

MCKESSON CORP
Form 424B3
February 23, 2011

Table of Contents

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. We are not using this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to offer to sell these securities or to solicit offers to buy these securities in any place where the offer or sale is not permitted.

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-157176**

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED FEBRUARY 23, 2011

**PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated February 9, 2009)**

\$

McKesson Corporation
\$ % Notes due 2016
\$ % Notes due 2021
\$ % Notes due 2041

The % notes due 2016, which we refer to as the 2016 notes, will mature on , 2016, the % notes due 2021, which we refer to as the 2021 notes, will mature on , 2021, and the % notes due 2041, which we refer to as the 2041 notes, will mature on , 2041. We refer to the 2016 notes, the 2021 notes and the 2041 notes collectively as the notes. We will pay interest on the notes on and of each year, beginning , 2011. We may redeem any series of notes in whole or in part at any time at the redemption prices set forth under Description of Notes Optional Redemption. If a change of control triggering event occurs, unless we have previously exercised our optional redemption right, we will be required to offer to repurchase the notes from the holders for cash. See Description of Notes Change of Control.

The notes will be unsecured obligations of ours and rank equally with our existing and future unsecured senior indebtedness. The notes will be issued only in registered book-entry form and in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 thereafter.

Investing in the notes involves risk. See the section entitled Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010.

Per

Per

Per

	2016		2021		2041	
	Note	Total	Note	Total	Note	Total
Public offering price(1)	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Underwriting discount	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to McKesson(1)	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest from February , 2011, if settlement occurs after that date.

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

The notes will be ready for delivery in book-entry form on or about February , 2011, only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, which may include Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, and Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, against payment in New York, New York.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

J.P. Morgan

February , 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-1
<u>Summary</u>	S-2
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-5
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-6
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	S-7
<u>Description of Notes</u>	S-8
<u>United States Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	S-16
<u>Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest)</u>	S-18
<u>Validity of the Notes</u>	S-21
<u>Experts</u>	S-21
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-21

Prospectus

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>McKesson Corporation</u>	2
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	2
<u>Description of Securities</u>	3
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	3
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	7
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	10
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	18
<u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units</u>	20
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	20
<u>Legal Matters</u>	22
<u>Experts</u>	22

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 notes and matters relating to us and our financial performance and condition. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, provides a more general description of the terms and conditions of the various securities we may offer under our registration statement, some of which does not apply to this offering. If the description of this offering and the notes varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

In various places in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, we refer you to sections of other documents for additional information by indicating the caption heading of the other sections. All cross-references in this prospectus supplement are to captions contained in this prospectus supplement and not in the accompanying prospectus, unless otherwise indicated.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Some of these statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as believes, expects, anticipates, may, will, should, seeks, approximates, intends, plans or estimates, or the negative of these words, or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected, anticipated or implied. Although it is not possible to predict or identify all such risks and uncertainties, they may include, but are not limited to, the factors discussed under Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and in other information contained in our publicly available SEC filings and press releases. You should not consider this list to be a complete statement of all potential risks and uncertainties. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date such statements were first made. Except to the extent required by federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

You should carefully read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in their entirety. They contain information that you should consider when making your investment decision.

We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person, including any dealer, salesperson or other individual, to provide you with any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of their respective dates. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or

otherwise. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities to which they relate or an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy such securities in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. Neither the delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus nor any sale made hereunder or thereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date hereof or that the information contained herein or therein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date hereof.

S-1

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

*This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It does not contain all of the information that you should consider before making an investment decision. We urge you to read carefully the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the historical financial statements and notes to those financial statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Please read *Risk Factors* in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 31, 2010 for more information about important risks that you should consider before investing in the notes. Except as otherwise indicated, all references in this prospectus supplement to McKesson, the company, we, our and us refer to McKesson Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries.*

McKesson Corporation

McKesson Corporation (NYSE: MCK) is a healthcare services and information technology company providing supply, information and care management products and services designed to reduce costs and improve quality across the healthcare industry.

We conduct our business through two segments. The McKesson Distribution Solutions segment distributes ethical and proprietary drugs, medical-surgical supplies and equipment, and health and beauty care products throughout North America. This segment also provides specialty pharmaceutical solutions for biotech and pharmaceutical manufacturers, sells financial, operational and clinical solutions for pharmacies (retail, hospital, long-term care) and provides consulting, outsourcing and other services. This segment includes a 49% interest in Nadro, S.A. de C.V., one of the leading pharmaceutical distributors in Mexico, and a 39% interest in Parata Systems, LLC, which sells automated pharmacy and supply management systems and services to retail and institutional outpatient pharmacies. The McKesson Technology Solutions segment delivers enterprise-wide clinical, patient care, financial, supply chain, strategic management software solutions, pharmacy automation for hospitals, as well as connectivity, outsourcing and other services, including remote hosting and managed services, to healthcare organizations. This segment also includes our Payor group of businesses, which includes our InterQual® claims payment solutions, medical management software businesses and our care management programs. The segment's customers include hospitals, physicians, homecare providers, retail pharmacies and payors from North America, the United Kingdom, Ireland, other European countries, Asia Pacific and Israel.

Our principal executive offices are located at McKesson Plaza, One Post Street, San Francisco, California 94104. Our telephone number is (415) 983-8300.

Table of Contents**The Offering**

Issuer	McKesson Corporation
Securities Offered	<p>\$ aggregate principal amount of notes, consisting of:</p> <p>\$ aggregate principal amount of % notes due 2016.</p> <p>\$ aggregate principal amount of % notes due 2021.</p> <p>\$ aggregate principal amount of % notes due 2041.</p>
Maturity Date	<p>2016 notes , 2016.</p> <p>2021 notes , 2021.</p> <p>2041 notes , 2041.</p>
Interest Rate	<p>2016 notes % per year.</p> <p>2021 notes % per year.</p> <p>2041 notes % per year.</p>
Interest Payment Dates	Interest will be paid on and of each year, beginning on , 2011. Interest on the notes will accrue from , 2011.
Use of Proceeds	We estimate that we will receive approximately \$ million from the sale of the notes, after deducting underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses. We will use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of borrowings under the Senior Bridge Term Loan Agreement (the Bridge Loan) among us, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, and the lenders party thereto. See Use of Proceeds.
Conflicts of Interest	Certain of the underwriters or their affiliates are agents and/or lenders under the Bridge Loan. As described in Use of Proceeds, a portion of the net proceeds from this offering may be used to repay outstanding borrowings under the Bridge Loan. As affiliates of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated may each receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering, not including underwriting compensation, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated each may have a conflict of interest as defined in Rule 5121 adopted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA. Consequently, this offering will be conducted in accordance with Rule 5121. No underwriter having a conflict of interest will confirm sales to accounts over which discretionary authority is exercised without the prior written consent of the accountholder. In accordance with Rule 5121, a qualified independent

underwriter is not required because the notes offered are investment grade rated, as that term is defined in Rule 5121. See Use of Proceeds and Underwriting Conflicts of Interest.

S-3

Table of Contents

Optional Redemption	<p>We may redeem the notes of each series for cash in whole, at any time, or in part, from time to time, prior to maturity, at redemption prices that include accrued and unpaid interest and a make-whole premium. However, no make-whole premium will be paid for redemptions of the 2021 notes during the three-month period prior to their maturity, or for redemptions of the 2041 notes during the six-month period prior to their maturity. See Description of Notes Optional Redemption.</p>
Change of Control	<p>Upon the occurrence of both (1) a change of control of us and (2) a downgrade of a series of notes below an investment grade rating by each of Fitch Inc., Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services within a specified period, unless we have previously exercised our optional redemption right with respect to that series of notes in whole, we will be required to offer to repurchase the notes of that series at a price equal to 101% of the then outstanding principal amount of such series, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date of repurchase. See Description of Notes Change of Control.</p>
Other Covenants	<p>We will issue the notes under an indenture with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association. The indenture includes certain covenants, including limitations on our ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">create liens on our assets;enter into sale and lease-backs with respect to our properties; andmerge or consolidate with another entity. <p>These covenants are subject to a number of important exceptions, limitations and qualifications that are described under Description of Notes Certain Covenants and in our indenture.</p>
Ranking	<p>The notes will be our unsecured senior obligations and will rank equally with all our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding.</p> <p>The indenture does not limit the amount of debt we may incur.</p>
Additional Issues	<p>We may create and issue additional notes with the same terms (except for the issue date, the public offering price and, under certain circumstances, the first interest payment date) as one or more series of the notes so that such additional notes shall be consolidated and form a single series with the notes of the corresponding series.</p>

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ million, after deducting underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses. We plan to use the net proceeds from the sale of the notes for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of borrowings outstanding under the Bridge Loan. We recently acquired U.S. Oncology Holdings, Inc. (U.S. Oncology). On January 31, 2011, we borrowed \$1.0 billion under the Bridge Loan to fund the redemption of certain indebtedness of U.S. Oncology and its wholly-owned subsidiary U.S. Oncology, Inc. Borrowings under the Bridge Loan must be repaid in full no later than December 30, 2011, or, in full or in part, upon certain events occurring prior to such time, including specified debt issuances such as this offering. The Bridge Loan bears interest based on the London Interbank Offered Rate plus a margin based on our credit ratings and the amount of time any borrowings under the Bridge Loan remain outstanding. As of February 22, 2011, our borrowing under the Bridge Loan accrued interest at the rate of 1.76% per year.

Certain affiliates of the underwriters are lenders and/or agents under the Bridge Loan. Therefore, affiliates of the underwriters will receive a portion of the net proceeds from this offering used to repay borrowings under the Bridge Loan. See Underwriting Conflicts of Interest for more information.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash position and capitalization as of December 31, 2010:

on an actual basis;

on an adjusted basis to give effect to the incurrence of indebtedness under the Bridge Loan and the redemption of certain U.S. Oncology and U.S. Oncology, Inc. debt acquired in connection with the U.S. Oncology acquisition; and

on an adjusted basis to give effect to the incurrence of indebtedness under our Bridge Loan, the redemption of certain U.S. Oncology and U.S. Oncology, Inc. debt acquired in connection with the U.S. Oncology acquisition, this offering and the application of the net proceeds from the sale of the notes. See Use of Proceeds.

