

AMEDISYS INC
Form S-3
December 10, 2003

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December ____, 2003

Registration No. 333-____

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Amedisys, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or organization)

11-3131700
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

11100 Mead Road, Suite 300
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816
(225) 292-2031 or (800) 467-2662

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

William F. Borne
Chief Executive Officer
Amedisys, Inc.
11100 Mead Road, Suite 300
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816
(225) 292-2031 or (800) 467-2662

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:

From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement, as determined by the selling security holders.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

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If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. x

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box. o

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(3) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3)(4) | Amount of Registration Fee |
|--|-------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share(1) | 1,900,000 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 28,500,000 | \$ 2,306.00 |
| Shares of Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share, reserved for issuance(1)(2) | 95,000 | \$ 14.40 | \$ 1,368,000 | \$ 111.00 |

- (1) Includes associated common stock purchase rights (Rights) to purchase an unspecified number of shares of common stock having an aggregate market price equal to twice the exercise price of \$15.00, subject to adjustment. Rights initially are attached to and trade with the common stock of the Registrant and will not be exercisable until the occurrence of specified events.
- (2) Includes pursuant to Rule 416(g) an indeterminate number of additional shares of common stock that may become issuable as a result of anti-dilution adjustments contained in the warrants that these shares underlie.
- (3) Estimated in accordance with Rule 457(c) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, solely for the purpose of computing the amount of the registration fee, based on the average of the high and low sales prices of the Registrant's Common Stock on the Nasdaq National Market on December 5, 2003.
- (4) Pursuant to Rule 457(g), the registration fee for the common stock reserved for issuance upon exercise of warrants is based on the exercise price of the respective warrants.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act, as amended, or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The securityholders identified in this prospectus may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated December 10, 2003

PROSPECTUS

1,995,000 Shares

Amedisys, Inc.

Common Stock

This prospectus relates to shares of our common stock that may be sold by the selling security holders named in this prospectus. The selling security holders acquired these shares from us in a private placement completed on November 25, 2003. This prospectus also relates to shares of our common stock that will be issuable upon exercise of warrants that we issued as compensation to the placement agents in connection with the private placement. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of those shares, but, we may receive proceeds from the exercise of the warrants, if the warrants are exercised for cash.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market with the symbol AMED. On December _____, 2003, the last reported sales price for our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$_____ per share.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 4 of this Prospectus for factors you should consider before buying shares of our common stock.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES, OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this Prospectus is December _____, 2003.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUR BUSINESS

RISK FACTORS

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

SECURITY HOLDERS

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

USE OF PROCEEDS

LEGAL MATTERS

EXPERTS

NOTICE REGARDING ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

Item 15. Indemnification of Officers and Directors

Item 16. Exhibits

Item 17. Undertakings.

SIGNATURES

POWER OF ATTORNEY

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

EX-5.0 Opinion/Consent of Correro Fishman Haygood

EX-23.2 Consent of KPMG LLP

Table of Contents

OUR BUSINESS

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) allows us to incorporate by reference certain information that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will update automatically, supplement and/or supersede this information. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. You should read the following summary together with the more detailed information regarding our company, our common stock and our financial statements and notes to those statements appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated herein by reference. References in this prospectus to our company, we, our, and us refer to Amedisys, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

General

We are a Delaware corporation and are a leading provider of home health care nursing services in the southern and southeastern United States. At November 1, 2003, we operated 76 home care nursing offices and our corporate office is located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We have built our reputation over the past ten years by providing high-quality home nursing care with an increasing emphasis on specialty nursing services. Because our services are comprehensive, cost-effective and accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, our home health care nursing services are attractive to payors and physicians. We provide a wide variety of home health care related services, including the following:

general skilled nursing care provided by registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who assess the appropriateness of home health care and instruct the patient and family regarding necessary treatments;

specialty services such as wound care, skilled monitoring, assessments and patient education;

technical procedures such as medication administration and surgical dressing replacement;

physical and occupational therapy to strengthen muscles, restore range of motion and help patients perform daily activities;

speech therapy to restore communication and oral skills; and

counseling and assistance services to help families address the problems associated with acute and chronic illnesses.

All of our licensed, certified agencies are either accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or in the accreditation application process, with the exception of five agencies which are accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program.

Industry overview

As national health care spending continues to outpace the inflation rate and the population of older Americans increases at a faster rate, we believe that alternatives to costly hospital stays will be in even greater demand. Managed care, Medicare, Medicaid and other payor pressures continue to drive patients through the continuum of care until they reach a setting where the appropriate level of care can be provided most cost effectively. Over the past several years, home health care has evolved as an acceptable and often preferred alternative in this continuum. In addition to patient comfort and convenience, substantial cost savings can usually be realized through treatment at home as an alternative to traditional institutional settings. The continuing economic

Table of Contents

pressures within the health care industry and the Medicare payment system have forced providers of home health care services to examine closely and often modify the manner in which they provide patient care and services. Those companies which successfully operate with effective business models can provide quality patient care and manage costs under the current reimbursement system.

Traditionally, the home health care industry has been highly fragmented, primarily comprised of smaller local home health agencies offering limited services. These local providers often do not have the necessary capital to expand their operations or services and are often not able to achieve the efficiencies needed to compete effectively. Since implementation of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and other legislation, the home health care industry experienced major consolidation for the first time in its history, with industry reports suggesting a reduction from approximately 11,000 agencies in 1997 to approximately 7,000 in 2002.

According to statistics from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Office of the Actuary, total expenditure by payors on home health agency services was approximately \$33.2 billion in 2001. Medicare is the largest single payor, accounting for \$9.9 billion. The CMS projects this figure will grow to \$18.2 billion by 2012.

Strategy

Our objective is to enhance our position as a leading provider of high-quality, cost-effective home nursing and related services in the markets in which we operate. In order to accomplish this objective, we intend to pursue the following internal and external growth strategies:

Internal growth strategy

Expand Our Service Base. By expanding services and developing niche programs in selected markets in the southern and southeastern United States, we intend to improve our market share through higher utilization of our services by payors and referral sources. We have opened nine new locations in the last fifteen months and continue to add niche programs in both existing and new markets.

Expand Our Referral Base. We anticipate that our revenue growth will be supported by our strategy to employ sales account executives whose sole focus will be to expand the referral base beyond physician groups in any given market.

