HOBBS CARY Form 4 April 27, 2006

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Expires: January 31, 2005

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. 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

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * HOBBS CARY			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTENE CORP [CNC]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
7711 CARON AVENUE, SI			(Month/Day/Year) 04/27/2006	Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) Sr VP Strategy and Bus. Imp.		
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check		
ST. LOUIS, I	MO 63105		Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acq	quired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned		

(City)	(State) (Zip) Table	I - Non-D	erivative (Secur	ities Acqu	uired, Disposed of	, or Beneficiall	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired n(A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)		
Common Stock	04/27/2006		M	2,500	A	\$ 0.34	4,500	D	
Common Stock	04/27/2006		S	2,500 ₍₁₎	D	\$ 25.18	2,000	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 required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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. Transacti 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	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 0.34	04/27/2006		M	2,500	12/16/2004	12/16/2009	Common Stock	2,500

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
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Director 10% Owner Officer Other

HOBBS CARY 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SUITE 800 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

Sr VP Strategy and Bus. Imp.

Signatures

/s/ Cary Hobbs 04/27/2006

**Signature of Date
Reporting Person

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) Sale pursuant to a 10b5-1 Plan established December 14, 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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