

OMB APPROVAL
OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response...0.5

**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*

Bradt Samuel E.

(Last) (First) (Middle)

c/o Centene Corporation
7711 Carondelet Avenue,
Suite 800

(Street)

St. Louis, MO 63105

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Centene Corporation (CNTE)

4. Statement for Month/Day/Year

December 11, 2002

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check All Applicable)

Director 10% Owner

Officer *(give title below)*

Other *(specify below)*

3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (Voluntary)

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

Form Filed by One Reporting Person

Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

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 I — Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security <i>(Instr. 3)</i>	2. Transaction Date <i>(Month/Day/Year)</i>	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any <i>(Month/Day/Year)</i>	3. Transaction Code <i>(Instr. 8)</i>	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) <i>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)</i>	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) <i>(Instr. 3 and 4)</i>	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) <i>(Instr. 4)</i>	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership <i>(Instr. 4)</i>	
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	
Common Stock	12/11/02		G(1)		3,000	D	46,625(2)	D

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

1. Title of Derivative Security <i>(Instr. 3)</i>	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date <i>(Month/Day/Year)</i>	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any <i>(Month/Day/Year)</i>	4. Transaction Code <i>(Instr. 8)</i>		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) <i>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)</i>	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)

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		

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) On December 11, 2002, Mr. Bradt made a charitable gift to the Merganser Fund.
- (2) Includes 3,305 shares owned of record by the Elizabeth A. Brinn Foundation of which Mr. Bradt is a director and an executive officer. Mr. Bradt disclaims beneficial ownership of such 3,305 shares.

/s/ Samuel E. Bradt

December 13, 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.