

LAROCHE RICHARD F JR
Form 5
January 12, 2005

FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0362
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response... 1.0

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
LAROCHE RICHARD F JR

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)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2004

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

2103 SHANNON DRIVE
(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting
(check applicable line)

MURFREESBORO, TN 37129

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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) Amount	or (D)	Price			
Common Stock, held in trust, subject to life estate							29,523	I	Remainder in GRAT
Common Stock - IRA							1,038	D	
	12/02/2004		G	10,284	D	\$ 0	236,152	D	

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Common Stock - Partnership										
Common Stock - Family Partnership	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	63,638	I		Family Partnership
Common Stock - Family Foundation	12/02/2004	Â	G	10,284	A	\$ 0	0 ⁽¹⁾	I		Trustee of Family Foundation
Common Stock - Family Foundation	12/29/2004	Â	G	17,284	D	\$ 0	17,000	I		Trustee of Family Foundation

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

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SEC 2270 (9-02)

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)	
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 19.6	Â	Â	Â	Â	04/24/2003	04/23/2008	Common Stock	15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 27.01	Â	Â	Â	Â	04/20/2004	04/19/2009	Common Stock	15,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
LAROCHE RICHARD F JR 2103 SHANNON DRIVE MURFREESBORO, TN 37129	X			Secretary

Signatures

Richard F.
LaRoche, Jr. 01/12/2005

__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) Total given on next line with completion of transactions for this entity.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.