

Flatt Stephen Fowler
 Form 4
 February 21, 2019

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 *
 Flatt Stephen Fowler

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)
 100 VINE STREET
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/19/2019

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

MURFREESBORO, TN 37130
 (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 Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| Common Stock | 02/19/2019 | | M | A | 30,000 (1) \$ 72.94 | 72,684 | D |
| Common Stock | 02/19/2019 | | F | D | 27,160 (2) \$ 84.03 | 45,524 (3) | D |

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

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 (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) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 72.94 | 02/19/2019 | | M | 30,000 (1) | 02/14/2019 ⁽¹⁾ 03/11/2022 | Common Stock | 75,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Flatt Stephen Fowler 100 VINE STREET MURFREESBORO, TN 37130 | X | | CEO | |

Signatures

/s/ Stephen F. Flatt
02/21/2019
 **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) These stock options were granted pursuant to the Company’s 2010 Omnibus Equity Incentive plan on March 14, 2017. On February 14, 2019, the Compensation Committee amended the option to grant a 30 day window to exercise up to 40% of this option, with any shares issued upon exercise to be held as restricted stock until 2/9/22, the original date exercisable. The grant and exercise of these stock options are exempt from Section 16(b) pursuant to Rule 16b-3(d).
- (2) Shares were withheld by the Company to pay the exercise price and withholding tax obligations.
- (3) Total amount of common shares owned following transactions reported on this form.

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.