You should read this table in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our historical financial statements and notes to those financial statements that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	As of December 31, 2010		
	Actual	Adjusted for Bridge Loan and U.S. Oncology Debt Redemption (Unaudited) (In millions)	Adjusted for Bridge Loan, U.S. Oncology Debt Redemption and this Offering
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,213	\$ 2,473	\$
Long-term debt (including current portion):			
7.75% Notes due February 2012	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400
5.25% Notes due March 2013	499	499	499
6.50% Notes due February 2014	350	350	350
5.70% Notes due March 2017	499	499	499
7.50% Notes due February 2019	349	349	349
7.65% Debentures due March 2027	175	175	175
U.S. Oncology debt(1)	1,740		
Bridge Loan		1,000	
Other debt	50	50	50
% Notes due 2016			
% Notes due 2021			
% Notes due 2041			

Edgar Filing: MCKESSON CORP - Form 424B3

Total long-term debt (including current portion)	\$ 4,062	\$ 3,322	\$
Stockholders' equity:			
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 100 shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding	\$	\$	\$
Common stock \$0.01 par value, 800 shares authorized; 365 shares issued	4	4	4
Additional paid-in capital	5,153	5,153	5,153
Retained earnings	7,876	7,876	7,876
Accumulated other comprehensive income	51	51	51
Other	2	2	2
Treasury shares, at cost 111 shares	(6,006)	(6,006)	(6,006)
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 7,080	\$ 7,080	\$ 7,080
Total capitalization	\$ 11,142	\$ 10,402	\$

(1) Represents the aggregate fair value of the principal amount and associated redemption premiums, as applicable, of Senior Unsecured Floating Rate Toggle Notes due 2012 of U.S. Oncology, 9.125% Senior Secured Notes due 2017 of U.S. Oncology, Inc., and 10.75% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014 of U.S. Oncology, Inc.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The table below reflects our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the following periods: (1) the nine months ended December 31, 2010, and (2) each of the five years in the period ended March 31, 2010.

	For the Nine Months Ended December 31, 2010	For the Year Ended March 31,				
	2010	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)						
Actual	7.1	8.8	6.5	8.3	10.1	9.7

- (1) The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing fixed charges (interest cost, both expensed and capitalized, including amortization of debt discounts and deferred loan costs, and the interest component of rental expense) into earnings available for fixed charges (income from continuing operations before income taxes plus fixed charges, minus equity in net income of and dividends from equity investees and interest capitalized).

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

This description of the notes being offered hereby supplements and, to the extent it is inconsistent, replaces, the description of the general provisions of the notes and the indenture in the accompanying prospectus. The notes will be Senior Debt Securities, as that term is used in the accompanying prospectus.

General

The 2016 notes, the 2021 notes and the 2041 notes will each be issued as a separate series of debt securities under the indenture dated as of March 5, 2007 (the Base Indenture). Certain terms of the notes are contained in a supplemental indenture (the Supplemental Indenture, and together with the Base Indenture, the indenture between us and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee). You may request a copy of the indenture and the form of note from the trustee.

We will issue the notes in fully registered book-entry form without coupons and in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 thereafter. We do not intend to apply for the listing of the notes on a national securities exchange or for quotation of the notes on any automated dealer quotation system.

The following statements relating to the notes and the indenture are summaries of certain provisions thereof and are subject to the detailed provisions of the indenture, to which reference is hereby made for a complete statement of such provisions. Certain provisions of the indenture are summarized in the accompanying prospectus. We encourage you to read the summaries of the notes and the indenture in both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as the form of notes and the indenture.

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations. The cover page of this prospectus supplement sets forth the respective maturity dates, aggregate principal amounts and interest rates of the notes of each series. The notes will bear interest from the date of issuance, payable semi-annually on each _____ and _____, beginning _____, 2011, to the persons in whose names the notes are registered at the close of business on the _____ immediately preceding each _____ and the _____ immediately preceding each _____. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year composed of twelve 30-day months. Payments of principal, premium if any, and interest to owners of book-entry interests (as described below) are expected to be made in accordance with the procedures of The Depository Trust Company (DTC) and its participants in effect from time to time.

We may, without the consent of the holders of the notes, create and issue additional notes with the same terms (except for the issue date, the public offering price and, under certain circumstances, the first interest payment date) as one or more series of the notes. The additional notes will form a single series with the outstanding notes of the corresponding series. No additional notes may be issued if an event of default has occurred and is continuing with respect to such series of notes.

Optional Redemption

We may redeem:

- (a) the 2016 notes,
- (b) the 2021 notes prior to three months before their maturity date, or

(c) the 2041 notes prior to six months before their maturity date

in whole, at any time, or in part, from time to time, at our option, for cash, at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

(1) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed; or

(2) an amount determined by the Quotation Agent equal to the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest thereon (not including any portion of such payments of interest accrued to the date of redemption), discounted to the date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate (as

Table of Contents

defined below), plus _____ basis points with respect to the 2016 notes, _____ basis points with respect to the 2021 notes and _____ basis points with respect to the 2041 notes,

plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but not including, the date of redemption.

On or after the date that is three months prior to the maturity for the 2021 notes, or six months prior to the maturity for the 2041 notes, we may redeem the 2021 notes or the 2041 notes in whole, at any time, or in part, from time to time, at our option, for cash, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of such notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date.

The principal amount of any note remaining outstanding after a redemption in part shall be \$2,000 or a higher integral multiple of \$1,000. Notwithstanding the foregoing, installments of interest on notes that are due and payable on interest payment dates falling on or prior to a redemption date will be payable on the interest payment date to the registered holders as of the close of business on the relevant record date.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Quotation Agent as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes of the applicable series to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such series of notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (1) the average of four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest of such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (2) if the trustee obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

Quotation Agent means the Reference Treasury Dealer appointed by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer means (1) J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and their respective successors; provided, however, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City (a **Primary Treasury Dealer**), we will substitute therefor another Primary Treasury Dealer, and (2) any other Primary Treasury Dealers selected by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the trustee, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the trustee by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price on such redemption date.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each registered holder of the notes to be redeemed. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for redemption. If less than all of the notes of a series are to be redeemed, the notes of such series to be redeemed will be selected by the trustee by a method the trustee deems to be fair and appropriate.

Change of Control

If a Change of Control Triggering Event (as defined below) occurs, unless we have previously exercised our right to redeem the notes of a series in whole as described above, holders of notes of that series will have the right to require us to repurchase all or any part (in integral multiples of \$1,000 original principal amount) of their notes of that series pursuant to the offer described below (the Change of Control Offer) on the terms set forth in such notes; provided that the principal amount of any note remaining outstanding after a repurchase in part shall be \$2,000 or a higher integral multiple of \$1,000. In the Change of Control Offer, we will be required to offer payment in cash equal to 101% of the then outstanding aggregate principal amount of

S-9

Table of Contents

notes of that series repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes repurchased, to, but not including, the date of repurchase (the Change of Control Payment). Within 30 days following any Change of Control Triggering Event, we will be required to mail a notice to holders of notes of the series subject to the Change of Control Triggering Event describing the transaction or transactions that constitute the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase the notes of that series on the date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (the Change of Control Payment Date), pursuant to the procedures required by such notes and described in such notice. We must comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a Change of Control Triggering Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control provisions of the notes, we will be required to comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control provisions of the notes by virtue of such conflicts.

On the Change of Control Payment Date, we will be required, to the extent lawful, to:

accept for payment all notes or portions thereof properly tendered pursuant to the Change of Control Offer;

deposit with the paying agent, no later than 11:00 a.m., New York City time, an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all notes or portions of notes properly tendered; and

deliver or cause to be delivered to the trustee the notes properly accepted together with an officers certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of notes or portions of notes being repurchased.

The paying agent will promptly mail to each holder of notes properly tendered the repurchase price for such notes, and the trustee will promptly authenticate and mail (or cause to be transferred by book-entry) to each holder a new note equal in principal amount to any unreleased portion of any notes surrendered; provided, that each new note will be in a principal amount of \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 thereafter.

The definition of Change of Control includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of ours and our subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all, there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of notes to require us to repurchase its notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of the assets of ours and our subsidiaries taken as a whole to another Person (as defined in the indenture) or group may be uncertain.

We will not be required to make a Change of Control Offer upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Triggering Event if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for a Change of Control Offer made by us and the third party repurchases all notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer. In addition, we will not repurchase any notes if there has occurred and is continuing on the Change of Control Payment Date an event of default under the indenture, other than a default in the payment of the Change of Control Payment upon a Change of Control Triggering Event.

The change of control feature of the notes may in certain circumstances make more difficult or discourage a sale or takeover of us and, thus, the removal of incumbent management. We could, in the future, enter into certain transactions, including acquisitions, refinancings or other recapitalizations, that would not constitute a Change of Control under the notes, but that could increase the amount of our indebtedness outstanding at such time or otherwise affect our capital structure or credit ratings on the notes.

For purposes of the foregoing discussion of a repurchase at the option of holders, the following definitions are applicable:

Below Investment Grade Rating Event means with respect to each series of notes, the notes of that series are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the Rating Agencies (as defined below) on any date from the date of the public notice of an arrangement that could result in a Change of Control until the end of the 60-day period following public notice of the occurrence of the Change of Control

S-10

Table of Contents

(which 60-day period shall be extended so long as the rating of the notes is under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade by any of the Rating Agencies).

Change of Control means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of ours and our subsidiaries taken as a whole to any person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) other than us or one of our subsidiaries; (2) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the then outstanding number of shares of our voting stock; or (3) the first day on which a majority of the members of our Board of Directors are not Continuing Directors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed to result in a Change of Control if (a) we become a wholly-owned subsidiary of a holding company and (b) the holders of the voting stock of such holding company immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of McKesson's voting stock immediately prior to that transaction.

Change of Control Triggering Event means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating Event.

Continuing Directors means, as of any date of determination, any member of our Board of Directors who (1) was a member of such Board of Directors on the date of the issuance of the notes; or (2) was nominated for election or elected to such Board of Directors with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such Board of Directors at the time of such nomination or election (either by a specific vote or by approval of our proxy statement in which such member was named as a nominee for election as a director, without objection to such nomination).

Fitch means Fitch Inc., a subsidiary of Fimalac, S.A.

Investment Grade Rating means a rating equal to or higher than BBB- (or the equivalent) by Fitch, Baa3 (or the equivalent) by Moody's and BBB- (or the equivalent) by S&P.

