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## Section Highlights

# HEALTH SECTION

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**TRANSFORMATION WITHIN** the health care system makes the present such an interesting time to be a health actuary. In addition to the Affordable Care Act, the entire health care system is changing before our eyes.

The Health Section is undertaking a broad, multiyear effort to delve into topics involving these dynamic areas within the health care system. Our Health System Evolution Initiative is an effort both to further our profession's understanding of the topic, and to establish ourselves as thought leaders outside of the profession. We seek to answer questions and acquire outside perspectives regarding risk and opportunity, with respect to both the industry as a whole and the actuarial profession specifically.

The first area of focus is the individual market and exchanges. Highly variant pricing and the politicized nature of this topic present serious reputational risk to our profession if not handled in a proactive manner. The core of this work is to get ahead of the things

we, as actuaries, find foreseeable, by presenting information in a way that can be well understood by those outside the profession. Our hope in doing so is to allow for more informed conversation about the challenges and possible solutions. Our initial efforts will be to interpret emerging data and look at how players in the industry are likely to respond to risk protection removals in 2017.

The second area of focus underway is accountable value-based care. There are many professionals in the health care industry working in this space, and it is our challenge as an actuarial profession to determine how we can contribute to developing the next generation of solutions in a way that ensures focus on financial performance. We are building the skill sets and understanding within the actuarial community to accomplish this. Understanding external points of view and the expertise that comes with them is also a key element of this effort. Actuarial and nonactuarial perspectives need to be brought together to further

the discussion and develop new solutions.

There is a lot of work and change going on in the health care industry, and these areas are just a few examples. If you are interested in the work we are doing in these areas, please reach out to either me or Kara Clark ([kara.clark@walgreens.com](mailto:kara.clark@walgreens.com))! **A**

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