# Deutsche Bank Research

# Rating Buy

North America United States

Health Care

Healthcare Technology & Distribution

Reuters ESRX.00

Bloomberg ESRX US

**Express Scripts Inc** 

Exchange Ticker NSM ESRX

# Oppty Ahead of CI Shareholder Vote -Risk/Reward Skews Positive

Company

Bottom Line: ~1.5X Downside/Upside Heading into August 24 CI & ESRX Shareholder Votes, But Believe High Likelihood CI Vote Will Be Favorable

The current CI/ESRX deal spread (16.8%) has come in substantially over the past few weeks (average spread since deal announced - 20.2%; max spread -32.6%) as we head towards the August 24th shareholder votes. In the event that the deal receives shareholder approval, we see high-single-digit upside in shares of ESRX over the next ~30 days, assuming a post-approval spread more in-line with CVS/AET's current spread of 5.9%. We acknowledge that a favorable shareholder vote and subsequent spread contraction may not entirely accrue to ESRX shareholders, as the value of CI is likely to also fluctuate given the mixed reaction in CI shares following the deal announcement. In the event that CI shareholders do not approve the deal, we see significant, double-digit downside in ESRX (~12-15%) as the stand-alone PBM business model faces a number of structural challenges, including most recently, renewed concerns around the sustainability of rebates and AMZN's entry into mail order pharmacy via PillPack. We are maintaining our Buy rating and \$87 PT based on this proposed deal, and our expectation that both sets of shareholders will vote in favor of the deal, as we continue believe that fundamentals do not support the current valuation.

#### CI & ESRX Shareholder Votes on August 24, Record Date Was Set as of July 10

CI shareholders will vote on the proposed ESRX acquisition on August 24th, although we note the solicitation firm will be collecting votes over the next 2-3 weeks. This is a highly anticipated event as CI's volatile share performance and relative underperformance since the announcement has highlighted investor concerns over the proposed transaction. Given similar regulatory risks for both CVS/AET (5.9% spread) and CI/ESRX (16.8% spread), we suspect the delta between the two is largely representative of the uncertainty surrounding the shareholder vote. While we believe that both deals will ultimately be completed, we recognize the heightened risk surrounding the August 24th shareholder vote and understand that speculation of shareholder opposition increases the volatility in the deal spread near term. As an example, on Wednesday July 18th the spread widened by 5% - and it is our sense that this was largely driven by some unusual options activity around the date of the shareholder votes. We would note, however, that the record date for the CI shareholder vote had already been set at July 10th, and thus we are not reading too much into this options activity given the list of shareholders was already set (more than a week prior to this activity). Further increasing our confidence is the fact that we cannot think of a single instance where the shareholders of the acquiring company did NOT vote in favor of the deal. We believe it is reasonable to think, particularly given the volatility

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# Date 25 July 2018 Company Update

Price at 24 Jul 2018	79.39
Price target	87.00
52-week range	82.24 - 56.81

#### Valuation & Risks

Glen Santangelo Research Analyst +1-212-250-1500

#### Nick Feinman

Research Associate +1-212-250-8368

#### Vikram Kesavabhotla

Research Associate

+1-212-250-7103

#### Gerard Campagna, CFA

Research Associate

+1-212-250-1174

Key changes
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EPS (USD)	-	$\downarrow$	-0.1%
Revenue (USDm)	100,719 to 101,264	$\uparrow$	0.5%
Source: Deutsche Bank			

Distributed on: 26/07/2018 01:06:07 GMT



in CI shares post the deal announcement, that some number of the shareholders which opposed the transaction "voted with their feet" and sold the shares. We would also highlight that CI only needs a >50% (majority) of the shareholders to vote in favor of the deal. We note the top-15 shareholders own ~45% of the company, and we are not aware of any of them openly opposing the deal. Lastly, given the significant downside risk in ESRX shares in the event of a negative vote, we do not see material risk in the ESRX shareholder vote.

# Upside in Wake of Vote Approval - Assumes ~17% Spread Narrows In-line with CVS/AET ~6% Spread

With a current deal spread of 16.8%, we see high-single-digit upside for ESRX in the event that CI shareholders approve the deal. Given the relatively similar nature of CI/ESRX and CVS/AET (already received shareholder approval), we believe that in the event of a favorable CI shareholder vote the deal spread for CI/ESRX would likely narrow to be more roughly in line with 5.9% CVS/AET spread. Moreover, we note that CI shares are down ~9% since the initial announcement while UNH and ANTM are up 12% and 7% respectively, over the same time frame, suggesting to us that shares of CI will likely also experience volatility tied to the outcome of the shareholder vote. Looking beyond the shareholder votes, we continue to believe both CVS/AET and CI/ESRX deals will pass regulatory review, suggesting additional upside post approval.

