

# 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 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* NEIDORFF MICHAEL F			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTENE CORP [CNC]			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Chairman and CEO		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 10/28/2004					
7711 CARONDELET AVENUE, SUITE 800								
(Street)			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105								
(City) (State) (Zip)			<b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b>					

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	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	10/28/2004		M		19,518	A	\$ 15.14	150,528	D	
Common Stock	10/28/2004		M		10,482	A	\$ 27.16	161,010	D	
Common Stock	10/28/2004		S		30,000 (1)	D	\$ 47.54	131,010	D	
Common Stock	10/28/2004		M		30,000	A	\$ 1.87	161,010	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number. SEC 1474 (9-02)

**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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 15.14	10/28/2004		M		19,518		07/24/2004	07/24/2012	Common Stock	19,518	\$ 15.14	55,482	D	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 27.16	10/28/2004		M		10,482		08/26/2004	08/26/2013	Common Stock	10,482	\$ 27.16	139,518	D	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 1.87	10/28/2004		M		30,000		06/24/1999	06/24/2006	Common Stock	30,000	\$ 1.87	70,000	D	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships

	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
NEIDORFF MICHAEL F 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SUITE 800 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105	X		Chairman and CEO	

## Signatures

/s/ Michael F. Neidorff	11/01/2004
<small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>	<small>Date</small>

## 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) Sale pursuant to a 10b5-1 Plan established February 27, 2004.

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.