Moody's means Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

Rating Agencies means (1) each of Fitch, Moody's and S&P; and (2) if any of Fitch, Moody's or S&P ceases to rate the notes or fails to make a rating of the notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act, selected by us as a replacement agency for Fitch, Moody's or S&P, or all of them, as the case may be.

S&P means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Certain Covenants

Definitions

The term **Attributable Debt** shall mean in connection with a sale and lease-back transaction the lesser of (a) the fair value of the assets subject to such transaction, as determined by our Board of Directors, or (b) the present value of the obligations of the lessee for net rental payments during the term of any lease discounted at the rate of interest set forth or implicit in the terms of such lease or, if not practicable to determine such rate, the weighted average interest rate per annum borne by the debt securities of each series outstanding pursuant to the indenture and subject to limitations on sale and lease-back transaction covenants, compounded semi-annually in either case as determined by our principal

accounting or financial officer.

The term Consolidated Subsidiary shall mean any Subsidiary (as defined in the indenture) substantially all the property of which is located, and substantially all the operations of which are conducted, in the United

S-11

Table of Contents

States of America whose financial statements are consolidated with our financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The term **Exempted Debt** shall mean the sum of the following as of the date of determination: (1) Indebtedness of ours and our Consolidated Subsidiaries incurred after the date of issuance of the notes and secured by liens not permitted by the limitation on liens provisions, and (2) Attributable Debt of ours and our Consolidated Subsidiaries in respect of every sale and lease-back transaction entered into after the date of the issuance of the notes, other than leases permitted by the limitation on sale and lease-back provisions.

The term **Indebtedness** shall mean all items classified as indebtedness on our most recently available consolidated balance sheet, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The term **Qualified Receivables Transaction** shall mean any transaction or series of transactions entered into by us or any of our Subsidiaries pursuant to which we or any of our Subsidiaries sells, conveys or otherwise transfers to (1) a Receivables Subsidiary (in the case of a transfer by us or any of our Subsidiaries) or (2) any other person (in the case of a transfer by a Receivables Subsidiary), or grants a security interest in, any accounts receivable (whether now existing or arising in the future) or inventory of us or any of our Subsidiaries, and any assets related thereto including, without limitation, all collateral securing such accounts receivable, all contracts and all guarantees or other obligations in respect of such accounts receivable or inventory, proceeds of such accounts receivable and other assets which are customarily transferred or in respect of which security interests are customarily granted in connection with asset securitization transactions involving accounts receivable or inventory.

The term **Receivables Subsidiary** shall mean a Subsidiary of ours which engages in no activities other than in connection with the financing of accounts receivable or inventory (a) no portion of the Indebtedness or any other obligations (contingent or otherwise) of which (1) is guaranteed by us or any Subsidiary of ours (excluding guarantees of obligations (other than the principal of, and interest on, Indebtedness) pursuant to representations, warranties, covenants and indemnities entered into in the ordinary course of business in connection with a Qualified Receivables Transaction), (2) is recourse or obligates us or any Subsidiary of ours in any way other than pursuant to representations, warranties, covenants and indemnities entered into in the ordinary course of business in connection with a Qualified Receivables Transaction or (3) subjects any property or asset of ours or any Subsidiary of ours (other than accounts receivable or inventory and related assets as provided in the definition of **Qualified Receivables Transaction**), directly or indirectly, contingently or otherwise, to the satisfaction thereof, other than pursuant to representations, warranties, covenants and indemnities entered into in the ordinary course of business in connection with a Qualified Receivables Transaction, (b) with which neither we nor any Subsidiary of ours has any material contract, agreement, arrangement or understanding other than on terms customary for securitization of receivables or inventory and (c) with which neither we nor any Subsidiary of ours has any obligations to maintain or preserve such Subsidiary's financial condition or cause such Subsidiary to achieve certain levels of operating results.

Limitation on Liens

We covenant that, so long as any of the notes remain outstanding, we will not, and will not permit any Consolidated Subsidiary, to create or assume any Indebtedness for money borrowed which is secured by a mortgage, pledge, security interest or lien (**liens**) of or upon any assets, whether now owned or hereafter acquired, of ours or any such Consolidated Subsidiary without equally and ratably securing the notes by a lien ranking equally to and ratably with (or, at our option, senior to) such secured Indebtedness, except that the foregoing restriction shall not apply to:

liens on assets of any corporation existing at the time such corporation becomes a Consolidated Subsidiary;

liens on assets existing at the time of acquisition thereof, or to secure the payment of the purchase price of such assets, or to secure indebtedness incurred or guaranteed by us or a Consolidated Subsidiary for the purpose of financing the purchase price of such assets or improvements or construction thereon,

S-12

Table of Contents

which indebtedness is incurred or guaranteed prior to, at the time of or within 360 days after such acquisition, or in the case of real property, completion of such improvement or construction or commencement of full operation of such property, whichever is later;

liens securing indebtedness owed by any Consolidated Subsidiary to us or another wholly owned Subsidiary;

liens on any assets of a corporation existing at the time such corporation is merged into or consolidated with us or a Subsidiary or at the time of a purchase, lease or other acquisition of the assets of the corporation or firm as an entirety or substantially as an entirety by us or a Subsidiary;

liens on any assets of ours or a Consolidated Subsidiary in favor of the United States of America or any state thereof, or in favor of any other country, or political subdivision thereof, to secure certain payments pursuant to any contract or statute or to secure any indebtedness incurred or guaranteed for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price, or, in the case of real property, the cost of construction, of the assets subject to such liens, including, but not limited to, liens incurred in connection with pollution control, industrial revenue or similar financing;

any extension, renewal or replacement, or successive extensions, renewals or replacements, in whole or in part, of any lien referred to in the foregoing;

certain statutory liens or other similar liens arising in the ordinary course of our or a Consolidated Subsidiary's business, or certain liens arising out of government contracts;

certain pledges, deposits or liens made or arising under the worker's compensation or similar legislation or in certain other circumstances;

certain liens in connection with legal proceedings, including certain liens arising out of judgments or awards;

liens for certain taxes or assessments, landlord's liens and liens and charges incidental to the conduct of the business or the ownership of our assets or those of a Consolidated Subsidiary, which were not incurred in connection with the borrowing of money and which do not, in our opinion, materially impair the use of such assets in the operation of our business or that of such Consolidated Subsidiary or the value of such assets for the purposes thereof;

liens relating to accounts receivable of ours or any of our Subsidiaries which have been sold, assigned or otherwise transferred to another Person in a transaction classified as a sale of accounts receivable in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, to the extent the sale by us or the applicable Subsidiary is deemed to give rise to a lien in favor of the purchaser thereof in such accounts receivable or the proceeds thereof; or

liens on any assets of ours or any of our Subsidiaries (including Receivables Subsidiaries) incurred in connection with a Qualified Receivables Transaction.

Notwithstanding the above, we or any of our Consolidated Subsidiaries may, without securing the notes, create or assume any Indebtedness which is secured by a lien which would otherwise be subject to the foregoing restrictions; provided that after giving effect thereto the Exempted Debt then outstanding at such time does not exceed 10% of our total assets on a consolidated basis.

Limitation on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions

Sale and lease-back transactions, except such transactions involving leases for less than three years, by us or any Consolidated Subsidiary of any assets are prohibited unless (a) we or such Consolidated Subsidiary would be entitled to incur Indebtedness secured by a lien on the assets to be leased in an amount at least equal to the Attributable Debt in respect of such transaction without equally and ratably securing the notes, or (b) the proceeds of the sale of the assets to be leased are at least equal to their fair market value (as determined by our Board of Directors) and the proceeds are applied to the purchase or acquisition, or, in the case of real property, the construction, of assets or to the retirement of Indebtedness. The foregoing limitation

S-13

Table of Contents

will not apply, if at the time we or any Consolidated Subsidiary enters into such sale and lease-back transaction, and after giving effect thereto, Exempted Debt does not exceed 10% of our total assets on a consolidated basis.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

We cannot consolidate or merge with or into, or transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets to, any person unless (a) we will be the continuing corporation or (b) the successor corporation or person formed by such consolidation or into which we are merged or to which our assets substantially as an entirety are transferred or leased is a corporation, limited liability company or limited partnership organized or existing under the laws of the United States, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia and, if such entity is not a corporation, a co-obligor of the notes is a corporation organized or existing under any such laws, and such successor corporation or person, including such co-obligor, if any, expressly assumes our obligations on the notes and under the indenture. In addition, we cannot effect such a transaction unless immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or event of default under the indenture shall have occurred and be continuing. Subject to certain exceptions, when the person to whom our assets are transferred or leased has assumed our obligations under the notes and the indenture, we shall be discharged from all our obligations under the notes and the indenture, except in limited circumstances.

This covenant would not apply to any recapitalization transaction, a change of control of us or a highly leveraged transaction, unless the transaction or change of control were structured to include a merger or consolidation or transfer or lease of all or substantially all of our assets.

Book-Entry System

The certificates representing the notes of each series will be issued in the form of one or more fully registered global notes without coupons (the *Global Note*) and will be deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as the nominee of DTC. Except in limited circumstances, the notes will not be issuable in definitive form. Unless and until they are exchanged in whole or in part for the individual notes represented thereby, any interests in the Global Note may not be transferred except as a whole by DTC to a nominee of DTC or by a nominee of DTC to DTC or another nominee of DTC or by DTC or any nominee of DTC to a successor depository or any nominee of such successor. See *Description of Debt Securities Registered Global Securities* in the accompanying prospectus.

DTC has advised us that DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities that its participants (*Direct Participants*) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (*DTCC*). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC and its Participants are on file with the SEC.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

S-14

Table of Contents

Same-Day Funds Settlement and Payment

Settlement for the notes will be made by the underwriters in immediately available funds. All payments of principal, premium if any, and interest in respect of notes in book-entry form will be made by us in immediately available funds to the accounts specified by DTC.

Concerning the Trustee

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association is the trustee under the indenture with respect to the notes of each series offered hereby. We may maintain deposit accounts or conduct other banking transactions with the trustee in the ordinary course of business.

S-15

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of the notes to Non-U.S. Holders (as defined below). This summary is for informational purposes only and is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, and administrative and judicial interpretations and practice, all as in effect on the date of this prospectus supplement and all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations, with possible retroactive effect. There can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, positions different from those discussed herein.

