

Aetna Sees Small Improvement In Exchange Market, Still Concerned With CMS Policies

Aetna CEO Mark Bertolini told investors in a recent earnings call that the insurer's individual business ended 2015 slightly better than had been expected but remains unprofitable, adding he continues to have serious concerns about the sustainability of the public exchanges and related CMS policies.

These concerns include the special enrollment periods, lack of transparency and predictability in the risk adjustment program, and the newly-proposed CMS regulations on standardized plans and network adequacy, which could limit issuers' ability to offer affordable, innovative plans on the exchanges.

"We continue to work constructively with CMS and lawmakers to set this program on a more sustainable path and achieve the underlying goal of making healthcare more affordable and accessible," Bertolini said in prepared remarks.

Bertolini said at the JP Morgan healthcare conference last month it was too early for Aetna to exit the exchange market. He did not retreat from that position but made clear changes are needed.