

BURGESS ERNEST G III
 Form 4
 March 22, 2012

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 *
BURGESS ERNEST G III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
**NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORP
 [NHC]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
7097 FRANKLIN ROAD
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
03/21/2012

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

MURFREESBORO, TN 37128
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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 | | |
| Shares of Common Stock | 03/21/2012 | | S | 8,254 | D \$ 45.33 | 105,746 | D |
| Shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock | | | | | | 146,210 | 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

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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. Pr Deri Secu (Inst | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 52.5 | | | | | 04/24/2007 | 04/23/2012 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 51.5 | | | | | 05/01/2008 | 05/01/2013 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 37.7 | | | | | 05/05/2009 | 05/04/2014 | Common Stock | 11,950 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 45.8 | | | | | 05/09/2011 | 05/08/2016 | Common Stock | 7,500 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BURGESS ERNEST G III 7097 FRANKLIN ROAD MURFREESBORO, TN 37128 | | X | | |

Signatures

Ernest G. Burgess, III, by Ann S. Benson,
P.O.A.

03/22/2012

__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).

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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