

CENTENE CORP
 Form 4
 December 28, 2009

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 *
HARROLD JASON M

(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)
 12/23/2009

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, Specialty Business Unit

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)
Common Stock				(A) or (D) Price	29,567 ⁽¹⁾	D	

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

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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)	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock	\$ 0 ⁽²⁾	12/23/2009		A	1.789 ⁽³⁾	12/23/2009 12/23/2009 ⁽⁴⁾	Phantom Stock	1.789
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.21					12/12/2011 12/12/2016	Common Stock	7,500
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 24.79					12/12/2012 12/12/2017	Common Stock	5,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 18.44					07/27/2014 07/27/2019	Common Stock	5,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HARROLD JASON M 7711 CARONDELET AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63105			SVP, Specialty Business Unit	

Signatures

/s/ William N. Scheffel (executed by attorney-in-fact)

12/28/2009

__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) Ownership includes previous awards of 28,200 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 was acquired by Mr. Harrold through regular scheduled payroll contributions to the Company's deferred compensation plan.
- (4) The phantom stock has no formal expiration date. The phantom stock will be settled in cash or other non-Company securities upon Mr. Harrold's termination with the Company or on such other date Mr. Harrold 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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