dealers or underwriters to solicit certain institutional investors to purchase offered securities on a delayed delivery basis pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified future date. The applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be, will provide the details of any such arrangement, including the offering price and commissions payable on the solicitations.

Table of Contents

We will enter into such delayed contracts only with institutional purchasers that we approve. These institutions may include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions.

VALIDITY OF SECURITIES

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Ballard Spahr LLP, Baltimore, Maryland and/or Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York. In addition, the description of material federal income tax consequences contained in this prospectus under the heading "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations" is based upon the opinion of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedules of HCP, Inc. as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for the years then ended appearing in HCP, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated July 24, 2012, and the effectiveness of HCP, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of HCP, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2011, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedules of HCP, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2009 appearing in HCP, Inc.'s Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2011, as amended by the Current Report on Form 8-K dated July 24, 2012, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and schedules are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of HCR Properties, LLC as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and for the three years ended December 31, 2010, which are incorporated herein by reference to HCP, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on July 24, 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 consolidated 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.