CENTENE CORP Form 4

December 10, 2004

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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Estimated average burden hours per response...

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES** Form 4 or

Form 5 obligations may continue.

(Middle)

See Instruction 1(b).

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 * SCHEFFEL WILLIAM N

(First)

(Street)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

CENTENE CORP [CNC]

(Check all applicable)

Senior VP and Controller

7711 CARONDELET

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 12/08/2004

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

AVENUE. SUITE 800

(Last)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

ST. 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 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of 6. Ownership Securities Form: Direct Beneficially (D) or Indirect Beneficial Owned (T) Following (Instr. 4)

Reported (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of Derivative

Security

Conversion or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

any

4. 5. Number of **Transaction**Derivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount Underlying Securitie (Instr. 3 and 4)

7. Nature of

Ownership

(Instr. 4)

Indirect

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(Instr. 3) Price of Derivative Security

(Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Acquired (A)

or Disposed of

(D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)

Code V

(A)

(D) Date Exercisable Expiration Date

Title

Amour or

Numbe of Shar

25,00

Common

Stock Option

\$ 52.14 12/08/2004

25,000 A

12/08/2005(1) 12/08/2014

Common

Stock

(right to buy)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

SCHEFFEL WILLIAM N 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE **SUITE 800**

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

Senior VP and Controller

Signatures

/s/ William N. Scheffel

12/09/2004

**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) The options vest in 5 equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on December 8, 2005

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.

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