

WELLCARE HEALTH PLANS, INC.

Form 4

February 23, 2005

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

**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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
ERICKSON DAVID W

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O WELLCARE HEALTH
PLANS, INC., 8725 HENDERSON
ROAD

(Street)

TAMPA, FL 33634

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading
Symbol
WELLCARE HEALTH PLANS,
INC. [WCG]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
02/22/2005

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
X Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
SVP and Chief Information Offi

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
X 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

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)				
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option	\$ 30.32	02/22/2005		A		15,000		02/21/2006 ⁽¹⁾	02/21/2015	Common Stock	15,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
ERICKSON DAVID W C/O WELLCARE HEALTH PLANS, INC. 8725 HENDERSON ROAD TAMPA, FL 33634			SVP and Chief Information Offi	

Signatures

Karen Mulroe for David W.
Erickson

02/23/2005

__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).

On February 22, 2004, the Reporting Person was awarded an option to acquire 15,000 shares of the Issuer's common stock. The option
(1) vests 25% upon the first anniversary of the date of the Reporting Person's date of hire (February 21, 2005) and on a monthly pro rata basis
over the following thirty-six months. The term of the option is ten years.

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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