

NEIDORFF MICHAEL F
 Form 4
 December 11, 2008

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, 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 *
 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)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/10/2008

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 Chairman, President and CEO

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

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

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

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	12/10/2008		A	V	100,000	A	\$ 16.91	1,445,636 ⁽¹⁾ D

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

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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)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock	\$ 0 ⁽²⁾							11/26/2008	11/26/2008 ⁽³⁾	Common Stock	23,923.78
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 7.57							07/24/2007	07/24/2012	Common Stock	10,210
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.58							08/26/2008	08/26/2013	Common Stock	254,036
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.98							12/16/2006	12/16/2013	Common Stock	200,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 17.85							07/27/2007	07/27/2014	Common Stock	180,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.4							12/13/2008	12/13/2015	Common Stock	200,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.21							12/12/2009	12/12/2016	Common Stock	100,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
NEIDORFF MICHAEL F 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE ST. LOUIS, MO 63105	X		Chairman, President and CEO	

Signatures

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

12/11/2008

__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) Mr. Neidorff's ownership includes this award of 100,000 restricted stock units which vest in three annual installments over a three year period. Vesting of this grant is predicated on a one year performance condition being met. In the event the performance condition is not met, the restricted stock units will vest in four equal annual installments over a four year period. In addition, ownership includes previous awards of 1,100,000 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.
- (2) Each share of phantom stock represents the right to receive the fair market value of one share of Centene common stock.
- (3) The phantom stock has no formal expiration date. The phantom stock will be settled in cash or other non-Company securities upon Mr. Neidorff's termination with the Company or on such other date Mr. Neidorff may elect.

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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