

October 25, 2004



Centene Corporation Files Universal Shelf Registration Statement

ST. LOUIS, Oct 25, 2004 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Centene Corporation (NYSE:CNC) today announced that it has filed a universal shelf registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which will permit Centene, from time to time after effectiveness of the registration statement, to offer and sell common stock, preferred stock, debt, warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt, securities purchase contracts or securities purchase units up to an aggregate value of \$300 million.

A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission but has not yet become effective. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This news release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any state in which such offer solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to the registration or qualification of the securities under the securities laws of that state.

About Centene Corporation

Centene Corporation provides multi-line managed care programs and related services to individuals receiving benefits under Medicaid, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The Company operates health plans in Indiana, New Jersey, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin. In addition, the Company contracts with other healthcare organizations to provide specialty services including behavioral health, nurse triage and pharmacy compliance. Information regarding Centene is available via the Internet at www.centene.com.

SOURCE: Centene Corporation

Centene Corporation, St. Louis
Investor Relations:
Lisa M. Wilson, 212-759-3929