#### ESRX - Significant Downside (12-15%) in a Deal Break Scenario

In the event the CI/ESRX shareholder vote is not positive, investors will quickly need to re-evaluate ESRX on a stand-alone basis. We continue to believe the PBM industry faces a number of structural issues that could challenge ESRX over the longer-term, and some of these are exacerbated due to their independent status (Caremark (CVS) and Optum (UNH) likely have more flexibility to lead with price as part of a broader enterprise). This includes the renewed concern around the sustainability of rebates and greater scrutiny of ESRX's mail-order business, as investors assess the potential competitive impact of PillPack under Amazon's ownership. That said, ESRX does benefit from a strong balance sheet and cash flow generation, which we note would only be aided by the \$1.6bn break up fee in the event CI shareholders do not approve the transaction. This creates significant flexibility for share repurchases or other accretive capital deployment. With these puts and takes in mind, we estimate ESRX can generate F19 adjusted EPS ex-ANTM of \$6.32, which does not include any benefit from share repurchases. In our sensitivity analysis in the body of our note we estimate that a \$3 billion ASR program executed at the start of 2019 could add \$0.51 (8%) to Core EPS. It is worth noting that the level of repurchases could be meaningfully higher, as we anticipate ESRX is accumulating cash at an accelerated rate in the absence of share repurchases, even after requisite debt repayments to reach it's target leverage post ANTM. We include a sensitivity analysis of share repurchases on Page 3, which assumes a range of break-up multiples and ASR amounts. From a valuation perspective, we think it is reasonable to assume that in a deal-break scenario ESRX will garner a multiple similar to other supply-chain peers of ~10x core (ex-ANTM) earnings. Using our F19 estimate of \$6.32 plus the benefit of a \$3 billion ASR (\$0.51), a 10x PE multiple consistent with other supply channel peers would imply a price of ~\$68, or 13% below the current price. While we continue to believe the shareholder votes will be supportive and the transaction will receive regulatory approval, we thought it would be helpful for investors to appreciate the downside scenario. Please see the body of our note for more details on our estimates.

#### Rating & Price Target

We are maintaining our Buy rating based solely on the prospects of the deal, as we believe the current fundamentals do not support the current valuation/share price. We are also maintaining our \$87 PT, which assuming CI shares remain flat from current levels, would imply a spread of ~5-6%, which we believe is more reasonable/typical given the expected timing of the transaction. As a reminder, CI has guided that it expects to be able to close the transaction by the end of 2018. From a valuation perspective, our \$87 PT implies a near 14x P/E multiple of shares of ESRX (F19 ex-ANTM \$6.32), which we noted above our estimate conservatively does not include the benefit of a break-up fee or any capital deployment in the event of a deal-break.

# Financial Review, Deal Spreads and Break Analysis

Below we detail our ESRX estimates both consolidated and ex-ANTM. Importantly, these estimates do not assume any share repurchases.