Manage Costs Through Disease Management. Payors are focusing on managing patients who suffer from chronic diseases that generate substantial long-term costs. In 1999, we introduced disease management programs for wound care, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. In 2000, we introduced other disease management programs, such as pulmonary/respiratory care, pneumonia, and cancer. Our disease management programs coordinate care with other medical professionals involved in treating the patient and include frequent patient monitoring along with patient and family education and empowerment.

Manage Costs Through Technology. We utilize an internally developed software system to manage and integrate a number of financial and operating functions into a single entry system. In 1998, we sold our software system to an affiliate of CareSouth Home Health Services, Inc. (CareSouth) and since October 2001, we have been using the software pursuant to a licensing agreement which expires in May 2004. The agreement contains a bargain purchase option which we intend to exercise upon expiration of the agreement. We have enhanced the software extensively, particularly with respect to clinical management, and have supplemented it with other externally sourced software. By enhancing our operations with information technology applications, we are able to improve efficiency and compete more effectively in an environment increasingly influenced by cost containment.

Focus on Our Employees. Because we are a service business, our employees are essential to our business. We intend to continue to emphasize communication, education, empowerment and competitive benefits, each of which allows us to attract and retain highly skilled and experienced personnel.

Table of Contents

External growth strategy

Acquire Home Health Agencies from Large Hospital Systems. The implementation of the Medicare Prospective Payment System (PPS) eliminated opportunities for cost shifting by hospitals. As a result, many hospital systems have decided, or are in the process of deciding, to sell their agencies or partner with a reputable company to provide home health care services. This fundamental shift in industry dynamics provides us with the opportunity to acquire quality agencies at attractive prices with strong physician referral bases.

Acquire Large, Multi-Site Agencies. By acquiring multi-site agencies and reducing the associated corporate expense, we can leverage our existing infrastructure and either increase penetration of an existing market or expand our coverage to contiguous markets on a cost-effective basis.

Billing and reimbursement

Revenues generated from our home health care services are paid by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance carriers, managed care organizations, individuals and other local health insurance programs. Medicare is a federally funded program available to persons with certain disabilities and persons aged 65 or older. Medicaid, a program jointly funded by federal, state, and local governmental health care programs, is designed to pay for certain health care and medical services provided to low income individuals without regard to age. We have several contracts for negotiated fees with insurers and managed care organizations. We submit all Medicare home health claims to a single fiscal intermediary for the federal government.

RISK FACTORS

Except for the historical information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference, this prospectus (and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus) contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those discussed here or incorporated by reference. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in the following section, as well as those discussed elsewhere in this prospectus and in any other documents incorporated by reference.

Investment in our shares involves a degree of risk. You should consider the following discussion of risks as well as other information in this prospectus and the incorporated documents before purchasing any shares. Each of these risk factors could adversely affect our business, operating results, prospects and financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our common stock.

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Statements in this prospectus that are not historical facts are hereby identified as forward-looking statements for the purpose of the safe harbor provided by Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933. Words such as estimate, project, plan, intend, expect, believe and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are necessarily only estimates of future results and there can be no assurance that actual results will not differ materially from expectations, and, therefore, investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements. Set forth below is a discussion of certain factors, which could cause our actual results to differ materially from the results projected or suggested in such forward-looking statements. Investors should understand that it is not possible to predict or identify all such factors and that this list should not be considered a complete statement of all potential risks and uncertainties. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements as a result of future events or developments.

The risks described below should be carefully considered before buying any of our securities. Many of these risks and additional risks are discussed in our annual report for the year ended December 31, 2002 and in our quarterly report on Form 10Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003. You should also consider any risks contained in any filing with the SEC subsequent to the date of the confidential private placement memorandum. Additional risks that are now unknown to us or that we now consider immaterial may also harm our business.

Table of Contents

We depend on Medicare for substantially all of our revenues.

For the years ended December 31, 2002, 2001 and 2000, the percentage of our revenues derived from Medicare was 88%, 88% and 90%, respectively. Our revenues and profitability are affected by the continuing efforts of all third-party payors to contain or reduce the costs of health care by lowering reimbursement rates, narrowing the scope of covered services, increasing case management review of services and negotiating reduced contract pricing. Any changes in reimbursement levels from these third-party payor sources and any changes in applicable government regulations could have a material adverse effect on our revenues and profitability. Changes in the mix of patients among Medicare, Medicaid and other payor sources also may impact our revenues and profitability. We can provide no assurance that we will continue to maintain the current payor or revenue mix.

Our profitability depends principally on the level of Medicare payment rates and our ability to contain costs.

If our costs were to increase more rapidly than the payments we receive from Medicare and other third-party payors for our home care nursing services, our profitability could be negatively impacted.

Generally, we receive fixed payments for our services based on the level of care that we provide to patients. Accordingly, our profitability largely depends on our ability to manage costs of providing services. Although Medicare currently provides for an annual adjustment of the various payment rates based on the increase or decrease of the medical care expenditure category of the Consumer Price Index, these increases may be less than actual inflation. If these annual adjustments were eliminated or reduced, or if our costs of providing services, which consists primarily of labor costs, increase more than the annual Medicare adjustment, our profitability could be negatively impacted. Similarly, if copayments are mandated by Medicare, our profitability could be negatively impacted by either increased write-offs if we are unable to collect the copayments or as a result of a decreased demand for our services.

Medicare liabilities may be classified as current or long-term liabilities on our balance sheet and may be payable by us in the future. Medicare liabilities may be subject to audit or review and we may owe additional amounts.

At September 30, 2003, we estimated an aggregate payable to Medicare of \$11.5 million, of which we classified \$8.4 million as current liabilities and \$3.1 million as long-term Medicare liabilities. We also estimated aggregate overpayments by Medicare of \$5.7 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000. Of this amount, \$4.5 million is attributable to aggregate overpayments and of that, \$4.4 million was related to a one-time advance by Medicare. These amounts currently are being repaid to Medicare in thirty-six (36), forty-eight (48), or sixty (60) equal monthly installments pursuant to agreements we reached with CMS during 2002 and 2003, including interest of 12.625%. We may prepay the obligation, which is unsecured and contains no financial covenants, at any time without penalty, and, on November 25, 2003, we prepaid approximately \$4,300,000 of such indebtedness with a portion of the proceeds of a private placement of our common stock. However, should we fail to pay any other installment on the due date, CMS may withhold the full amount of principal due under the relevant agreement from any amounts otherwise due to us.

