

CENTENE CORP  
Form 4  
December 16, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**HOBBS CARY**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

7711 CARONDELET AVE.

(Street)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**CENTENE CORP [CNC]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/13/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)

SVP, Strategy & Bus Impl

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	12/13/2008		F	163 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 15.96	D	14,837 <sup>(2)</sup>

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)**

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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. Pr Deri Secu (Inst	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 0.45					10/20/2005	10/20/2010	Common Stock	1,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.58					08/26/2008	08/26/2013	Common Stock	22,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.98					12/16/2008	12/16/2013	Common Stock	32,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 16.65					05/04/2009	05/04/2014	Common Stock	15,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.07					12/08/2009	12/08/2014	Common Stock	30,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.4					12/13/2010	12/13/2015	Common Stock	5,000
Common Stock Option (right to	\$ 25.21					12/12/2011	12/12/2016	Common Stock	5,000

buy)

Common  
Stock

Option \$ 20.58

(right to  
buy)

07/23/2012 07/23/2017

Common  
Stock 5,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HOBBS CARY 7711 CARONDELET AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63105			SVP, Strategy & Bus Impl	

## Signatures

/s/ Eric R. Slusser (executed by  
attorney-in-fact)

12/16/2008

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## 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) Ms. Hobbs' ownership includes previous awards of 8,500 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.

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

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