

CENTENE CORP
Form 4
December 11, 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 *
SCHEFFEL WILLIAM N

(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)
12/09/2008

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)
Exec VP, Specialty Business

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	12/09/2008		A	20,000	\$ 17.92	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. Principal Amount or Number of Shares
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 15.35					12/01/2008 12/01/2013	Common Stock	34,486
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 16.65					05/04/2009 05/04/2014	Common Stock	30,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.07					12/08/2009 12/08/2014	Common Stock	50,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 32.06					07/26/2010 07/26/2015	Common Stock	25,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.4					12/13/2010 12/13/2015	Comon Stock	10,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.21					12/12/2011 12/12/2016	Common Stock	10,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Reporting Owners

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

SCHEFFEL WILLIAM N
7711 CARONDELET AVENUE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

Exec VP, Specialty Business

Signatures

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

12/11/2008

__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. Scheffel's ownership includes this award of 20,000 restricted stock units which vest in three annual installments over a three year period. Vesting of this grant is predicated on a one year performance condition being met. In the event the performance condition is not met, the restricted stock units will vest in four equal annual installments over a four year period. In addition, ownership includes previous awards of 35,000 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. 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.