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

FORM 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Drozda Joseph P. <hr/> <i>(Last) (First) (Middle)</i> c/o Centene Corporation 7711 Carondelet Avenue, Suite 800 <hr/> <i>(Street)</i> St. Louis, MO 63105 <hr/> <i>(City) (State) (Zip)</i>	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Centene Corporation (CNTE) <hr/> 4. Statement for Month/Day/Year December 4, 2002 <hr/> 6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check All Applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <i>(give title below)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(specify below)</i> Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs <hr/>	3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (Voluntary) <hr/> 5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year) <hr/> 7. 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
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see instruction 4(b)(v).

Table II — Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned — Continued
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date <i>(Month/Day/Year)</i>	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities <i>(Instr. 3 and 4)</i>	8. Price of Derivative Security <i>(Instr. 5)</i>	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) <i>(Instr. 4)</i>	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) <i>(Instr. 4)</i>	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership <i>(Instr. 4)</i>	
Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
(2)	1/3/2010	Common Stock	14,000	\$1.33	21,000	D

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) On 12/4/02 Mr. Drozda gifted 14,000 shares to The Joseph P. Drozda, Jr. and Donna L. Drozda Revocable Living Trust, dated June 17, 1993, Joseph P. Drozda, Jr. and Donna L. Drozda, Trustees. On 12/4/02 the trust sold 9,500 shares. Currently, Mr. Drozda personally owns 1,000 shares and the trust owns 4,500 shares.
- (2) These options were granted on 1/3/2000 and vest ratably over 5 years.

/s/ Joseph P. Drozda, Jr.

December 6, 2002

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.