

Hunter Jesse N  
 Form 4  
 December 14, 2007

**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

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

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/12/2007

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)

SVP, Corporate Development

(Street)  
 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

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

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 or Price (A) or (D)		
Common Stock	12/12/2007		A		10,000	A	\$ 24.79 33,530 <sup>(1)</sup> D
Common Stock	12/12/2007		F		325 <sup>(2)</sup>	D	\$ 24.79 33,205 <sup>(3)</sup> D
Common Stock	12/13/2007		F		163 <sup>(2)</sup>	D	\$ 25.23 33,042 <sup>(3)</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)

number.

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

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)	\$ 6.29					02/21/2007	02/21/2012	Common Stock	6,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.58					08/26/2008	08/26/2013	Common Stock	15,000
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

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Hunter Jesse N 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE ST. LOUIS, MO 63105			SVP, Corporate Development	

## Signatures

/s/ J. Per Brodin (executed by  
attorney-in-fact)

12/14/2007

\_\_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).

Mr. Hunter's ownership includes this award of 10,000 restricted stock units which vest in four annual installments over a four year period.

- (1) Vesting of this grant is predicated on a one year performance condition being met. In addition, ownership includes previous awards of 16,000 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.
- (2) Shares withheld for taxes upon vesting of previously reported stock grant.
- (3) Mr. Hunter's ownership includes 26,000 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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