

Hunter Jesse N
 Form 4
 April 30, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Hunter Jesse N

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD
 (Street)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 CENTENE CORP [CNC]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 04/28/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Exec VP of Operations

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| Common Stock | 04/28/2012 | | F | 425 ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 40.06 | D | 93,234 ⁽²⁾ |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Pr Deri Secu (Inst | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 13.58 | | | | | 08/26/2008 | 08/26/2013 | Common Stock | 6,000 |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 25.4 | | | | | 12/13/2010 | 12/13/2015 | Common Stock | 8,000 |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 25.21 | | | | | 12/12/2011 | 12/12/2016 | Common Stock | 12,000 |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 16.84 | | | | | 04/28/2013 | 04/28/2018 | Common Stock | 10,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Hunter Jesse N 7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 | | | Exec VP of Operations | |

Signatures

/s/ William N. Scheffel (executed by attorney-in-fact)

04/30/2012

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Shares withheld for taxes upon vesting of previously reported stock grant.

(2) Ownership includes previous awards of 57,667 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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