#### Figure 1: Express Scripts Financial Summary

ESRX - Financial Snapshot							
(\$ in millions)	2017	2018e	2019e	2020e	2021e		
Core ESRX							
Revenue	81,273	82,593	83,178	84,507	85,850		
Adj Rx	1,165	1,135	1,132	1,147	1,170		
Growth	-0.4%	-2.5%	-0.2%	1.3%	2.0%		
Adj EBITDA	5,043	5,374	5,522	5,658	5,794		
Growth	3.2%	6.6%	2.8%	2.4%	2.4%		
Margin	6.2%	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.7%		
eviCore EBITDA (est)	-	282	310	332	348		
EBITDA/Rx (ex-eviCore)	\$4.33	\$4.49	\$4.60	\$4.64	\$4.66		
Adj EPS	\$4.59	\$6.04	\$6.32	\$6.49	\$6.61		
Growth	8.2%	31.7%	4.6%	2.8%	1.7%		
Anthem							
Revenue	18,792	18,670	19,759	12,524	4,775		
Adj Rx	235	232	239	150	57		
Growth	6.9%	-1.0%	2.8%	-37.2%	-62.0%		
Adj EBITDA	2,374	2,369	2,406	1,047	358		
Growth	5.6%	-0.2%	1.5%	-56.5%	-65.8%		
Margin	12.6%	12.7%	12.2%	8.4%	7.5%		
EBITDA/Rx	\$10.11	\$10.20	\$10.08	\$6.98	\$6.28		
Adj EPS	\$2.51	\$3.04	\$3.06	\$1.31	\$0.44		
Growth	16.6%	21.1%	0.7%	-57.2%	-66.7%		
Consolidated							
Revenue	100,065	101,264	102,937	97,030	90,625		
Adj Rx	1,401	1,368	1,371	1,297	1,227		
Growth	-0.5%	-2.4%	0.3%	-5.4%	-5.4%		
Adj EBITDA	7,417	7,743	7,928	6,704	6,152		
Growth	2.2%	4.4%	2.4%	-15.4%	-8.2%		
Margin	7.4%	7.6%	7.7%	6.9%	6.8%		
EBITDA/Rx	\$5.29	\$5.66	\$5.78	\$5.17	\$5.01		
Adj EPS	\$7.10	\$9.08	\$9.38	\$7.80	\$7.04		
Growth	11.0%	27.9%	3.3%	-16.8%	-9.8%		

Source: Company Data, Deutsche Bank

Our F19 ESRX adjusted EPS estimate ex-ANTM is \$6.32, not including any benefit from share repurchases. We estimate that a \$3 billion ASR conducted at the start of 2019 could add \$0.51, or roughly 8% to Adj EPS (\$6.82) in a dealbreak scenario. ESRX benefits from a high level of free cash flow, which will only be aided by a \$1.6 billion break-up fee in the event that the transaction is not approved by shareholders. This allows the opportunity to increase share repurchases even more meaningfully. On the other hand, it is also worth noting that any negative impact to ESRX's EBITDA outlook would ultimately limit free cash flow flexibility. In Figure 3, we display a sensitivity analysis to evaluate the range of impacts from share repurchases.

Figure	2: Express	Scripts A	Accretion	Analysis

ASR Accretion Analysis	
(\$ in millions)	
Current Share Price 2019 EPS (ex-ANTM) P/E ratio (current)	\$78.75 \$6.32 12.5x
Share repurchase amount (\$) Purchase price (break scenario) Impact on weighted avg diluted S/O	3,000 \$70.00 42.9
Accretion/Dilution	\$0.51
% 2019 EPS Including Accretion Break multiple ESRX Break Share Price	8.0% \$6.82 <b>10.0x</b> <b>\$68.25</b>
Downside to Break (including ASR)	(13.3%)

Source: Company Data, DB estimates

Figure 3:	Deal-Br	eak Sen	sitivity A	Analysis	(\$)		Figure 4:	Deal-Br	eak Sen	sitivity A	Analysis	(%)	
			Size of	ASR						Size of	ASR		
		\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000			\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
	8.0x	\$51.82	\$53.17	\$54.60	\$56.10	\$57.69		8.0x	(34.2%)	(32.5%)	(30.7%)	(28.8%)	(26.7%)
Break-up	9.0x	\$58.29	\$59.82	\$61.42	\$63.11	\$64.90	Break-up	9.0x	(26.0%)	(24.0%)	(22.0%)	(19.9%)	(17.6%)
Multiple	10.0x	\$64.77	\$66.46	\$68.25	\$70.13	\$72.11	Multiple	10.0x	(17.8%)	(15.6%)	(13.3%)	(11.0%)	(8.4%)
wuitiple	11.0x	\$71.25	\$73.11	\$75.07	\$77.14	\$79.32	watchie	11.0x	(9.5%)	(7.2%)	(4.7%)	(2.0%)	0.7%
	12.0x	\$77.73	\$79.76	\$81.89	\$84.15	\$86.53		12.0x	(1.3%)	1.3%	4.0%	6.9%	9.9%
Source: Deutsche	Bank						Source: Deutsche L	Bank					

In Figures 5 and 6, we highlight the current and historical CI/ESRX and CVS/AET deal spreads, which currently stand at 16.8% and 5.9%, respectively.