The following discussion does not address foreign, state, or local tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, or disposition of the notes, nor does it address U.S. federal income tax consequences relevant to special classes of taxpayers, e.g., dealers in securities; traders in securities that have elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities; persons holding notes as part of a hedge, straddle, conversion or other synthetic security or integrated transaction; certain U.S. expatriates; financial institutions; insurance companies; controlled foreign corporations; passive foreign investment companies; persons subject to the alternative minimum tax; entities which are tax-exempt for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

For purposes of this discussion, a Non-U.S. Holder is a holder of a note that is an individual, corporation, estate or trust that is not (i) a citizen or individual resident of the United States; (ii) a corporation (or other entity classified as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created, organized, or domesticated under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof; (iii) an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or (iv) a trust that (a) is subject to the primary supervision of a U.S. court and has one or more U.S. persons, within the meaning of Code section 7701(a)(30), who have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (b) has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership (or an entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) holds notes, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner in such partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Such a partner or partnership should consult its tax advisors as to the tax consequences of an investment in the notes.

Prospective holders should consult an independent tax advisor with respect to the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of acquiring, owning, or disposing of the notes in light of their particular circumstances as well as with respect to any tax consequences of acquiring, owning, or disposing of the notes under U.S. federal estate or gift tax laws or under any applicable tax treaty.

Payments of interest

It is expected, and, therefore, this summary assumes that the notes will not be issued with original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Generally, any interest paid to a Non-U.S. Holder of a note that is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business will not be subject to U.S. federal income (including withholding) tax if the interest qualifies as portfolio interest. Interest on the notes generally will qualify as portfolio interest if (a) the Non-U.S. Holder does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total voting power of all our voting stock, (b) such holder is not a controlled foreign corporation with respect to which we are a related person within the meaning of the Code, and (c) either the beneficial owner, under penalties of perjury, certifies that the beneficial owner is not a U.S. person and such certificate provides the beneficial owner's name and address, or a securities clearing

organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business and holds the notes certifies, under penalties of perjury, that such statement has been received from the beneficial owner by it or by a financial institution between it and the beneficial owner. The gross amount of payments to a Non-U.S. Holder of interest that is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business and that does not qualify for the portfolio interest exemption will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30%, unless a U.S. income tax treaty applies to reduce or eliminate such withholding tax. Payments of interest that are effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business by a Non-U.S. Holder and, to the extent an applicable treaty so provides, are attributable to a permanent establishment (or, in the case of an individual, a fixed base)

S-16

Table of Contents

in the United States will be taxed on a net basis at regular U.S. rates in the same manner as such payments to U.S. Holders. In the case of a Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation, such effectively connected income may also be subject to the branch profits tax (which is generally imposed on a foreign corporation on the actual or deemed repatriation from the United States of earnings and profits attributable to U.S. trade or business income) at a 30% rate. The branch profits tax may not apply (or may apply at a reduced rate) if a recipient is a qualified resident of certain countries with which the United States has an income tax treaty. If payments of interest are effectively connected with a Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business (whether or not a treaty applies), the 30% withholding tax discussed above will not apply provided the appropriate certification (discussed below) is provided. To claim the benefit of a tax treaty or to claim exemption from withholding because the income is effectively connected with a Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. holder must provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8ECI (or such successor forms as the IRS may designate), as applicable, prior to the payment of interest. These forms must be periodically updated. A Non-U.S. Holder that is claiming the benefits of a treaty may be required in certain instances to obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number and to provide certain documentary evidence issued by foreign governmental authorities to prove residence in the foreign country.

Sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition

A Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to any gain realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of a note unless: (i) the Non-U.S. Holder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 or more days in the taxable year of the disposition and certain other conditions are met, in which case the Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to a flat 30% U.S. federal income tax on any gain recognized (except to the extent otherwise provided by an applicable income tax treaty), which may be offset by certain U.S. losses; or (ii) such gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business by a Non-U.S. Holder and, to the extent an applicable treaty so provides, is attributable to a permanent establishment (or, in the case of an individual, a fixed base) in the United States, in which case such gain will be taxable in the same manner as effectively connected interest (discussed above).

Information reporting and backup withholding

A Non-U.S. Holder may be required to certify under penalties of perjury that it is a Non-U.S. Holder (generally through the provision of a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN) in order to prevent information reporting and backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld from payments to a Non-U.S. Holder under the backup withholding rules may be refunded or credited against a Non-U.S. Holder's federal income tax liability, if any, if the holder timely provides the required information to the IRS.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Subject to the terms and conditions contained in an underwriting agreement, dated as of the date of this prospectus supplement between us and the underwriters named below, for whom J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated are acting as representatives, we have agreed to sell to each underwriter, and each underwriter has agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase from us, the principal amount of notes that appears opposite its name in the table below:

Underwriter	Principal Amount of 2016 Notes	Principal Amount of 2021 Notes	Principal Amount of 2041 Notes
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	\$	\$	\$
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated			
Total	\$	\$	\$

The underwriters are offering the notes subject to their acceptance of the notes from us and subject to prior sale. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement are subject to certain conditions. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement if any such notes are taken.

The underwriters initially propose to offer the notes to the public at the public offering prices that appear on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. In addition, the underwriters initially propose to offer the notes to certain dealers at the public offering prices less a concession not to exceed % of the principal amount, with respect to the 2016 notes, % of the principal amount, with respect to the 2021 notes, and % of the principal amount, with respect to the 2041 notes. Any underwriter may allow, and any such dealer may reallow, a concession not to exceed % of the principal amount, with respect to the 2016 notes, % of the principal amount, with respect to the 2021 notes, and % of the principal amount, with respect to the 2041 notes on sales to certain other dealers. After the initial offering of the notes to the public, the representatives may change the public offering prices and concessions. The underwriters may from time to time vary the offering prices and other selling terms. The underwriters may offer and sell notes through certain of their affiliates.

The following table shows the underwriting discounts that we will pay to the underwriters in connection with the offering of the notes:

Paid by us	2016 Notes	2021 Notes	2041 Notes
Per note			
Total			

Expenses associated with this offering to be paid by us, other than underwriting discounts, are estimated to be approximately \$.

We have also agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments which the underwriters may be required to make in respect of any such liabilities.

The notes are new issues of securities, and there are currently no established trading markets for the notes. We do not intend to apply for the notes to be listed on any securities exchange or for quotation on any automated dealer quotation system. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the notes, but they are not obligated to do so. The underwriters may discontinue any market making in the notes at any time at their sole discretion.

Accordingly, we cannot assure you that liquid trading markets will develop for the notes, that you will be able to sell your notes at a particular time or that the prices you receive when you sell will be favorable.

In connection with the offering of the notes, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the prices of the notes. Specifically, the underwriters may overallocate in connection

Table of Contents

with the offering of the notes, creating syndicate short positions. In addition, the underwriters may bid for and purchase notes in the open market to cover syndicate short positions or to stabilize the prices of the notes. Finally, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed for distributing the notes in the offering of the notes, if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed notes in syndicate covering transactions, stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market prices of the notes above independent market levels. However, neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that these activities may have on the price of the notes. In addition, the underwriters are not required to engage in any of these activities, and may end any of them at any time.

Conflicts of Interest

From time to time in the ordinary course of their respective businesses, certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged in and may in the future engage in commercial banking, derivatives and/or financial advisory, investment banking and other commercial transactions and services with us and our affiliates for which they have received or will receive customary fees and commissions. In particular, the representatives of the underwriters serve as joint bookrunners and joint lead arrangers under the Bridge Loan, and affiliates of the representatives serve as administrative agent and syndication agent. In addition, certain of the underwriters or their affiliates are agents and/or lenders under the Bridge Loan. As described in Use of Proceeds, a portion of the net proceeds from this offering may be used to repay outstanding borrowings under the Bridge Loan. As affiliates of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated may each receive more than 5% of the proceeds of this offering, not including underwriting compensation, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated each may have a conflict of interest as defined in Rule 5121 adopted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Consequently, this offering will be conducted in accordance with Rule 5121. No underwriter having a conflict of interest will confirm sales to accounts over which discretionary authority is exercised without the prior written consent of the accountholder. In accordance with Rule 5121, a qualified independent underwriter is not required because the notes offered are investment grade rated, as that term is defined in Rule 5121.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. The underwriters and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) offers of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement may not be made to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

(a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

(b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus

Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or

(c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

S-19

Table of Contents

provided that no such offer of notes shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has advised us that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act (FSMA)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us; and
- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF THE NOTES

The validity of the notes offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Los Angeles, California, and for the underwriters by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, the related financial statement schedule, incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement the information we file with the SEC, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of this prospectus supplement;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus supplement and any information that was previously incorporated.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future documents we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, until we terminate this offering (excluding any information furnished and not filed pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 on any Current Report on Form 8-K):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended June 30, 2010, September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2010; and

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on May 18, 2010, August 3, 2010, October 19, 2010, November 3, 2010 and November 29, 2010.

You can obtain any of the filings incorporated by reference in this document through us, or from the SEC through the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov> or at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding any exhibits to those documents unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this prospectus supplement. You can obtain documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement by requesting them in writing or by telephone from us at the following address:

McKesson Corporation
One Post Street
San Francisco, California 94104
Attn: Corporate Secretary
Telephone: (415) 983-8300

Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of the prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document that is incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such earlier statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of the prospectus supplement.

S-21

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

McKESSON CORPORATION

**COMMON STOCK
PREFERRED STOCK
DEPOSITARY SHARES
DEBT SECURITIES
WARRANTS
STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS
STOCK PURCHASE UNITS**

McKESSON CORPORATION

- may sell common stock;
- may sell preferred stock;
- may sell depositary shares representing preferred stock;
- may sell debt securities;
- may sell warrants; and
- may sell stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units.

The common stock of McKesson Corporation is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MCK. Our principal executive offices are located at McKesson Plaza, One Post Street, San Francisco, California 94104, and our telephone number is (415) 983-8300.

We urge you to read carefully this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, which will describe the specific terms of the securities being offered to you, before you make your investment decision.

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.

