

Hunter Jesse N  
 Form 4  
 December 13, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2015  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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

(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)  
 12/11/2012

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)  
 EVP, Chief Bus. Dev. Officer

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock                    | 12/11/2012                           |  | A                              | V   | 22,000  | A  | \$ 45.7                           |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                |   | 111,696 <sup>(1)</sup>  | 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. 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<br>7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 |               |           | EVP, Chief Bus. Dev. Officer |       |

## Signatures

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

12/13/2012

\_\_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) Ownership includes this award of 22,000 restricted stock units. Half of the units will vest in three annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date. The remaining half are performance stock units. The number of performance stock units vesting over three annual installments is predicated on meeting a one year performance condition. In addition, ownership includes previous awards of 49,334 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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