

Hunter Jesse N
 Form 4
 February 10, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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)
 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)
 02/09/2009

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)
 Exec VP, Corporate Development

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	02/09/2009		F	(A) or (D) D	1,344 (1) \$ 19.85	60,069 (2)	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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Principal Amount or Number of Shares
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 6.29					02/21/2007 02/21/2012	Common Stock	3,000
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
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 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE ST. LOUIS, MO 63105			Exec VP, Corporate Development	

Signatures

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

02/10/2009

__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) Shares withheld for taxes upon vesting of previously reported stock grant.

(2) Mr. Hunter's ownership includes previous awards of 52,500 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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