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

The date of this prospectus is February 9, 2009.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Page	
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	2
<u>McKesson Corporation</u>	2
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	2
<u>Description of Securities</u>	3
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	3
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	7
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	10
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	18
<u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units</u>	20
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	20
<u>Legal Matters</u>	22
<u>Experts</u>	22

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus to McKesson, the company, we, our, us or similar terms refer to McKesson Corporation, together with its subsidiaries.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

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

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

We may include agreements as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. In reviewing such agreements, please remember they are included to provide you with information regarding their terms and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about us or the other parties to the agreements. The agreements may contain representations and warranties by each of the parties to the applicable agreement. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the applicable agreement and:

should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties if those statements prove to be inaccurate;

may have been qualified by disclosures that were made to the other party in connection with the negotiation of the applicable agreement, which disclosures would not necessarily be reflected in the agreement;

may apply standards of materiality in a way that is different from what may be viewed as material to you or other investors; and

were made only as of the date of the applicable agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in the agreement and are subject to more recent developments.

Accordingly, these representations and warranties may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time. Additional information about us may be found elsewhere in the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and our other public filings, which are available without charge through the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file reports, proxy statements, and other information with the SEC. Such reports, proxy statements, and other information concerning us can be read and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549 or on the Internet at <http://www.sec.gov>. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and these reports, proxy statements and other information are also available for inspection at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement filed with the SEC by us. The full registration statement can be obtained from the SEC as indicated above, or from us.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with the SEC. This permits us to disclose important information to you by referring to these filed documents. Any information referred to in this way is considered part of this prospectus, and any information filed with the SEC by us after the date of

Table of Contents

this prospectus will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents that have been filed with the SEC (other than information in such documents that is not deemed to be filed):

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended June 30, 2008, September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2008; and

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2008, July 29, 2008 and November 21, 2008.

We also incorporate by reference any future filings (other than information in such documents that is not deemed to be filed) made with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), until we file a post-effective amendment which indicates the termination of the offering of the securities made by this prospectus.

We will provide without charge upon written or oral request a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents. Requests should be directed to our Corporate Secretary at McKesson Corporation, McKesson Plaza, One Post Street, San Francisco, California 94104. Our telephone number is (415) 983-8300.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Some of the forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as believes, expects, anticipates, may, should, seeks, approximately, intends, plans, or estimates, or words, or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected, anticipated or implied. Although it is not possible to predict or identify all such risks and uncertainties, they may include, but are not limited to, the factors discussed under Risk Factors in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, in any prospectus supplement related hereto, and in other information contained in our publicly available SEC filings and press releases. You should not consider this list to be a complete statement of all risks and uncertainties. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date such statements were first made. Except to the extent required by federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

MCKESSON CORPORATION

McKesson Corporation is a healthcare services and information technology company providing supply, information and care management products and services designed to reduce costs and improve quality across the healthcare industry. We conduct our business through two segments: McKesson Distribution Solutions and McKesson Technology Solutions.

Our principal executive offices are located at McKesson Plaza, One Post Street, San Francisco, California 94104, and our telephone number is (415) 983-8300.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement with respect to the proceeds from the sale of the particular securities to which such prospectus supplement relates, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the offered securities for general corporate purposes, including repayment or redemption of outstanding

Table of Contents

debt or preferred stock, the possible acquisition of related businesses or assets thereof, and working capital needs.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

No shares of our preferred stock were outstanding during the years ended March 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004, or during the nine months ended December 31, 2008. Therefore, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends are not separately stated from the ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods listed above. The table below reflects our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the nine months ended December 31, 2008, and each of the five years in the period ended March 31, 2008.

	For the Nine Months Ended December 31, 2008	2008	For the Year Ended March 31,			
			2007	2006	2005	2004
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(a)	5.7	8.3	10.1	9.7	(b)	6.5

(a) The ratio of earnings to fixed charges was computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For this purpose, earnings consists of pre-tax income/(loss) from continuing operations plus fixed charges; and fixed charges consists of interest costs, both expensed and capitalized (including amortization of debt discounts and deferred loan costs), and the interest component of rent expense.

(b) Earnings for the year ended March 31, 2005 were inadequate to cover fixed charges. The coverage deficiency was \$276 million for the ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains a summary of our common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities, warrants, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units. These summaries are not meant to be a complete description of each security. The particular terms of any security to be issued pursuant hereto will be set forth in a related prospectus supplement. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the material terms and conditions for each security.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following descriptions of our capital stock and of certain provisions of Delaware law do not purport to be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our amended and restated by-laws and the Delaware General Corporation Law (DGCL). Copies of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated by-laws have been filed with the SEC and are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

As of the date hereof, our authorized capital stock consists of 900,000,000 shares, of which 800,000,000 shares are common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 100,000,000 shares are preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of December 31, 2008, there were 273,832,171 shares of common stock issued and outstanding, and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding. Of the preferred stock, 10,000,000 shares have been designated Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. All of our outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and non-assessable.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MCK.

Common Stock

Dividend Rights. Subject to the dividend rights of the holders of any outstanding preferred stock, the holders of shares of common stock are entitled to receive ratably dividends out of assets legally available therefor at such times and in such amounts as our board of directors may from time to time determine.

Table of Contents

Rights Upon Liquidation. Upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in our assets that are legally available for distribution, after payment of all debts, other liabilities and any liquidation preferences of outstanding preferred stock.

Conversion, Redemption and Preemptive Rights. Holders of our common stock have no conversion, redemption, preemptive or similar rights.

Voting Rights. Each outstanding share of common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting in the election of directors.

Preferred Stock

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors, without further stockholder action, to provide for the issuance of up to 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, in one or more series, and to fix the designations, terms, and relative rights and preferences, including the dividend rate, voting rights, conversion rights, redemption and sinking fund provisions and liquidation preferences of each of these series. We may amend from time to time our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock. Any such amendment would require the approval of the holders of a majority of our shares entitled to vote.

The particular terms of any series of preferred stock that we offer under this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. Those terms may include:

the title and liquidation preference per share of the preferred stock and the number of shares offered;

the purchase price of the preferred stock;

the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends will be payable, whether dividends shall be cumulative and, if so, the date from which dividends will begin to accumulate;

any redemption or sinking fund provisions of the preferred stock;

any conversion, redemption or exchange provisions of the preferred stock;

the voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock; and

any additional dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions of the preferred stock.

If the terms of any series of preferred stock being offered differ from the terms set forth in this prospectus, those terms will also be disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. The summary in this prospectus is not complete. You should refer to the certificate of designations establishing a particular series of preferred stock which will be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware and the SEC in connection with the offering of the preferred stock.

Each prospectus supplement may describe certain U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the purchase, holding and disposition of the preferred stock that prospectus supplement covers.

Dividend Rights. The preferred stock will be preferred over the common stock as to payment of dividends. Before any dividends or distributions (other than dividends or distributions payable in common stock or other stock ranking junior to that series of preferred stock as to dividends and upon liquidation) on the common stock or other stock ranking junior to that series of preferred stock as to dividends and upon liquidation shall be declared and set apart for payment or paid, the holders of shares of each series of preferred stock (unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement) will be entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors or, if dividends are cumulative, full cumulative dividends for the current and all prior dividend periods. We will pay those dividends either in cash, shares of preferred stock, or otherwise, at the rate and on the date or dates set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. With respect to each series of preferred stock that has cumulative dividends, the dividends on each share of the series will be cumulative from the date of issue of the share unless some other date is set

Table of Contents

forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the series. Accruals of dividends will not bear interest. The applicable prospectus supplement will indicate the relative ranking of the particular series of the preferred stock as to the payment of dividends, as compared with then-existing and future series of preferred stock.

Rights Upon Liquidation. The preferred stock of each series will be preferred over the common stock and other stock ranking junior to that series of preferred stock as to assets, so that the holders of that series of preferred stock (unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement) will be entitled to be paid, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and before any distribution is made to the holders of common stock and other stock ranking junior to that series of preferred stock, the amount set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. However, in this case the holders of preferred stock of that series will not be entitled to any other or further payment. If upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our net assets are insufficient to permit the payment in full of the respective amounts to which the holders of all outstanding preferred stock are entitled, our entire remaining net assets will be distributed among the holders of each series of preferred stock in amounts proportional to the full amounts to which the holders of each series are entitled, subject to any provisions of any series of preferred stock that rank it junior or senior to other series of preferred stock upon liquidation. The applicable prospectus supplement will indicate the relative ranking of the particular series of the preferred stock upon liquidation, as compared with then-existing and future series of preferred stock.

Conversion, Redemption or Exchange Rights. The shares of a series of preferred stock will be convertible at the option of the holder of the preferred stock, redeemable at our option or the option of the holder, as applicable, or exchangeable at our option, into another security, in each case, to the extent set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Voting Rights. Except as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or as otherwise from time to time required by law, the holders of preferred stock will have no voting rights.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Our Amended and Restated By-Laws

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated by-laws contain certain provisions that may be deemed to have an anti-takeover effect and may delay, deter or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a stockholder might consider in its best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation also provides that any action required or permitted to be taken by the holders of common stock may be effected only at an annual or special meeting of such holders, and that stockholders may act in lieu of such meetings only by unanimous written consent. Our amended and restated by-laws provide that special meetings of holders of common stock may be called only by our Chairman or President or board of directors. Holders of common stock are not permitted to call a special meeting or to require that our board of directors call a special meeting of stockholders.

Our amended and restated by-laws establish an advance notice procedure for the nomination, other than by or at the direction of our board of directors, of candidates for election as directors as well as for other stockholder proposals to be considered at annual meetings of stockholders. In general, notice of intent to nominate a director or raise business at such meetings must be received by us not less than 90 nor more than 120 days prior to the date of the annual meeting and must contain certain specified information concerning the person to be nominated or the matters to be brought before the meeting and concerning the stockholder submitting the proposal.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that certain provisions of our amended and restated by-laws may only be amended by the affirmative vote of the holders of 75% of our outstanding shares entitled to vote. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation also provides that, in addition to any affirmative vote required by law, the affirmative vote of holders of 80% of our outstanding voting stock and two-thirds of the voting stock other than voting stock held by an interested stockholder shall be necessary to approve certain business combinations proposed by an interested stockholder.

Table of Contents

The foregoing summary is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated by-laws, copies of which have been filed with the SEC.

Section 203 of Delaware General Corporation Law

We are subject to the business combination statute of the DGCL. In general, such statute prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless:

- (1) such transaction is approved by our board of directors prior to the date the interested stockholder obtains such status,
- (2) upon consummation of such transaction, the interested stockholder beneficially owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding those shares owned by (a) persons who are directors and also officers and (b) employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer, or
- (3) the business combination is approved by our board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder.

