

DITMORE ROBERT K
 Form 4
 April 29, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

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 *
DITMORE ROBERT K

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE
 (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)
 04/28/2009

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)

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Common Stock | 04/28/2009 | | A | V Amount (A) or (D) Price \$ 19.71 | 291,666.611 (1) | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 15,250 | I | By spouse (2) |
| Common Stock | | | | | 5,600 | I | See footnote (3) |
| Common Stock | | | | | 59,200 | I | See footnote (4) |

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

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(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) | 8. Price or Amount of Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 7.57 | | | | | 05/03/2004 07/24/2012 | Common Stock | 22,500 |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 16.65 | | | | | 04/26/2005 05/04/2014 | Common Stock | 10,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| DITMORE ROBERT K 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 | | X | | |

Signatures

/s/ Eric R. Slusser (executed by attorney-in-fact) 04/29/2009

__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) Mr. Ditmore's ownership includes 5,073 shares of restricted stock which will vest in full on the date of the April 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

(2) Shares owned by spouse who shares Mr. Ditmore's household. Mr. Ditmore disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by his spouse, and the inclusion of these shares in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of all of the reported shares for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

(3) Owned by the Ditmore 2002 Charitable Remainder Trust, of which Mr. Ditmore is a co-trustee.

(4) Owned by the Ditmore Family Management Company LLC, of which Mr. Ditmore is a chief manager. Mr. Ditmore disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, and the inclusion of these shares in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of all of the reported shares for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

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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