

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* LAYTON BRENT D | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTENE CORP [CNC] | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) President & COO | | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/22/2021 | | | | | |
| 7700 FORSYTH BLVD | | | | | | | | |
| (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 | | |
| SAINT LOUIS, MO 63105 | | | | | | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|----------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 12/22/2021 | | F | | 3,730 (1) | D | \$ 82.99 | 540,058.492 (2) | 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 | | | | |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 81.85 | | | | | | (3) | 12/15/2031 | Common Stock | 13,449.00 | | 13,449 | D | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| LAYTON BRENT D 7700 FORSYTH BLVD SAINT LOUIS, MO 63105 | | | President & COO | |

Signatures

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| /s/ Christopher A. Koster (executed by attorney-in-fact) | 12/23/2021 |
| <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) Shares withheld for taxes upon vesting of previously reported stock grant.
- (2) Ownership includes 312,323 shares of restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.
- (3) Performance Stock Option granted on December 15, 2021, may become exercisable on or after the third anniversary of the grant date if the closing price of CNC's common stock equals or exceeds \$100 per share for 20 consecutive trading days following the grant date.

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.