A business combination includes mergers, asset sales and other transactions resulting in financial benefit to the interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns (or within three years, did own) beneficially 15% or more of a corporation's voting stock. The statute could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeover or change in control attempts with respect to us and, accordingly, may discourage attempts to acquire us.

Certain Effects of Authorized But Unissued Stock

Our authorized but unissued shares of common stock and preferred stock may be issued without additional stockholder approval and may be utilized for a variety of corporate purposes, including future offerings to raise additional capital or to facilitate corporate acquisitions.

The issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of us. The issuance of preferred stock could decrease the amount available for distribution to holders of our common stock or could adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of such holders. In certain circumstances, such issuance could have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

One of the effects of the existence of unissued and unreserved common stock or preferred stock may be to enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management, which could render more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of us by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise, and thereby protect the continuity of management. Such additional shares also could be used to dilute the stock ownership of persons seeking to obtain control of us.

We plan to issue additional shares of common stock in connection with our employee benefit plans. We do not currently have any plans to issue shares of preferred stock.

Limitation of Liability of Directors

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation contains a provision that limits the liability of our directors for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. Such limitation does not, however, affect the liability of a director (1) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders, (2) for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (3) in respect of certain unlawful

Table of Contents

dividend payments or stock redemptions or purchases and (4) for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit. The effect of this provision is to eliminate our rights and the rights of our stockholders (through stockholders' derivative suits) to recover monetary damages against a director for breach of the fiduciary duty of care as a director (including breaches resulting from negligent or grossly negligent behavior) except in the situations described in clauses (1) through (4) above. This provision does not limit or eliminate our rights or the rights of our stockholders to seek non-monetary relief such as an injunction or rescission in the event of a breach of a director's duty of care. In addition, our directors and officers have indemnification protection.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Wells Fargo Shareowner Services acts as transfer agent and registrar of our common stock.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MCK .

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

The following description of the depositary shares does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by the Deposit Agreement and the depositary receipt relating to the preferred stock that is attached to the Deposit Agreement. You should read these documents as they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of depositary shares. Forms of these documents have been filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

General

If we elect to offer fractional interests in shares of preferred stock, we will provide for the issuance by a depositary to the public of receipts for depositary shares. Each depositary share will represent fractional interests of preferred stock. We will deposit the shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares under a Deposit Agreement between us and a bank or trust company selected by us. The bank or trust company must have its principal office in the United States and a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50 million. The depositary receipts will evidence the depositary shares issued under the Deposit Agreement.

The Deposit Agreement will contain terms applicable to the holders of depositary shares in addition to the terms stated in the depositary receipts. Each owner of depositary shares will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares in proportion to the applicable fractional interest in the underlying shares of preferred stock. The depositary will issue the depositary receipts to individuals purchasing the fractional interests in shares of the related preferred stock according to the terms of the offering described in a prospectus supplement.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received for the preferred stock to the entitled record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the number of depositary shares that the holder owns on the relevant record date. The depositary will distribute only an amount that can be distributed without attributing to any holder of depositary shares a fraction of one cent. The depositary will add the undistributed balance to and treat it as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to holders of depositary shares.

If there is a non-cash distribution, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the entitled record holders of depositary shares, in proportion, insofar as possible, to the number of depositary shares owned by the holders, unless the depositary determines, after consultation with us, that it is not feasible to make such distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the holders. The Deposit Agreement also will contain provisions relating to

Table of Contents

how any subscription or similar rights that we may offer to holders of the preferred stock will be available to the holders of the depositary shares.

Conversion, Exchange and Redemption

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares may be converted or exchanged, each record holder of depositary receipts will have the right or obligation to convert or exchange the depositary shares represented by the depositary receipts.

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, at the same time, the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock. The depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds it receives from the corresponding redemption, in whole or in part, of the applicable series of preferred stock. The depositary will mail notice of redemption to the record holders of the depositary shares that are to be redeemed between 30 and 60 days before the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share on the applicable series of preferred stock. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary will select which shares to be redeemed by lot, proportionate allocation or any other method.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be outstanding. When the depositary shares are no longer outstanding, all rights of the holders will end, except the right to receive money, securities or other property payable upon redemption.

Voting

When the depositary receives notice of a meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the particulars of the meeting to the record holders of the depositary shares. Each record holder of depositary shares on the record date may instruct the depositary on how to vote the shares of preferred stock underlying the holder's depositary shares. The depositary will try, if practical, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares according to the instructions. The 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. We will agree to take all reasonable action requested by the depositary to enable it to vote as instructed.

Record Date

Whenever (1) any cash dividend or other cash distribution shall become payable, any distribution other than cash shall be made, or any rights, preferences or privileges shall be offered with respect to the preferred stock, or (2) the depositary shall receive notice of any meeting at which holders of preferred stock are entitled to vote or of which holders of preferred stock are entitled to notice, or of the mandatory conversion of or any election on our part to call for the redemption of any preferred stock, the depositary shall in each such instance fix a record date (which shall be the same as the record date for the preferred stock) for the determination of the holders of depositary receipts (x) who shall be entitled to receive such dividend, distribution, rights, preferences or privileges or the net proceeds of the sale thereof or (y) who shall be entitled to give instructions for the exercise of voting rights at any such meeting or to receive notice of such meeting or of such redemption or conversion, subject to the provisions of the Deposit Agreement.

Amendments

We and the depositary may agree to amend the Deposit Agreement and the depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares. Any amendment that (a) imposes or increases certain fees, taxes or other charges payable by the holders of the depositary shares as described in the Deposit Agreement or (b) otherwise prejudices any substantial existing right of holders of depositary shares, will not take effect until 30 days after the depositary has mailed notice of the amendment to the record holders of depositary shares. Any holder of depositary shares that continues to hold its shares at the end of the 30-day period will be deemed to have agreed to the amendment.

Table of Contents

Termination

We may direct the depository to terminate the Deposit Agreement by mailing a notice of termination to holders of depositary shares at least 30 days prior to termination. In addition, a Deposit Agreement will automatically terminate if:

the depository has redeemed all related outstanding depositary shares, or

we have liquidated, terminated or wound up our business and the depository has distributed the preferred stock of the relevant series to the holders of the related depositary shares.

The depository may likewise terminate the Deposit Agreement if at any time 60 days shall have expired after the depository shall have delivered to us a written notice of its election to resign and a successor depository shall not have been appointed and accepted its appointment. If any depository receipts remain outstanding after the date of termination, the depository thereafter will discontinue the transfer of depository receipts, will suspend the distribution of dividends to the holders thereof, and will not give any further notices (other than notice of such termination) or perform any further acts under the Deposit Agreement except as provided below and except that the depository will continue (1) to collect dividends on the preferred stock and any other distributions with respect thereto and (2) to deliver the preferred stock together with such dividends and distributions and the net proceeds of any sales of rights, preferences, privileges or other property, without liability for interest thereon, in exchange for depository receipts surrendered. At any time after the expiration of two years from the date of termination, the depository may sell the preferred stock then held by it at public or private sales, at such place or places and upon such terms as it deems proper and may thereafter hold the net proceeds of any such sale, together with any money and other property then held by it, without liability for interest thereon, for the pro rata benefit of the holders of depository receipts which have not been surrendered.

Payment of Fees and Expenses

We will pay all fees, charges and expenses of the depository, including the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary shares will pay transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges as are stated in the Deposit Agreement for their accounts.

Resignation and Removal of Depository

At any time, the depository may resign by delivering notice to us, and we may remove the depository. Resignations or removals will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depository and its acceptance of the appointment. The successor depository must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50 million.

Reports

The depository will forward to the holders of depositary shares all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the depository and that we are required by law, the rules of an applicable securities exchange or our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock. Neither we nor the depository will be liable if the depository is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstances beyond its control in performing its obligations under the Deposit Agreement. The Deposit Agreement limits our obligations and the depository's obligations to performance in good faith of the duties stated in the Deposit Agreement. Neither we nor the depository will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding connected with any depositary shares or

preferred stock unless the holders of depositary shares requesting us to do so furnish us with satisfactory indemnity. In performing our obligations, we and the depositary may rely upon the written advice of our counsel or accountants, on any information that competent people provide to us and on documents that we believe are genuine.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following descriptions of the debt securities do not purport to be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the indenture, which has been filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. Any future supplemental indenture or similar document also will be so filed. You should read the indenture and any supplemental indenture or similar document because they, and not this description, define your rights as holder of our debt securities. All capitalized terms have the meanings specified in the indenture.

We may issue, from time to time, debt securities, in one or more series, that will consist of either our senior debt (Senior Debt Securities), our senior subordinated debt (Senior Subordinated Debt Securities), our subordinated debt (Subordinated Debt Securities) or our junior subordinated debt (Junior Subordinated Debt Securities) and, together with the Senior Subordinated Debt Securities and the Subordinated Debt Securities, the Subordinated Securities). The debt securities we offer will be issued under an indenture between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. (formerly known as the Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), acting as trustee. Debt securities, whether senior, senior subordinated, subordinated or junior subordinated, may be issued as convertible debt securities or exchangeable debt securities.

General Terms of the Indenture

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt securities that we may issue. It provides that we may issue debt securities up to the principal amount that we may authorize and may be in any currency or currency unit designated by us. Except for the limitations on consolidation, merger and sale of all or substantially all of our assets contained in the indenture, the terms of the indenture do not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to afford holders of any debt securities protection with respect to our operations, financial condition or transactions involving us.

We may issue the debt securities issued under the indenture as discount securities, which means they may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount. These debt securities, as well as other debt securities that are not issued at a discount, may, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, be treated as if they were issued with original issue discount, or OID, because of interest payment and other characteristics. Special U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to debt securities issued with original issue discount will be described in more detail in any applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement for a series of debt securities that we issue will describe, among other things, the following terms of the offered debt securities:

the title;

the aggregate principal amount;

whether issued in fully registered form without coupons or in a form registered as to principal only with coupons or in bearer form with coupons;

whether issued in the form of one or more global securities and whether all or a portion of the principal amount of the debt securities is represented thereby;

the price or prices at which the debt securities will be issued;

the date or dates on which principal is payable;

the place or places where and the manner in which principal, premium or interest will be payable and the place or places where the debt securities may be presented for transfer and, if applicable, conversion or exchange;

interest rates, and the dates from which interest, if any, will accrue, and the dates when interest is payable;

the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of the extensions;

Table of Contents

our rights or obligations to redeem or purchase the debt securities, including sinking fund or partial redemption payments;

conversion or exchange provisions, if any, including conversion or exchange prices or rates and adjustments thereto;

the currency or currencies of payment of principal or interest;

the terms applicable to any debt securities issued at a discount from their stated principal amount;

the terms, if any, pursuant to which any debt securities will be subordinate to any of our other debt;

if the amount of payments of principal or interest is to be determined by reference to an index or formula, or based on a coin or currency other than that in which the debt securities are stated to be payable, the manner in which these amounts are determined and the calculation agent, if any, with respect thereto;

if other than the entire principal amount of the debt securities when issued, the portion of the principal amount payable upon acceleration of maturity as a result of a default on our obligations;

any provisions for the remarketing of the debt securities;

if applicable, covenants affording holders of debt protection with respect to our operations, financial condition or transactions involving us; and

any other specific terms of any debt securities.

