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# Rival trumps CVS with last-minute offer for Caremark

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### Health Care

A rival has mounted a last-minute bid to derail a \$20.7 billion merger deal between **CVS Corp.** and pharmacy benefits manager Caremark RX Inc.

St. Louis, MO-based **Express Scripts** (Nasdaq: ESRX), also in the pharmacy benefits business, has submitted a \$26 billion cash and stock offer for Caremark, the company announced today.

Express Scripts said in a statement that its purchase of Caremark would create "the world's preeminent pharmacy benefit management company."

But CVS has similar ideas. Earlier in November, Woonsocket, R.I.-based CVS, one of the nation's largest drug store chains, agreed to merge with Nashville, Tenn.-based Caremark (NYSE: CMX) in a deal to create a combined company with revenues of \$75 billion.

CVS (NYSE: CVS) would be renamed CVS-Caremark with the company's combined headquarters in Woonsocket in what is billed as a "merger of equals."

Express Scripts' proposed acquisition of Caremark would be worth \$58.50 per Caremark share, a 15 percent premium over the all-stock purchase to be paid to Caremark stockholders in the CVS deal.