

CENTENE CORP  
 Form 4  
 December 14, 2006

**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 \*  
 Hunter Jesse N

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE, SUITE 800  
 (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)  
 12/12/2006

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)  
 VP, Corporate Development

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
			Code	V	Amount		
Common Stock	12/12/2006		A		5,000	A	
					\$ 25.21		
					23,530 <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)	Amount or Number of Shares
				Code V (A) (D)		Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.21	12/12/2006		A	12,000	12/12/2011 <sup>(2)</sup> 12/12/2016	Common Stock	12,000
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

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Hunter Jesse N 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SUITE 800 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105			VP, Corporate Development	

## Signatures

/s/ J. Per Brodin (executed by attorney-in-fact) 12/14/2006

\*\*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 5,000 restricted stock units which vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on December 12, 2007, as well as a previous award of 16,000 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.

(2) The options vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on December 12, 2007.

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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