

CENTENE CORP
Form 4
December 29, 2008

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
NEIDORFF MICHAEL F

(Last) (First) (Middle)
7711 CARONDELET AVENUE
(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)
12/24/2008

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)
Chairman, President and CEO

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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock | | | | (A) or (D) Price | 1,445,636 ⁽¹⁾ | D | |

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

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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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount Number Shares |
| Phantom Stock | \$ 0 ⁽²⁾ | 12/24/2008 | | A | 118.953 ⁽³⁾ | 12/24/2008 12/24/2008 ⁽⁴⁾ | Common Stock 118. |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 7.57 | | | | | 07/24/2007 07/24/2012 | Common Stock 10, |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 13.58 | | | | | 08/26/2008 08/26/2013 | Common Stock 254, |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 13.98 | | | | | 12/16/2006 12/16/2013 | Common Stock 200, |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 17.85 | | | | | 07/27/2007 07/27/2014 | Common Stock 180, |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 25.4 | | | | | 12/13/2008 12/13/2015 | Common Stock 200, |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 25.21 | | | | | 12/12/2009 12/12/2016 | Common Stock 100, |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

NEIDORFF MICHAEL F
7711 CARONDELET AVENUE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

X

Chairman, President and CEO

Signatures

/s/ Eric R. Slusser (executed by
attorney-in-fact)

12/29/2008

__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) Mr. Neidorff's ownership includes previous awards of 1,200,000 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.
- (2) Each share of phantom stock represents the right to receive the fair market value of one share of Centene common stock.
- (3) The phantom stock was acquired by Mr. Neidorff through regular scheduled payroll contributions to the Company's deferred compensation plan.
- (4) The phantom stock has no formal expiration date. The phantom stock will be settled in cash or other non-Company securities upon Mr. Neidorff's termination with the Company or on such other date Mr. Neidorff may elect.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.