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth certain U.S. federal income tax considerations for holders of any debt securities and the securities exchange or quotation system on which any debt securities are listed or quoted, if any.

Debt securities issued by us will be structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries, except to the extent any such subsidiary guarantees or is otherwise obligated to make payment on such debt securities.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, all securities of any one series need not be issued at the same time and may be issued from time to time without consent of any holder.

Senior Debt Securities

Payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, Senior Debt Securities will rank on a parity with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt.

Senior Subordinated Debt Securities

Payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, Senior Subordinated Debt Securities will be junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our unsubordinated debt. We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any Senior Subordinated Debt Securities the subordination terms of such securities as well as the aggregate amount of outstanding debt, as of the most recent practicable date, that by its terms would be

senior to the Senior Subordinated Debt Securities. We will also set forth in such prospectus supplement limitations, if any, on issuance of additional senior debt.

Subordinated Debt Securities

Payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, Subordinated Debt Securities will be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our unsubordinated and senior subordinated debt. We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any Subordinated Debt Securities the subordination terms of such securities as well as the aggregate amount of outstanding indebtedness, as of the most recent practicable date, that by its terms would be senior to the

Table of Contents

Subordinated Debt Securities. We will also set forth in such prospectus supplement limitations, if any, on issuance of additional senior debt.

Junior Subordinated Debt Securities

Payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, Junior Subordinated Debt Securities will be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our subordinated, senior subordinated and subordinated debt. We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any Junior Subordinated Debt Securities the subordination terms of such securities as well as the aggregate amount of outstanding debt, as of the most recent practicable date, that by its terms would be senior to the Junior Subordinated Debt Securities. We will also set forth in such prospectus supplement limitations, if any, on issuance of additional senior debt.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

Debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities or property of McKesson. The terms and conditions of conversion or exchange will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms will include, among others, the following:

- the conversion or exchange price;
- the conversion or exchange period;
- provisions regarding the ability of us or the holder to convert or exchange the debt securities;
- events requiring adjustment to the conversion or exchange price; and
- provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of our redemption of the debt securities.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

We cannot consolidate or merge with or into, or transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets to, any person unless (a) we will be the continuing corporation or (b) the successor corporation or person to which our assets are transferred or leased is a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia and it expressly assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture. In addition, we cannot effect such a transaction unless immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or event of default under the indenture shall have occurred and be continuing. Subject to certain exceptions, when the person to whom our assets are transferred or leased has assumed our obligations under the debt securities and the indenture, we shall be discharged from all our obligations under the debt securities and the indenture, except in limited circumstances.

This covenant would not apply to any recapitalization transaction, a change of control of McKesson or a highly leveraged transaction, unless the transaction or change of control were structured to include a merger or consolidation or transfer or lease of all or substantially all of our assets.

Events of Default

Unless otherwise indicated, the term Event of Default, when used in the indenture with respect to the debt securities of any series means any of the following:

Edgar Filing: MCKESSON CORP - Form 424B3

failure to pay interest for 30 days after the date payment on any debt security of such series is due and payable; provided that an extension of an interest payment period by McKesson in accordance with the terms of the debt securities shall not constitute a failure to pay interest;

failure to pay principal or premium, if any, on any debt security of such series when due, either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration or otherwise;

failure to make sinking fund payments when due;

Table of Contents

failure to perform any other covenant in the indenture or the debt securities of such series (other covenants) for 90 days after notice that performance was required;

events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of McKesson; or

any other Event of Default provided in the applicable resolution of our board of directors or the officers certificate or supplemental indenture under which we issue such series of debt securities.

An Event of Default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default for any other series of debt securities issued under the indenture. If an Event of Default relating to the payment of interest, principal or any sinking fund installment involving any series of debt securities has occurred and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each affected series may declare the entire principal of all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately.

If an Event of Default relating to the performance of other covenants occurs and is continuing for a period of 90 days after notice of such, or if any other Event of Default occurs and is continuing involving all of the series of Senior Debt Securities, then the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of all of the series of Senior Debt Securities may declare the entire principal amount of all of the series of Senior Debt Securities due and payable immediately.

Similarly, if an Event of Default relating to the performance of other covenants occurs and is continuing for a period of 90 days after notice of such, or if any other Event of Default occurs and is continuing involving all of the series of Subordinated Securities, then the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of all of the series of Subordinated Securities may declare the entire principal amount of all of the series of Subordinated Securities due and payable immediately.

If, however, the Event of Default relating to the performance of other covenants or any other Event of Default that has occurred and is continuing is for less than all of the series of Senior Debt Securities or Subordinated Securities, as the case may be, then, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of each affected series of the Senior Debt Securities or the Subordinated Securities, as the case may be, may declare the entire principal amount of all debt securities of such affected series due and payable immediately. The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of a series may, after satisfying conditions, rescind and annul any of the above-described declarations and consequences involving the series.

If an Event of Default relating to events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of McKesson occurs and is continuing, then the principal amount of all of the debt securities outstanding, and any accrued interest, will automatically become due and payable immediately, without any declaration or other act by the trustee or any holder.

The indenture imposes limitations on suits brought by holders of debt securities against us. Except as provided below, no holder of debt securities of any series may institute any action against us under the indenture unless:

the holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of default and continuance of that default,

the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the affected series have requested that the trustee institute the action,

the requesting holders have offered the trustee reasonable security or indemnity satisfactory to it for expenses and liabilities that may be incurred by bringing the action,

the trustee has not instituted the action within 60 days of the request, and

the trustee has not received inconsistent direction by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the affected series.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, each holder of debt securities of any series has the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment of the principal of, and premium and interest, if any, on, such

Table of Contents

debt securities when due and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment, and such rights may not be impaired without the consent of that holder of debt securities.

We will be required to file annually with the Trustee a certificate, signed by an officer of McKesson, stating whether or not the officer knows of any default by us in the performance, observance or fulfillment of any condition or covenant of the indenture.

Registered Global Securities

We may issue the debt securities of a series in whole or in part in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that we will deposit with a depository or with a nominee for a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of such depository or nominee. In such case, we will issue one or more registered global securities denominated in an amount equal to the aggregate principal amount of all of the debt securities of the series to be issued and represented by such registered global security or securities.

Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole:

- by the depository for such registered global security to its nominee,
- by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository, or
- by the depository or its nominee to a successor of the depository or a nominee of the successor.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any portion of such series represented by a registered global security. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depository arrangements for debt securities:

- ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons that have accounts with the depository for the registered global security, those persons being referred to as participants, or persons that may hold interests through participants;
- upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depository for the registered global security will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal amounts of the debt securities represented by the registered global security beneficially owned by the participants;
- any dealers, underwriters, or agents participating in the distribution of the debt securities will designate the accounts to be credited; and
- ownership of any beneficial interest in the registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of any ownership interest will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository for the registered global security (with respect to interests of participants) and on the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons holding through participants).

The laws of some states may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities in definitive form. These laws may limit the ability of those persons to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

So long as the depositary for a registered global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of the registered global security, the depositary or the nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security:

will not be entitled to have the debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in their names,

Table of Contents

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the debt securities in the definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the debt securities under the indenture.

Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for the registered global security and, if the person is not a participant, on the procedures of a participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture.

We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the indenture, the depositary for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take the action, and those participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through those participants to give or take the action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

We will make payments of principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owners of the registered global security. None of McKesson, the trustee or any other agent of McKesson or the trustee will be responsible or liable for any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to the beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary for any debt securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payments of principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, in respect of the registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the registered global security as shown on the records of the depositary. We also expect that standing customer instructions and customary practices will govern payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the registered global security held through the participants, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. We also expect that any of these payments will be the responsibility of the participants.

If the depositary for any debt securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, we will appoint an eligible successor depositary. If we fail to appoint an eligible successor depositary within 90 days, we will issue the debt securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion decide not to have any of the debt securities of a series represented by one or more registered global securities. In such event, we will issue debt securities of that series in a definitive form in exchange for all of the registered global securities representing the debt securities. The trustee will register any debt securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security in such name or names as the depositary, based upon instructions from its participants, shall instruct the trustee.

We may also issue bearer debt securities of a series in the form of one or more global securities, referred to as bearer global securities. We will deposit these bearer global securities with a common depositary for Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. and Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, or with a nominee for the depositary identified in the prospectus supplement relating to that series. The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities represented by a bearer global security will describe the specific terms and procedures, including the specific terms of the depositary arrangement and any specific procedures for the issuance of debt securities in definitive form in exchange for a bearer global security, with respect to the portion of the series represented by a bearer global security.

Table of Contents

Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

We can discharge or defease our obligations under the indenture as set forth below. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the subordination provisions applicable to any Subordinated Securities will be expressly made subject to the discharge and defeasance provisions of the indenture.

We may discharge our obligations to holders of any series of debt securities that have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and that have either become due and payable or are by their terms to become due and payable within one year (or are scheduled for redemption within one year). We may effect a discharge by irrevocably depositing with the trustee cash or U.S. government obligations, as trust funds, in an amount certified to be sufficient to pay when due, whether at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities and any mandatory sinking fund payments.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may also discharge any and all of our obligations to holders of any series of debt securities at any time (legal defeasance). We also may be released from the obligations imposed by any covenants of any outstanding series of debt securities and provisions of the indenture, and we may omit to comply with those covenants without creating an Event of Default (covenant defeasance). We may effect legal defeasance and covenant defeasance only if, among other things:

we irrevocably deposit with the trustee cash or U.S. government obligations, as trust funds, in an amount certified to be sufficient to pay when due (whether at maturity, upon redemption, or otherwise) the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on all outstanding debt securities of the series; and

we deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel from a nationally recognized law firm to the effect that the holders of the series of debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the legal defeasance or covenant defeasance and that legal defeasance or covenant defeasance will not otherwise alter the holders' U.S. federal income tax treatment of principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on the series of debt securities, which opinion, in the case of legal defeasance, must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service, or a change in U.S. federal income tax law.

