

CVS, Aetna deal may reshape health industry

By Michael J. de la Merced and Reed Abelson, New York Times

CVS Health said on Sunday that it had agreed to buy Aetna for about \$69 billion in a deal that would combine the drugstore giant with one of the biggest health insurers in the United States and has the potential to reshape the nation's health care industry.

The transaction, one of the largest of the year, reflects the increasingly blurred lines between the traditionally separate spheres of a rapidly changing industry and represents an effort to make both companies more appealing to consumers as health care that was once delivered in a doctor's office more often reaches consumers over the phone, at a retail clinic or via an app.

The merger could position the combined entity as a formidable figure in a changing health care landscape where many of the players are trying to lower the high cost of care.

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