For the cost report years ended 1999 and prior, we have an estimated net payable of \$4.5 million, all of which is reflected in current liabilities on our balance sheet. Of this amount, \$3.5 million is related to a bankrupt subsidiary, Alliance Home Health, Inc. (Alliance), and to various providers that we closed prior to 1999. During the quarter ended September 30, 2003, we received \$1.6 million related to the finalization of cost reports for fiscal year 1999. The fiscal intermediary, acting on behalf of CMS, has finalized cost reports for most, but not all, of our provider numbers for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1999 and 2000. However, the fiscal intermediary is entitled to reopen settled cost reports for up to three years after issuing final assessments. We reserved an additional \$1.0 million during the fourth quarter of 2002 after receiving notice from the fiscal intermediary that it had reopened previously settled cost reports for fiscal year 1997. We also recorded a liability of \$1.3 million to cover estimated additional settlement liabilities, and the possibility that the fiscal intermediary may reopen previously settled cost

Table of Contents

reports. As a result, our estimated liabilities may change and we may incur additional costs. These additional liabilities may be significant.

We operate in a highly regulated industry which subjects us to additional costs and may limit our growth. Any change in applicable federal, state or local laws or regulations may affect our business.

We are subject to numerous federal, state and local laws which may limit our operations and could result in significant fines for violations. Our business is subject to extensive federal and state regulations that govern, among other things:

Medicare;

Medicaid;

other government-funded reimbursement programs;

reporting requirements;

certification and licensing standards for home health agencies; and

in some cases, certificate-of-need.

These regulations may affect our participation in Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal health care programs from which we derive a substantial portion of our revenues. We also are subject to a variety of federal and state regulations that prohibit fraud and abuse in the delivery of health care services. These regulations include, among other matters, licensure and accreditation requirements, government healthcare program participation requirements, reimbursement for patient services, and Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse.

We are subject to numerous initiatives on both the federal and state levels for comprehensive reforms affecting the payment for and availability of health care services. Currently proposed or future health care legislation or other changes in the administration or interpretation of governmental health care programs may have a negative effect on our business. Concern about the potential effects of proposed reform measures has contributed to volatility in the price of securities of other companies in health care and related industries and may similarly affect the price of our common stock in the future.

We cannot assure you that we will not be affected adversely by possible future changes in medical and health regulations.

Our failure to comply with applicable federal and state regulations will subject us to fines, penalties or expulsion from participation in government programs.

As part of the extensive federal and state regulation of the home health care business, we are subject to increased periodic audits, examinations and investigations conducted by or at the direction of governmental investigatory and oversight agencies. Violations of fraud and abuse statutes and regulations could result in a provider's expulsion from government healthcare programs as well as significant fines and penalties, and significant repayments for patient services previously billed. Our exclusion from any one of these government programs could have a material adverse effect on our business.

In 1999, we uncovered certain improprieties stemming from the unauthorized conduct of an agency director in our Monroe, Louisiana location. Following an internal investigation, we voluntarily disclosed the problems to the Office of the Inspector General (the "OIG"). Following an extensive series of audits, we and the OIG reached a settlement in August 2003, whereby we agreed to repay a total of \$1.16 million to the government in three annualized payments that conclude in 2005. As part of the settlement, we also executed a three-year Corporate Integrity Agreement ("CIA") which requires that we:

Table of Contents

maintain our current compliance program;

specify additional training requirements;

conduct annual, independent audits of the Monroe agency; and

timely disclose and repay any overpayments or potential fraud or abuse of which we become aware.

There are stipulated penalties for various violations of the CIA. Egregious violations of the CIA could result in our exclusion from further participation in government-funded health programs. We have designated a Chief Compliance Officer to ensure ongoing compliance with the terms and conditions of the CIA as well as compliance with all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Any acquired businesses will be subject to the provisions of the CIA.

We believe that we are in compliance with all state and federal legal fraud and abuse provisions and all other applicable government laws and regulations. Our compliance with these laws and regulations may be subject to future government review and interpretation and possible regulatory actions currently unknown or unasserted. If we are found to be in violation of any of these provisions, it could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We operate our agencies under licenses issued and regulated by the respective states in which they are located. Each agency is subject to periodic surveys and complaint-based surveys. If a survey identifies violations of state standards, the agency typically is afforded a grace period in which to comply or otherwise lose its license to operate. We use a Clinical Operations Department staffed by regional personnel to prepare each agency for these surveys and respond when those surveys identify potential problems or when plans-of-correction are required to bring the agency back into compliance. If we are found to be in violation of any of these state standards, it could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Compliance with HIPAA requirements will require additional systems conversions and expense.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was enacted in 1996 to ensure health insurance portability, reduce health care fraud and abuse, guarantee security and privacy of health information and enforce standards for health information. As of April 14, 2003, organizations were required to comply with certain HIPAA provisions relating to security and privacy. We believe we have met this requirement. We are enhancing systems security and training all personnel, as required by HIPAA.

HIPAA covered health care providers were required to comply with the statute's electronic health care Transactions and Code Set requirements by October 16, 2002, or secure automatic one-year extensions to the deadline. Prior to the regulatory deadline, we and our subsidiaries secured the automatic one year extension in accordance with the directives of CMS. This automatic extension expired on October 16, 2003. As permitted by CMS, this deadline has further been extended by both Palmetto GBA (the Company's fiscal intermediary) and many of the state Medicaid agencies to which we submit billings. To date, we have completed the conversion process for a majority of our operating entities, and all remaining entities will be fully converted prior to the deadlines imposed by individual payors. To the extent that other state Medicaid agencies have notified us that they are ready to receive submissions pursuant to the new HIPAA standards, we have already converted accordingly.

We may be subject to malpractice or other similar claims.

The services we offer involve an inherent risk of professional liability and related substantial damage awards. Due to the nature of our business, we, and certain nurses who provide services on our behalf, may be the subject of medical malpractice claims. These nurses could be considered our agents in the practice of nursing and, as a result, we could be held liable for any of their medical negligence. We cannot predict the effect that any claims of this nature, regardless of their ultimate outcome, could have on our business or reputation or on our ability to attract and retain patients and employees.