Although we may discharge or defease our obligations under the indenture as described in the two preceding paragraphs, we may not avoid, among other things, our duty to register the transfer or exchange of any series of debt securities, to replace any temporary, mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen series of debt securities or to maintain an office or agency in respect of any series of debt securities.

Modification of the Indenture

The indenture provides that we and the trustee may enter into supplemental indentures without the consent of the holders of debt securities to:

- secure any debt securities,
- evidence the assumption by a successor corporation of our obligations,
- add covenants for the protection of the holders of debt securities,
- cure any ambiguity or correct any inconsistency in the indenture,
- establish the forms or terms of debt securities of any series and

evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee.

The indenture also provides that we and the trustee may, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of debt securities of all series of Senior Debt Securities or Subordinated Securities, as the case may be, then outstanding and affected thereby (voting as one class), add any provisions to, or change in any manner, eliminate or modify in any way the provisions of, the indenture or

Table of Contents

modify in any manner the rights of the holders of the debt securities. We and the trustee may not, however, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

extend the final maturity of any debt security;

reduce the principal amount or premium, if any;

reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest;

reduce any amount payable on redemption;

change the currency in which the principal (other than as may be provided otherwise with respect to a series), premium, if any, or interest is payable;

reduce the amount of the principal of any debt security issued with an original issue discount that is payable upon acceleration or provable in bankruptcy;

modify any of the subordination provisions or the definition of senior indebtedness applicable to any Subordinated Securities in a manner adverse to the holders of those securities;

alter provisions of the indenture relating to the debt securities not denominated in U.S. dollars;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on any debt security when due; or

reduce the percentage of holders of debt securities of any series whose consent is required for any modification of the indenture.

Concerning the Trustee

The indenture provides that there may be more than one trustee under the indenture, each with respect to one or more series of debt securities. If there are different trustees for different series of debt securities, each trustee will be a trustee of a trust under the indenture separate and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee under the indenture. Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, any action permitted to be taken by a trustee may be taken by such trustee only with respect to the one or more series of debt securities for which it is the trustee under the indenture. Any trustee under the indenture may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities. All payments of principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on, and all registration, transfer, exchange, authentication and delivery (including authentication and delivery on original issuance of the debt securities) of, the debt securities of a series will be effected by the trustee with respect to that series at an office designated by the trustee in New York, New York.

The indenture contains limitations on the right of the trustee, should it become a creditor of McKesson, to obtain payment of claims in some cases or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise. The trustee may engage in other transactions. If it acquires any conflicting interest relating to any duties with respect to the debt securities, however, it must eliminate the conflict or resign as trustee.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of any series of debt securities then outstanding will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for exercising any remedy available to the trustee with respect to such series of debt securities, provided that the direction would not conflict with any rule of law or with the indenture, would not be unduly prejudicial to the rights of another holder of the debt securities, and would

not involve any trustee in personal liability. The indenture provides that in case an Event of Default shall occur and be known to any trustee and not be cured, the trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would use in the conduct of his or her own affairs in the exercise of the trustee's power. Subject to these provisions, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request of any of the holders of the debt securities, unless they shall have offered to the trustee security and indemnity satisfactory to the trustee.

Table of Contents

No Individual Liability of Incorporators, Stockholders, Officers or Directors

The indenture provides that no incorporator and no past, present or future stockholder, officer or director, of McKesson or any successor corporation in their capacity as such shall have any individual liability for any of our obligations, covenants or agreements under the debt securities or the indenture.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, including, without limitation, Sections 5-1401 and 5-1402 of the New York General Obligations Law and New York Civil Practice Law and Rules 327(b).

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

General

We may issue debt warrants for the purchase of debt securities or stock warrants for the purchase of preferred stock or common stock.

The warrants will be issued under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all to be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any or all warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered. Copies of the form of agreement for each warrant, including the forms of certificates representing the warrants reflecting the provisions to be included in such agreements that will be entered into with respect to the particular offerings of each type of warrant are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The following description sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the warrants to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The particular terms of the warrants to which any prospectus supplement may relate and the extent, if any, to which such general provisions may apply to the warrants so offered will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following summary of certain provisions of the warrants, warrant agreements and warrant certificates does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by express reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreements and warrant certificates, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

Debt Warrants

General. Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of debt warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, the debt securities warrant agreement relating to such debt warrants and the debt warrant certificates representing such debt warrants, including the following:

the designation, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of such debt warrants and the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of such debt warrants;

the designation and terms of any related debt securities with which such debt warrants are issued and the number of such debt warrants issued with each such debt security;

the date, if any, on and after which such debt warrants and any related offered securities will be separately transferable;

the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of each debt warrant and the price at which such principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

the date on which the right to exercise such debt warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

a discussion of the material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the ownership or exercise of debt warrants;

Table of Contents

whether the debt warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form, and, if registered, where they may be transferred and registered;

call provisions of such debt warrants, if any; and

any other terms of the debt warrants.

The debt warrant certificates will be exchangeable for new debt warrant certificates of different denominations and debt warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their debt warrants, holders of debt warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise and will not be entitled to any payments of principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise.

Exercise of Debt Warrants. Each debt warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash such principal amount of debt securities at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the debt warrants offered thereby. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt warrants may be exercised at any time up to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date, unexercised debt warrants will become void.

Debt warrants may be exercised as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the debt warrants. Upon receipt of payment and the debt warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the debt warrants represented by such debt warrant certificate are exercised, a new debt warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of debt warrants.

Stock Warrants

General. Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of stock warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, the stock warrant agreement relating to such stock warrants and the stock warrant certificates representing such stock warrants, including the following:

the type and number of shares of preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise of such stock warrants and the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of such stock warrants;

the date, if any, on and after which such stock warrants and related offered securities will be separately tradeable;

the offering price of such stock warrants, if any;

the initial price at which such shares may be purchased upon exercise of stock warrants and any provision with respect to the adjustment thereof;

the date on which the right to exercise such stock warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

a discussion of the material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the ownership or exercise of stock warrants;

call provisions of such stock warrants, if any;

any other terms of the stock warrants;

anti-dilution provisions of the stock warrants, if any; and

information relating to any preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of such stock warrants.

The stock warrant certificates will be exchangeable for new stock warrant certificates of different denominations and stock warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any

Table of Contents

other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their stock warrants, holders of stock warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of shares of capital stock purchasable upon such exercise, and will not be entitled to any dividend payments on such capital stock purchasable upon such exercise.

Exercise of Stock Warrants. Each stock warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash such number of shares of preferred stock or common stock, as the case may be, at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the stock warrants offered thereby. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, stock warrants may be exercised at any time up to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date, unexercised stock warrants will become void.

Stock warrants may be exercised as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating thereto. Upon receipt of payment and the stock warrant certificates properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward a certificate representing the number of shares of capital stock purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the stock warrants represented by such stock warrant certificate are exercised, a new stock warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of stock warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts, representing contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and requiring us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock at a future date or dates. The price per share of common stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as a part of units, or stock purchase units, consisting of a stock purchase contract and either (x) senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities, or (y) debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, in each case, securing the holder's obligations to purchase the common stock under the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase contracts or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner and in certain circumstances we may deliver newly issued prepaid stock purchase contracts, or prepaid securities, upon release to a holder of any collateral securing such holder's obligations under the original stock purchase contract.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units and, if applicable, prepaid securities. The description in the prospectus supplement will not purport to be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the stock purchase contracts, the collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements, if applicable, relating to such stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units and, if applicable, the prepaid securities and the document pursuant to which such prepaid securities will be issued.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

McKesson may sell common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities, warrants, stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

to or through underwriters or dealers;

by itself directly;

Table of Contents

through agents; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

The prospectus supplements relating to an offering of offered securities will set forth the terms of such offering, including:

the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the offered securities and the proceeds to McKesson from the sale;

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

any initial public offering price, any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchanges on which such offered securities may be listed.

Any initial public offering prices, discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the offered securities for their own account and may resell them from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The offered securities may be offered either to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or by one or more underwriters without a syndicate. Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any series of securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities if any are purchased.

In connection with underwritten offerings of the offered securities and in accordance with applicable law and industry practice, underwriters may over-allot or effect transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities at levels above those that might otherwise prevail in the open market, including by entering stabilizing bids, effecting syndicate covering transactions or imposing penalty bids, each of which is described below.

A stabilizing bid means the placing of any bid, or the effecting of any purchase, for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of a security.

A syndicate covering transaction means the placing of any bid on behalf of the underwriting syndicate or the effecting of any purchase to reduce a short position created in connection with the offering.

A penalty bid means an arrangement that permits the managing underwriter to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member in connection with the offering when offered securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in syndicate covering transactions.

These transactions may be effected on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market, or otherwise. Underwriters are not required to engage in any of these activities, or to continue such activities if commenced.

If a dealer is used in the sale, McKesson will sell such offered securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the offered securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by that dealer at the time for resale.

The names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to that transaction.

Offered securities may be sold directly by McKesson to one or more institutional purchasers, or through agents designated by McKesson from time to time, at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by McKesson to such agent will be set forth, in the prospectus supplement relating to that offering. Unless otherwise indicated in such prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Table of Contents

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments that the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make in respect thereof. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Other than our common stock, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, each of the securities issued hereunder will be a new issue of securities, will have no prior trading market, and may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Any common stock sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, subject to official notice of issuance. Any underwriters to whom McKesson sells securities for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot assure you that there will be a market for the offered securities.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities being offered hereby is being passed upon for McKesson Corporation by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Los Angeles, California.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, the related financial statement schedule, incorporated in this prospectus by reference from McKesson Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

\$

McKesson Corporation

\$ % Notes due 2016

\$ % Notes due 2021

\$ % Notes due 2041

Prospectus Supplement

February , 2011

BofA Merrill Lynch

J.P. Morgan