

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

13-3893191
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

4000 Meridian Boulevard
Franklin, Tennessee 37067
(Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices)

Community Health Systems, Inc. 2009 Stock Option and Award Plan
(Full title of plan)

Rachel A. Seifert
Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel
Community Health Systems, Inc.
4000 Meridian Boulevard
Franklin, Tennessee 37067
(615) 465-7000
(Name, address and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (2)	Amount of Registration Fee (3)
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (2)	5,000,000	\$12.89	\$64,450,000	\$6,491

- (1) This Registration Statement covers 5,000,000 additional shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of Community Health Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Registrant") available for issuance pursuant to awards under the Registrant's 2009 Stock Option and Award Plan, as amended and restated on March 16, 2016, subject to the subsequent approval of such plan at the Registrant's annual meeting held on May 17, 2016 (the "Plan"). Pursuant to Rule 416(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this Registration Statement also covers any additional shares of common stock of the Registrant that become issuable pursuant to awards by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or other similar transaction that results in an increase in the number of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Registrant.

- (2) Estimated solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) and (h)(1) of the Securities Act on the basis of the average of the high and low selling prices of the Registrant's common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on July 28, 2016.
 - (3) Pursuant to General Instruction E to Form S-8, a filing fee is only being paid with respect to the registration of the additional securities available for issuance under the Plan.
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Registration Statement is being filed pursuant to General Instruction E of Form S-8 for the purpose of registering an additional 5,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share ("Common Stock"), of the Registrant available for issuance pursuant to awards under the Plan.

The Registrant previously registered Common Stock under the Plan on Registration Statements on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 14, 2009 (Registration No. 333-163689), September 16, 2011 (Registration No. 333-176893), July 31, 2013 (Registration No. 333-190260) and August 1, 2014 (Registration No. 333-197813) (collectively, the "Previous Registration Statements"). As permitted by General Instruction E of Form S-8, the contents of the Previous Registration Statements, including all exhibits filed therewith or incorporated therein by reference, to the extent not otherwise amended or superseded by the contents hereof, are incorporated herein by reference.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The Registrant has sent or given or will send or give documents containing the information specified by Part I of this Registration Statement to participants in the plan to which this Registration Statement relates, as specified in Rule 428(b)(1) promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act. The Registrant is not filing such documents with the Commission, but these documents constitute (along with the documents incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II hereof) a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The Commission allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this Registration Statement, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the Commission. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this Registration Statement, and later information that we file with the Commission will automatically update this Registration Statement. We incorporate by reference:

- (a) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, filed with the Commission on February 17, 2016;
- (b) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2016, filed with the Commission on May 3, 2016, and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2016, filed with the Commission on August 3, 2016; and
- (c) Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 7, 2016, February 26, 2016, April 1, 2016, April 25, 2016, May 2, 2016*, May 6, 2016, and May 19, 2016.
- (d) The description of our Common Stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Commission on June 5, 2000 (File No. 001-15925).

* Solely with respect to the second Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on such date.

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, subsequent to the effective date of this Registration Statement, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement indicating that all securities offered hereby have been sold or deregistering all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. In no event, however, will any information that we disclose under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 (and any related exhibits) of any Current Report on Form 8-K that we may from time to time furnish to the Commission be incorporated by reference into, or otherwise become a part of, this Registration Statement. Any statement contained in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this Registration Statement, except as so modified or superseded.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Pursuant to authority conferred by Section 102 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL"), Article SIXTH of the Registrant's restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, eliminates the personal liability of the Registrant's directors to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty to the fullest extent permitted under the law of the State of Delaware, including the DGCL. Article SIXTH further provides that any future amendment to or repeal of its terms will not adversely affect any right or protection of any director of the Registrant with respect to acts or omissions of such director occurring prior to such repeal or amendment. Article SIXTH also incorporates any future amendments to Delaware law which further eliminate or limit the liability of directors.

In accordance with Section 145 of the DGCL, Article SEVENTH of the Registrant's restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, and certain provisions of the Registrant's amended and restated by-laws grant the Registrant's directors and officers a right to indemnification for all expenses relating to civil, criminal, administrative or investigative procedures to which they are a party (i) by reason of the fact that they are or were directors or officers of the Registrant or (ii) by reason of the fact that, while they are or were directors or officers of the Registrant, they are or were serving at the request of the Registrant as directors or officers of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including service with respect to an employee benefit plan. Section 5 of Article VI of the Registrant's amended and restated by-laws further provides for advancement of expenses to such indemnified persons.

The Registrant's amended and restated by-laws authorize the Registrant to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Registrant, or is or was serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including service with respect to an employee benefit plan, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of such person's status as such, whether or not the Registrant would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of the Registrant's amended and restated by-laws. The Registrant has obtained insurance policies insuring its directors and officers against certain liabilities.