Table of Contents

Our insurance liability coverage may not be sufficient for our business needs.

We maintain professional liability insurance for us and our subsidiaries. However, we cannot assure you that claims will not be made in the future in excess of the limits of such insurance, if any, nor can we assure you that any such claims, if successful and in excess of such limits, will not have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct business or on our assets. Our insurance coverage currently includes fire, property damage and general liability with a \$1,000,000 limit on each wrongful act and a \$3,000,000 limit in aggregate. Although we maintain insurance consistent with industry practice, we cannot assure you that the insurance we currently maintain will satisfy claims made against us. In addition, we cannot assure you that insurance coverage will continue to be available to us at commercially reasonable rates, in adequate amounts or on satisfactory terms.

Any claims made against us, regardless of their merit or eventual outcome, could damage our reputation and business. From December 31, 1998 to November 9, 2000, we were insured for risks associated with professional and general liability by an insurance company that currently is in liquidation and may not be able to pay or defend claims incurred by us during this period. We do not believe that the ultimate resolution of current claims will be materially different from reserves established for them or that any material claims will be made in the future based on occurrences during that period.

Our acquisition strategy entails many operating and integration risks and we may incur future liabilities related to our acquisitions.

Recently, our strategic focus has been on the acquisition of small to medium sized home health providers, or of certain of their assets, in targeted markets. These acquisitions involve significant risks and uncertainties, including:

- difficulties integrating acquired personnel and other corporate cultures into our business;
- the potential loss of key employees or customers of acquired companies;
- the assumption of liabilities and exposure to unforeseen liabilities of acquired companies;
- the acquisition of an agency with undisclosed compliance problems; and
- the diversion of management attention from existing operations.

We may not be able to fully integrate the operations of the acquired businesses with our current business structure in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The failure to integrate any of these businesses effectively could have a material adverse effect on us.

In previous acquisitions, we attempted to determine the nature and extent of any pre-existing liabilities, and have obtained indemnification rights from the previous owners for acts or omissions arising prior to the date of the acquisition. However, resolving issues of liability between the parties could involve a significant amount of time, manpower and expense. There is no assurance that we will be successful in securing indemnification. If we were unsuccessful in a claim for indemnity from a seller, the liability imposed could affect us adversely.

Our acquisitions may impose strains on our existing resources.

As a result of our past and current acquisition strategy, we have grown significantly over the last three years. This growth poses a number of difficulties and risks for us. As we continue to grow in both revenue and geographical scope, our growth could stretch our resources, including management, information systems, regulatory compliance, logistics and other controls. We cannot assure you that our resources will keep pace with our anticipated growth. If we do not maintain our expected pace of growth, our future prospects could be materially adversely affected.

Table of Contents

We face competition for attractive acquisition candidates.

We intend to grow significantly through the continued acquisition of additional home health care agencies. We face competition for acquisition candidates, which may limit the number of acquisition opportunities available to us and may lead to higher acquisition prices. We cannot assure you that we will be able to identify suitable acquisitions or available market share in the future or that any such opportunities, if identified, will be consummated on favorable terms, if at all. In the absence of such successful transactions, we cannot assure you that we will experience further growth, nor can we assure you that any such transactions, if consummated, will result in further growth.

We may require additional capital to pursue our acquisition strategy.

At September 30, 2003, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$10,064,000 and, following our recent private placement of common stock on November 25, 2003, our cash and cash equivalent position was approximately \$26.8 million. Based on our current plan of operations, including acquisitions, we cannot assure you that this amount will be sufficient. We cannot readily predict the timing, size and success of our acquisition efforts and the associated capital commitments. If we do not have sufficient cash resources, our growth could be limited unless we obtain additional equity or debt financing.

Reimbursements for services may be delayed.

Our business may be characterized by delays in reimbursement from when we provide services to when we receive the reimbursement or payment for these services. If we have systems or other issues with Medicare, that may result in an even longer payment cycle. This timing delay may cause working capital shortages from time to time. As a result, working capital management, including prompt and diligent billing and collection, is an important factor in our results of operations and liquidity. We cannot assure you that trends in the industry will not further extend the collection period and impact adversely our working capital or that our working capital management procedures will successfully negate this risk. We are reviewing opportunities to secure a credit facility, although we cannot assure you that we will be successful in securing such a credit facility.

Until recently, we had a working capital deficit.

At September 30, 2003, we had a working capital deficit of \$6.6 million. Included in this amount are \$3.1 million owed by a subsidiary currently in bankruptcy, other estimates of amounts due to Medicare and other accruals which may not be necessary to be fully liquidated within twelve months. Following our recent private placement of common stock, our working capital deficit was eliminated and we had positive working capital of approximately \$17 million. We cannot assure you that we will not have a working capital deficit in the future. We are reviewing opportunities to secure a credit facility, although we cannot assure you that we will be successful in securing such a credit facility.

Our business is highly competitive.

We compete with hospitals, nursing homes, and other businesses that provide home health care services, some of which are large and established companies that have significantly greater resources than we do, on the basis of availability of personnel, quality and expertise of services and the value and price of services. Increased competition in the future from existing competitors or new entrants may limit our ability to maintain or increase our market share.

Some of our existing and potential new competitors may enjoy greater name recognition, and greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. This may permit our competitors to devote greater resources than we can to the development and promotion of services. These competitors also may engage in more extensive research and development, undertake more far-reaching marketing campaigns, adopt more aggressive pricing policies and make more attractive offers to existing and potential employees and clients.

Table of Contents

We expect our competitors to develop new strategic relationships with providers, referral sources and payors, which could result in increased competition. The introduction of new and enhanced services, acquisitions and industry consolidation and the development of strategic relationships by our competitors could cause a decline in sales or loss of market acceptance of our services or price competition or make our services less attractive. Additionally, we compete with a number of tax-exempt nonprofit organizations that can finance acquisitions and capital expenditures on a tax-exempt basis or receive charitable contributions that are unavailable to us.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to compete successfully against current or future competitors or that competitive pressures will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We expect that industry forces will have an impact on us and our competitors. In recent years, the health care industry has undergone significant changes driven by efforts to reduce costs. The changes in our industry caused even greater competition among home healthcare and healthcare businesses generally. If we are unable to react competitively to new developments, our operating results may suffer.

