WELCH TED H

Form 4

December 19, 2005

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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OMB APPROVAL

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Form 5 obligations may continue.

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

See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

WELCH TED H

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

NATIONAL HEALTH

INVESTORS INC [NHI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 12/15/2005

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last)

(City)

Stock

(First)

(Middle)

(Zip)

X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify

611 COMMERCE STREET, SUITE

(State)

2920

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

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

below)

NASHVILLE, TN 37203

		140	isoc I from Derivative Securities required, Disposed of, or Denerically Owned						
1.Title of	2. Transaction Date	2A. Deemed	3.	4. Securit	ies Ac	quired	5. Amount of	6.	7. Nature of
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	on(A) or Di	sposed	of (D)	Securities	Ownership	Indirect
(Instr. 3)		any	Code	(Instr. 3,	4 and 5	5)	Beneficially	Form: Direct	Beneficial
		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)				Owned	(D) or	Ownership
							Following	Indirect (I)	(Instr. 4)
					())		Reported	(Instr. 4)	
					(A)		Transaction(s)		
			Code V	Amount	or (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)		
Shares of									
Common	12/15/2005		M	15,000	A	\$ 14.72	39,797	D	

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. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative 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
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 14.72	12/15/2005		M		15,000	04/16/2002	04/15/2007	Common Stock	15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 16.35						04/24/2003	04/23/2008	Common Stock	15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 23.9						04/20/2004	04/19/2009	Common Stock	15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 26.78						05/03/2005	05/02/2010	Common Stock	15,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
reporting 0 mar runner, radicess	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
WELCH TED H 611 COMMERCE STREET, SUITE 2920 NASHVILLE, TN 37203	X					
Signatures						

Ted H. Welch by Ann S. Benson, Power of 12/19/2005 Attorney

> **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).

Remarks:

In regard to the "0" in Line 1 of Table I, the total is given in Line 2, which completes the transaction.

2 Reporting Owners

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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.