The Registrant has entered into Indemnification Agreements (the "Indemnification Agreements") with its directors and executive officers. One of the purposes of the Indemnification Agreements is to attempt to specify the extent to which persons entitled to indemnification thereunder (the "Indemnitees") may receive indemnification. Pursuant to the Indemnification Agreements, an Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification for claims arising out of or in connection with the service of Indemnitee as a director or officer of the Registrant or of an affiliate. In the case of an action or proceeding other than an action by or in the right of the Registrant, the Indemnification Agreements provide that Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification for claims relating to (i) the fact that Indemnitee is or was an officer or director of the Registrant or any other entity which Indemnitee is or was or will be serving at the request of the Registrant, or (ii) anything done or not done by Indemnitee in any such capacity. In the case of an action by or in the right of the Registrant, the Indemnification Agreements provide that Indemnitee is entitled to indemnification for claims relating to (i) the fact that Indemnitee is or was an officer or director of the Registrant or any affiliate or (ii) anything done or not done in such capacity. The Indemnification Agreements are in addition to and are not intended to limit any rights of indemnification which are available under the Registrant's restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, or the Registrant's amended and restated bylaws, or otherwise. In addition to the rights to indemnification specified therein, the Indemnification Agreements are intended to increase the certainty of receipt by the Indemnitee of the benefits to which he or she is entitled by providing specific procedures relating to indemnification.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The exhibits to this Registration Statement are listed in the exhibit index that immediately precedes such exhibits and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) 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;
- (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 a 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 the undertakings set forth in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, 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.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) 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.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act 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 Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities 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 whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Franklin, State of Tennessee, on August 3, 2016.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Wayne T. Smith
Wayne T. Smith
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Wayne T. Smith, W. Larry Cash and Rachel A. Seifert and each of them singly, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all (i) amendments (including post-effective amendments) and additions to this Registration Statement and (ii) any and all additional registration statements pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or either of them or their or his or her substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Wayne T. Smith</u> Wayne T. Smith	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	August 3, 2016
<u>/s/ W. Larry Cash</u> W. Larry Cash	President of Financial Services, Chief Financial Officer and Director (Principal Financial Officer)	August 3, 2016
<u>/s/ Kevin J. Hammons</u> Kevin J. Hammons	Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	August 3, 2016
<u>/s/ John A. Clerico</u> John A. Clerico	Director	August 3, 2016
<u>/s/ James S. Ely III</u> James S. Ely III	Director	August 3, 2016
<u>/s/ John A. Fry</u> John A. Fry	Director	August 3, 2016
<u>/s/ William Norris Jennings, M.D.</u> William Norris Jennings, M.D.	Director	August 3, 2016

/s/ Julia B. North
Julia B. North

Director

August 3, 2016

/s/ H. Mitchell Watson
H. Mitchell Watson

Director

August 3, 2016

/s/ H. James Williams, Ph.D.
H. James Williams, Ph.D.

Director

August 3, 2016

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
5.1*	Opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC.
23.1*	Consent of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC (included in Exhibit 5.1).
23.2*	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included on signature page of this Registration Statement).
99.1	Community Health Systems, Inc. 2009 Stock Option and Award Plan, as amended and restated as of March 16, 2016, subject to the subsequent approval of such plan by the stockholders of Community Health Systems, Inc. at the annual meeting held on May 17, 2016 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Community Health Systems, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 19, 2016).

* Filed herewith

BASS BERRY + SIMS^{PLC}

150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800
Nashville, TN 37201
(615) 742-6200

August 3, 2016

Community Health Systems, Inc.
4000 Meridian Boulevard
Franklin, Tennessee 37067

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8 of Community Health Systems, Inc.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Community Health Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the preparation of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") related to the offering of up to 5,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Plan Shares"), pursuant to the Company's 2009 Stock Option and Award Plan, as amended and restated on March 16, 2016, subject to the subsequent approval of such plan by the Company's stockholders at the Company's annual meeting held on May 17, 2016 (the "Plan").

In connection with this opinion, we have examined and relied upon such records, documents, certificates, and other instruments as we have deemed necessary or appropriate in order to express the opinions hereinafter set forth. We have also assumed the legal capacity of all natural persons, the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as copies, the authenticity of the originals of such latter documents, the legal competence of all signatories to such documents, and, except to the extent we express an opinion as to due authorization in the next paragraph of this letter, the due authorization, execution and delivery of all documents by the parties thereto. As to various questions of fact relevant to the opinion expressed herein, we have relied upon, and assume the accuracy of, certificates and oral or written statements and other information of or from public officials and officers and representatives of the Company.

Based upon and subject to the qualifications, assumptions and limitations set forth herein, we are of the opinion that the Plan Shares issuable in connection with the Plan have been duly authorized and, when issued in accordance with the terms of the Plan, will be legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

The opinions expressed above are limited to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (which includes applicable provisions of the Delaware Constitution and reported judicial decisions interpreting the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware and the Delaware Constitution).

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, we do not thereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the rules and regulations of the Commission.

This opinion is limited to the specific issues addressed herein, and no opinion may be inferred or implied beyond that expressly stated herein.

This opinion is furnished to you in connection with the filing of the Registration Statement. Our opinion is rendered as of the date hereof and we assume no obligation to advise you of changes in law or fact (or the effect thereof on the opinions expressed herein) that hereafter may come to our attention.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our reports dated February 17, 2016, relating to the consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial statement schedule of Community Health Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries, and the effectiveness of Community Health Systems, Inc.'s and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting, appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Community Health Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries for the year ended December 31, 2015.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP
Nashville, Tennessee
August 3, 2016