Figure 5: Cigna - Express Scripts Deal S	pread Overview
CI - ESRX	
Cigna Current Price	\$177.50
Number of shares per ESRX share	0.2434
Value per ESRX share	\$43.20
Cash per ESRX Share	\$48.75
Total	\$91.95
Express Scripts Current Price	\$78.75
Current Spread	16.8%
Average Spread (since 3/8/18)	20.2%
Max Spread (since 3/8/18)	32.6%
Min Spread (since 3/8/18)	11.2%

#### Figure 6: CVS - Aetna Deal Spread Overview

CVS - AET	
CVS Health Current Price	\$65.99
Number of shares per AET share	0.8378
Value per AET share	\$55.29
Cash per AET Share	\$145.00
Total	\$200.29
Aetna Current Price	\$189.12
Current Spread	5.9%
Average Spread (since 12/4/17)	12.7%
Max Spread (since 12/4/17)	17.0%
Min Spread (since 12/4/17)	5.4%

Source:FactSet, Deutsche Bank





#### Figure 8: CVS - Aetna Historical Deal Spread



Source:Factset, Deutsche Bank



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### \*Other information available upon request

Disclosure checklist			
Company	Ticker	Recent price*	Disclosure
Express Scripts Inc	ESRX.OQ	79.39 (USD) 24 Jul 2018	2, 14, 15

\*Prices are current as of the end of the previous trading session unless otherwise indicated and are sourced from local exchanges via Reuters, Bloomberg and other vendors. Other information is sourced from Deutsche Bank, subject companies, and other sources. For disclosures pertaining to recommendations or estimates made on securities other than the primary subject of this research, please see the most recently published company report or visit our global disclosure look-up page on our website at <a href="https://research.db.com/Research/Disclosures/CompanySearch">https://research.db.com/Research.db

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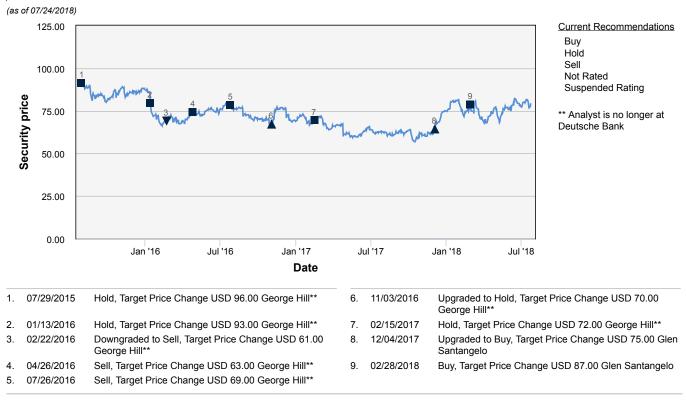
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#### Historical recommendations and target price. Express Scripts Inc (ESRX.OQ)



#### Equity Rating Key

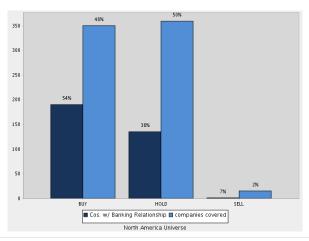
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#### David Folkerts-Landau Group Chief Economist and Global Head of Research

Raj Hindocha Global Chief Operating Officer Research

Anthony Klarman Global Head of Debt Research Michael Spencer Head of APAC Research Global Head of Economics Steve Pollard Head of Americas Research Global Head of Equity Research

Paul Reynolds Head of EMEA Equity Research Dave Clark Head of APAC Equity Research Pam Finelli Global Head of Equity Derivatives Research

Andreas Neubauer Head of Research - Germany Spyros Mesomeris Global Head of Quantitative and QIS Research

#### **International Production Locations**

#### Deutsche Bank AG

Deutsche Bank Place Level 16 Corner of Hunter & Phillip Streets Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia Tel: (61) 2 8258 1234

Deutsche Bank AG London

1 Great Winchester Street London EC2N 2EQ United Kingdom Tel: (44) 20 7545 8000

Mainzer Landstrasse 11-17

60329 Frankfurt am Main

**Deutsche Bank AG** 

Tel: (49) 69 910 00

Germany

Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. 60 Wall Street New York, NY 10005 United States of America Tel: (1) 212 250 2500

### Deutsche Bank AG

Filiale Hongkong International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Road West,Kowloon, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2203 8888 Deutsche Securities Inc. 2-11-1 Nagatacho Sanno Park Tower Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-6171

Tel: (81) 3 5156 6770

Japan