

HASSAN EMIL E
 Form 4
 September 19, 2008

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
 HASSAN EMIL E

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)
 1704 IRBY LANE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 09/17/2008

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

MURFREESBORO, TN 37127
 (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)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Shares of Common Stock	09/17/2008		M		11,000	A	\$ 27.01
Shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock					17,000		

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)	
					Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable		Expiration Date
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 27.01	09/17/2008		M		11,000		04/20/2004	04/19/2009	Common Stock	15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 32.01							05/03/2005	05/02/2010	Common Stock	15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 44.25							05/03/2006	05/02/2011	Common Stock	15,000
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		A		15,000		05/01/2008	05/01/2013	Common Stock	15,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HASSAN EMIL E 1704 IRBY LANE MURFREESBORO, TN 37127		X		

Signatures

Emil E. Hassan

09/19/2008

**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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