We rely on our relationships with other organizations.

Our development and growth depends largely on our ability to establish close working relationships with hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, physician groups, health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, and other health care providers. Although we have established such relationships, we cannot assure you that we will improve and maintain these relationships or develop new relationships in existing and future markets. Our inability to maintain, improve and develop relationships in the future could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We rely significantly on attracting and retaining skilled workers.

We rely significantly on our ability to attract and retain caregivers who possess the skills, experience and licenses necessary to meet the requirements of our customers. We compete for home health care services personnel with other providers of home health care services. We must evaluate and expand our network of caregivers continually to keep pace with our customers' needs. Currently, competition for nursing personnel is increasing and salaries and benefit costs have risen. Any inability to continue to increase the number of caregivers we recruit could adversely affect our potential for growth. Our ability to attract and retain caregivers depends on several factors, including our ability to provide such caregivers with attractive assignments and competitive benefits and salaries. We cannot assure you that we will succeed in any of these areas. The cost of attracting caregivers and providing them with attractive benefit packages may be higher than anticipated and, as a result, if we are unable to pass these costs on to customers, our profitability could decline. Moreover, if we are unable to attract and retain caregivers, the quality of our services may decline and, as a result, we could lose certain customers.

We depend on the continued services of our senior management.

Our success depends upon the continued employment of senior management officials, including our Chief Executive Officer, William F. Borne, our Chief Financial Officer, Gregory H. Browne and our Chief Operating Officer, Larry R. Graham. We maintain key employee life insurance of \$4.5 million on Mr. Borne's life and have entered into employment agreements with each of Mr. Borne, Mr. Browne and Mr. Graham. The departure of any of our senior management may materially adversely affect our operations.

We are dependant on information systems.

Our business is reliant on information systems and any disruption could impact our operations or profitability. These systems include software developed in-house, systems provided by external contractors, and other service providers.

Table of Contents

We are defending class action lawsuits that may require us to pay substantial damage awards.

On August 23 and October 4, 2001, two class action lawsuits were filed, on behalf of all purchasers of our common stock between November 15, 2000 and June 13, 2001, against us and three of our executive officers. These suits, which were filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana, have now been consolidated and seek damages based on the decline in our stock price following an announced restatement of earnings for the fourth quarter of 2000 and first quarter of 2001. The suits allege that we knew or were reckless in not knowing the facts giving rise to the restatement. We are vigorously defending these lawsuits. We have insurance coverage for an amount in excess of \$100,000 up to a certain level. Although we believe our insurance coverage is sufficient in respect to any amounts which may be awarded, we cannot assure you that the final resolution will fall within our insurance coverage amounts.

Our stock has low trading volume and a number of factors beyond our control may affect our stock price.

The average daily trading volume for our common stock historically has been low, with an average daily trading volume for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 of approximately 22,000 shares. As a result, our common stock may not be highly liquid. Moreover, the price and trading levels of our common stock may be affected negatively by a number of factors outside of our control, including:

- sales of stock by significant stockholders;
- announcements of changes in Medicare or other third party reimbursements;
- announcements of other legislative changes in the healthcare industry;
- quarterly fluctuations in our revenues or other financial results;
- announcements by our competitors; and
- investor perceptions about us and our business and financial results.

Our subsidiary, Alliance Home Health, Inc., filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition.

Alliance, our wholly-owned subsidiary (which we acquired in 1998 and ceased operations in 1999), filed for Chapter 7 Federal bankruptcy protection with the United States Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Oklahoma on September 29, 2000. A trustee was appointed for Alliance in 2001. Until the contingencies associated with the liabilities are resolved, the consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference in this private placement memorandum will continue to consolidate Alliance, which has net liabilities of \$4.2 million. It is possible that we will be held responsible for some of these liabilities.

Our Board of Directors may utilize anti-takeover provisions or issue stock to discourage control contests.

Our Certificate of Incorporation authorizes us to issue up to 30,000,000 shares of common stock and 5,000,000 shares of undesignated Preferred Stock. Our Board of Directors may cause us to issue additional stock to discourage an attempt to obtain control over us. For example, shares of stock could be sold to purchasers who might support the Board of Directors in a control contest or could be sold to dilute the voting or other rights of a person seeking to obtain control. In addition, the Board of Directors could cause us to issue Preferred Stock entitling holders to:

- vote separately on any proposed transaction;
- convert preferred stock into common stock;

Table of Contents

demand redemption at a specified price in connection with a change in control; or

exercise other rights designed to impede a takeover.

In addition, the issuance of additional shares may, among other things, dilute earnings and equity per share of common stock and voting rights of the common stockholders.

We have implemented other anti-takeover provisions or provisions that could have an anti-takeover effect, including (1) advance notice requirements for director nominations and stockholder proposals and (2) a stockholder rights plan, colloquially known as a poison pill. These provisions, and others that the Board of Directors may adopt hereafter, may discourage offers to acquire us and may permit our Board of Directors to choose not to entertain offers to purchase us, even if such offers include a substantial premium to the market price of our stock. Therefore, our stockholders may be deprived of opportunities to profit from a sale of control.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the SEC. You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front page of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of common stock.

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read, without charge, and copy the documents we file at the SEC's public reference rooms in Washington, D.C., New York, New York and Chicago, Illinois. You can request copies of these documents by writing to the SEC and paying a fee for the copying cost. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at no cost from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We incorporate by reference the filed documents listed below, except as superseded, supplemented or modified by this prospectus, and any future filings we will make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K, dated December 10, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K, dated November 10, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K, dated November 10, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K, dated November 5, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated October 17, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated September 16, 2003;

Table of Contents

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated August 19, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated August 19, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated August 13, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated August 7, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated May 20, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated May 13, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated March 14, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated February 4, 2003;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated January 31, 2003; and

our definitive Proxy Statement for our Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on June 12, 2003.

