

Pfizer is seeing strong growth in next year and the Lyrica franchise will several key products, but Prevnar remains a significant drag. The company's Innovative Health segment, which sells newer, patent-protected drugs, delivered sales growth of $7 \%$ in the first half of 2017. Performance was driven by strong momentum in Pfizer's top oncology asset Ibrance (+63\%), blood thinner medication Eliquis ( $+51 \%$ ), and rheumatoid arthritis treatment Xeljanz ( $+42 \%$ ). Further gains were mitigated, however, by an 8\% decline in the topgrossing Prevnar vaccine franchise (10\% of total sales), which continues to fade due to weaker demand for the adult indication. Aging blockbusters Enbre (-20\%) and Viagra (-16\%) were additional drags, owing to generic competition.
Lyrica will likely face losses next year when its U.S. patent expires. The nerve pain medication currently represents Pfizer's number-two seller and accounts for $9 \%$ of total sales. It generated roughly $\$ 2.2$ billion during the first half ( $+8 \%$ year over year) and appears poised to finish off 2017 on a positive note. That said, cheaper shareholder value. generics are expected to hit the market Michaed Ratty
likely experience some erosion, the extent of which depends largely on timing.

## The company narrowed its 2017 earn-

 ings guidance. Pfizer's Q2 results were mixed, as adjusted share earnings (\$0.67) came in ahead of consensus expectations, but sales ( $\$ 12.9$ billion) missed. On the conference call, management indicated that it now expects full-year adjusted earnings of \$2.54-\$2.60 a share (previously $\$ 2.50-\$ 2.60$ ), but reaffirmed its sales outlook of $\$ 52$ billion- $\$ 54$ billion. Based on our projections, sales are likely to be relatively flat in 2017. We look for further development of the new product cycle to drive a more meaningful rebound in 2018.The stock's Timeliness rank has been raised a notch to 3 (Average). We continue to view Pfizer as a solid, lower-risk income play in the large pharmaceutical space. The company has strong finances, high-grade fundamentals, and an impressive track record. An attractive dividend yield (3.6\%) and expectations for continued share repurchases should enhance