The reports and other documents that we file after the date of this prospectus will update, supplement and supersede the information in this prospectus. You may request and obtain a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address or phone number:

Amedisys, Inc.
11100 Mead Road, Suite 300
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816
(800) 467-2662
Attn: Greg Browne

DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, including the documents that we incorporate by reference, contains 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. Any statements about our expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or future events or performance are not historical facts and may be forward-looking. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as anticipate, estimate, plans, projects, continuing, expects, management believes, we believe, we intend and similar words or phrases. Accordingly, these statements involve estimates, assumptions and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in them. Any forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the factors discussed throughout this prospectus.

Because the risk factors referred to above, as well as the risk factors beginning on page 6 of this prospectus, could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf, you should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. Further, any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict which factors will arise. In addition, we cannot assess the impact of each factor on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents**SECURITY HOLDERS**

We are registering for resale shares of our common stock held by the security holders identified below. The security holders acquired the resale shares from us in a private placement. Jefferies & Company, Inc. and Raymond James & Associates, Inc. assisted us in connection with selling the resale shares in the private placement. We also are registering for resale shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants we issued to Jefferies & Company, Inc. and Raymond James & Associates, Inc. as compensation in the private placement. We are registering the shares to permit the security holders, the placement agents and their respective pledgees, donees, transferees and other successors-in-interest that receive their shares from a stockholder as a gift, partnership distribution or other non-sale related transfer after the date of this prospectus to resell the shares when and as they deem appropriate. The following table sets forth:

the name of the security holders,

the number and percent of shares of our common stock that the security holders beneficially owned prior to the offering for resale of the shares under this prospectus,

the number of shares of our common stock that may be offered for resale for the account of the security holders under this prospectus, and

the number and percent of shares of our common stock to be beneficially owned by the security holders after the offering of the resale shares (assuming all of the offered resale shares are sold by the security holders).

The number of shares in the column **Number of Shares Being Offered** represents all of the shares that each security holder may offer under this prospectus. We do not know how long the security holders will hold the shares before selling them or how many shares they will sell and we currently have no agreements, arrangements or understandings with any of the security holders regarding the sale of any of the resale shares. The shares offered by this prospectus may be offered from time to time by the security holders listed below.

This table is prepared solely based on information supplied to us by the listed security holders, any Schedules 13D or 13G and Forms 3 and 4, and other public documents filed with the SEC, and assumes the sale of all of the resale shares. The applicable percentages of beneficial ownership are based on an aggregate of 11,862,581 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding on December 1, 2003, adjusted as may be required by rules promulgated by the SEC.

| Security Holders | Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to Offering | | Number of Shares Being Offered | Shares Beneficially Owned After Offering | |
|---|--|---------|--------------------------------------|---|---------|
| | Number | Percent | | Number | Percent |
| JPMorgan Multi-Manager Small Cap Growth Fund(1) | 36,900 | * | 36,900 | 0 | * |
| Phoenix State Street Research Small Cap Growth Series Fund(1) | 6,100 | * | 6,100 | 0 | * |
| State Street Research Emerging Growth Fund(1) | 120,400 | * | 120,400 | 0 | * |
| State Street Research Asset Allocation Fund(1) | 37,900 | * | 37,900 | 0 | * |
| State Street Research Small Capitalization Growth Group Trust(1) | 3,700 | * | 3,700 | 0 | * |
| Prism Partners I, L.P. (2) | 50,000 | * | 50,000 | 0 | * |
| Prism Partners II Offshore Fund(2) | 50,000 | * | 50,000 | 0 | * |

Table of Contents

| | | | | | |
|---|---------|------|---------|---------|------|
| Telion Fund I, LP (3) | 30,000 | * | 30,000 | 0 | * |
| Southwell Partners, L.P. (4) | 468,099 | 3.97 | 400,000 | 68,099 | * |
| Principled Capital Management LLC(5) | 140,000 | 1.19 | 140,000 | 0 | * |
| Blue Grass Fund LP(6) | 35,000 | * | 35,000 | 0 | * |
| Accipiter Life Sciences Fund, LP(7) | 80,500 | * | 80,500 | 0 | * |
| Accipiter Life Sciences Fund (QP), LP(7) | 56,140 | * | 56,140 | 0 | * |
| Accipiter Life Sciences Fund, Ltd. (7) | 78,360 | * | 78,360 | 0 | * |
| SF Partners I Limited Partnership(8) | 25,000 | * | 25,000 | 0 | * |
| Asset Management(9) | 20,466 | * | 9,000 | 11,466 | * |
| Symmetry Capital Qualified Partners, L.P. (9) | 6,017 | * | 2,639 | 3,378 | * |
| Symmetry Capital Partners, L.P. (9) | 10,414 | * | 5,783 | 4,631 | * |
| Symmetry Capital Offshore Fund LTD(9) | 4,862 | * | 2,578 | 2,284 | * |
| Theory Capital LLC(10) | 501,200 | 4.25 | 250,000 | 251,200 | 2.13 |
| Platinum Partners Value Arbitrage Fund LP(11) | 30,000 | * | 30,000 | 0 | * |
| RAM Trading, Ltd. (12) | 150,000 | 1.27 | 150,000 | 0 | * |
| US Bank Asset Management(13) | 300,000 | 2.55 | 300,000 | 0 | * |
| Jefferies & Company, Inc.(14) | 57,000 | * | 57,000 | 0 | * |
| Raymond James & Associates, Inc.(15) | 38,000 | * | 38,000 | 0 | * |

* Less than 1%

- (1) State Street Research Investment Services, Inc. (SSRIS), a subsidiary of State Street Research Management Company, One Financial Center, Boston, MA 02111 (SSRM), is a registered broker-dealer and an NASD member. SSRIS is a limited purpose broker-dealer engaged primarily in the distribution of securities of registered investment companies managed by SSRM. SSRM is the investment advisor to the Security Holder. SSRM may be deemed the beneficial owner of securities owned by the funds and/or accounts that it manages. However, SSRM disclaims beneficial ownership of all such shares.
- (2) Weintraub Capital Management, 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 4100, San Francisco, CA 94104, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (3) Telion Capital LLC, P.O. Box 150751, Nashville, TN 37215, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (4) Southwell Partners, L.P., 1901 N. Akard St., Dallas, TX 75201, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (5) Principled Capital Management LLC, 666 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10103, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (6) Bluegrass Growth Fund LP, 200 E. 72nd Street, Apt. 10L, New York, NY 10021, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (7) Accipiter Capital Management LLC, 153 East 53rd Street, 55th Floor, New York, NY 10022, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

- (8) SF Management Group Inc., 311 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 4990, Chicago, IL 60606, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus. The general partners of SF Partners I Limited Partnership are the general directors of SF Investments, which is a registered broker-dealer
- (9) Symmetry Capital, One Montgomery St., Suite 3300, San Francisco, CA 94104, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (10) Theory Capital LLC, 600 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Washington DC 20037, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (11) Platinum Partners Value Arbitrage Fund LP, 152 West 57th Street, 54th Fl., New York, NY 10019, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (12) Ritchie Capital Management, 2100 Enterprise Avenue, Geneva, IL 60134, exercises dispositive power with respect to the shares of Common Stock offered in this prospectus.
- (13) US Bank Asset Management, BC-MN-H05R, 800 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55402. The shares shown represent shares owned by the following funds as to which the selling shareholder has dispositive power: US Bank, NA Cust FBO Endeavor LP, US Bank, NA Cust FBO First American Insurance Portfolios Sm Cap Growth Fund, US Bank, NA Cust FBO John J. Frautschi Life Trust, US Bank, NA Cust FBO First American Small Cap Growth Opportunities Fund, US Bank, NA Cust FBO Lyndhurst Associates Microcap, M&I Bank as Custodian for Milwaukee Jewish Foundation, US Bank, NA Cust FBO Greater Milwaukee Foundation, US Bank, NA Cust FBO Oregon Retail Employees Pension Trust, US Bank, NA Agent u/a Henry Posner III Agency dtd 1/1/2003, US Bank, NA Cust FBO Posner Partners Microcap, US Bank, NA Agent u/a Paul M. Posner Agency dtd 1/1/2003, US Bank, NA Cust FBO Springfield, MO Police & Firemen s Retirement Fund, US Bank, NA Cust FBO Electrical Construction Workers Pension Plan, US Bank, NA Cust FBO St. Paul Electrical Construction Workers Supply Pension Plan, Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company Cust FBO UFCW Union & Employers Health, US Bank, NA Tr u/w Edward S. Tallmadge Res Tr 2 dtd 2/27/1984, US Bank, NA Tr u/a Richard D Waterfield Tr dtd 10/19/199_?, and US Bank, NA Tr u/w Wm. Chester Children s Tr dtd 2/3/1964.
- (14) Jefferies & Company, Inc. is a broker-dealer who acted as placement agent for our common stock private placement completed on November 25, 2003. As compensation, we issued Jefferies warrants to purchase an aggregate 57,000 shares of our common stock at \$14.40 per share, and paid them an additional cash fee. The Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering, the Number of Shares Being Offered, and the Shares Beneficially Owned After the Offering are comprised entirely of shares underlying warrants.
- (15) Raymond James & Associates, Inc. is a broker-dealer who acted as placement agent for our common stock private placement completed on November 25, 2003. As compensation, we issued Raymond James warrants to purchase an aggregate 38,000 shares of our common stock at \$14.40 per share, and paid them an additional cash fee. The Shares Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering, the Number of Shares Being Offered, and the Shares Beneficially Owned After the Offering are comprised entirely of shares underlying warrants.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling security holders may sell the shares being offered from time to time in one or more transactions:

on the Nasdaq National Market or otherwise;

in the over-the-counter market;

in negotiated transactions;

through broker-dealers, who may act as agents or principals;

through one or more underwriters on a firm commitment or best efforts basis;

through the writing of options on shares, whether the options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise; or

a combination of such methods of sale.

Table of Contents

The selling security holders may sell the shares at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to those market prices or at negotiated prices. The selling security holders also may sell the shares pursuant to Rule 144 adopted under the Securities Act, as permitted by that rule. The selling security holders may effect transactions by selling shares directly to purchasers or to or through broker-dealers. The broker-dealers may act as agents or principals. The broker-dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling security holders or the purchasers of the shares. The compensation of any particular broker-dealer may be in excess of customary commissions. Because the selling security holders and broker-dealers that participate with the selling security holders in the distribution of shares may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act, the selling security holders will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. Any commissions received by them and any profit on the resale of shares may be deemed to be underwriting compensation.

The selling security holders have advised us that they have not entered into any agreements, understandings or arrangements with any underwriters or broker-dealers regarding the sale of their securities. There is no underwriter or coordinating broker acting in connection with the proposed sale of shares by the selling security holders.

The shares will be sold through registered or licensed brokers or dealers if required under applicable state securities laws. In addition, in certain states the shares may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

Under applicable rules and regulations under the Exchange Act, any person engaged in the distribution of the shares may not simultaneously engage in market making activities with respect to our common stock for a period of two business days prior to the commencement of such distribution. In addition, each selling stockholder will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the associated rules and regulations under the Exchange Act, including Regulation M, which provisions may limit the timing of purchases and sales of shares of our common stock by the selling security holders. We will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling security holders and have informed them of the need to deliver copies of this prospectus to purchasers at or prior to the time of any sale of the shares.

We will bear all costs, expenses and fees in connection with the registration of the shares. The selling security holders will bear all commissions and discounts, if any, attributable to the sales of the shares. The selling security holders may agree to indemnify any broker-dealer or agent that participates in transactions involving sales of the shares against certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act. The selling security holders have agreed to indemnify certain persons, including broker-dealers and agents, against certain liabilities in connection with the offering of the shares, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

Upon notification to us by a selling stockholder that any material arrangement has been entered into with broker-dealers for the sale or purchase of shares, we will file a supplement to this prospectus, if required, disclosing:

the name of the participating broker-dealers;

the number of shares involved;

the price at which such shares were sold;

the commissions paid or discounts or concessions allowed to such broker-dealers, where applicable;

that such broker-dealers did not conduct any investigation to verify the information set out or incorporated by reference in this prospectus; and

other facts material to the transaction.

Table of Contents

In addition, upon being notified by a selling stockholder that a donee or pledgee intends to sell more than 500 shares, we will file a supplement to this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the resale shares by the security holders. All proceeds from the sale of the resale shares will be solely for the accounts of the security holders. However, we may receive proceeds from the exercise of the warrants by Jefferies & Company, Inc. and Raymond James & Associates, Inc., if they exercise the warrants for cash.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the shares of common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Correro Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley & Casteix, L.L.P., New Orleans, Louisiana.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Amedisys, Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 2002, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent accountants, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

KPMG's report refers to its audit of a 2001 balance sheet reclassification and transitional disclosures for 2001 and 2000 required by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142 Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets, which was adopted by Amedisys, Inc. on January 1, 2002 to revise the 2001 and 2000 consolidated financial statements, as more fully described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements. However, KPMG was not engaged to audit, review, or apply any procedures to the 2001 and 2000 consolidated financial statements other than with respect to such reclassification and disclosures.

NOTICE REGARDING ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

Arthur Andersen LLP audited our financial statements for the five years ended December 31, 2001. We have included information derived from these financial statements in this prospectus through incorporation by reference of certain documents filed by us with the SEC. On June 15, 2002, Arthur Andersen was convicted of obstruction of justice by a federal jury in Houston, Texas in connection with Arthur Andersen's work for Enron Corp. On September 15, 2002, a federal judge upheld this conviction. Arthur Andersen ceased its audit practice before the SEC on August 31, 2002. Effective April 30, 2002, we terminated the engagement of Arthur Andersen as our independent auditors and engaged KPMG LLP to serve as our independent auditors. KPMG LLP has audited our financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2002. Because of the circumstances currently affecting Arthur Andersen LLP, as a practical matter it may not be able to satisfy any claims arising from the provision of auditing services to us, including claims holders of securities may have that are available to security holders under applicable securities laws.

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus or specifically incorporated herein. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. This prospectus is not an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where an offer and sale is not permitted. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of our common stock.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Our Business | 2 |
| Risk Factors | 4 |
| Where You Can Find More Information | 12 |
| Disclosure Regarding Forward- Looking Statements | 13 |
| Security Holders | 14 |
| Plan of Distribution | 16 |
| Use of Proceeds | 18 |
| Legal Matters | 18 |
| Experts | 18 |

1,995,000 Shares

Common Stock

Amedisys, Inc.

Prospectus

December ____, 2003

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth an estimate of the fees and expenses relating to the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered hereby, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, all of which shall be borne by Amedisys, Inc. (the Registrant or the Company). All of such fees and expenses, except for the SEC Registration Fee, are estimated:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SEC registration fee | \$ 2,416.00 |
| Transfer agent's fees and expenses | 2,000.00 |
| Legal fees and expenses | 25,000.00 |
| Printing fees and expenses | 5,000.00 |
| Accounting fees and expenses | 25,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous fees and expenses | 24,584.00 |
| | <u> </u> |
| | \$84,000.00 |

Item 15. Indemnification of Officers and Directors

The Company's By-laws, as amended and restated, provide for indemnification of officers and directors to the fullest extent permitted by Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. The provisions of Article VII of the Company's By-laws constitute a contract of indemnification between the Company and its officers and directors. Article VII, Section 6 of the Company's By-laws permits the Company to purchase and maintain officers' and directors' liability insurance in order to insure against the liabilities for which such officers and directors are indemnified pursuant to Article VII, Section 1. The Company provides officers' and directors' liability insurance for its officers and directors.

The Company has entered into indemnification agreements with certain of its directors and executive officers providing contractual indemnification by the Company to the fullest extent permissible under Delaware law.

The Company and the security holders have agreed to indemnify each other and each other's controlling persons, as applicable, against certain liabilities under the Securities Act in connection with this registration statement.

Item 16. Exhibits**a) Exhibits.**

| Exhibit Number | Description of Document |
|-------------------|--|
| 5.0 | Opinion of Corroero Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley & Casteix, L.L.P. as to the legality of the securities being registered. |
| 10.1* | Form of Purchase Agreement by and among Amedisys, Inc. and the purchasers set forth on the signature pages thereto. |
| 10.2* | Form of Warrants to be issued by Amedisys, Inc. to Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Jefferies & Company, Inc. |
| 23.1 | Consent of Corroero Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley & Casteix, L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.0) |
| 23.2 | Consent KPMG LLP |
| 24 | Power of Attorney. Reference is made to page II-3. |

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* Incorporated by reference to Amedisys, Inc. Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 10, 2003.

II- 1

Table of Contents

Item 17. Undertakings.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended;
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and
 - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that subparagraphs (i) and (ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by these subparagraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement.
- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, may be permitted to directors, officers, and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer, or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit, or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer, or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question of whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, on the 9 day of December 2003.

Amedisys, Inc.

By: /s/ William F. Borne

William F. Borne
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of
the Board

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints William F. Borne and Gregory H. Browne, and each of them, as his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for the undersigned and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to the Registration Statement and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them or their or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated have signed this Registration Statement below.

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| <p><u> /s/ William F. Borne</u> William F. Borne</p> | <p>Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board</p> | <p>December 9, 2003</p> |
| <p><u> /s/ Gregory H. Browne</u> Gregory H. Browne</p> | <p>Principal Financial and Accounting Officer</p> | <p>December 9, 2003</p> |
| <p><u> /s/ Jake L. Netterville</u> Jake L. Netterville</p> | <p>Director</p> | <p>December 9, 2003</p> |
| <p><u> /s/ David R. Pitts</u> David R. Pitts</p> | <p>Director</p> | <p>December 9, 2003</p> |
| <p><u> /s/ Peter F. Ricchiuti</u></p> | <p>Director</p> | <p>December 9, 2003</p> |

Peter F. Ricchiuti

/s/ Ronald A. Laborde

Director

December 9, 2003

Ronald A. Laborde

II- 3

Table of Contents

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

| Exhibit Number | Description of Document |
|---------------------------|--|
| 5.0 | Opinion of Corroero Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley & Casteix, L.L.P. as to the legality of the securities being registered. |
| 10.1* | Form of Purchase Agreement by and among Amedisys, Inc. and the purchasers set forth on the signature pages thereto. |
| 10.2* | Form of Warrants to be issued by Amedisys, Inc. to Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Jefferies & Company, Inc. |
| 23.1 | Consent of Corroero Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley & Casteix, L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.0) |
| 23.2 | Consent of KPMG LLP. |
| 24 | Power of Attorney. Reference is made to page II-3. |

* Incorporated by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 10, 2003.