

CENTENE CORP  
Form 4  
April 28, 2006

**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 \*  
**NEIDORFF MICHAEL F**

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**7711 CARONDELET AVENUE, SUITE 800**  
  
(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)  
**04/27/2006**

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)  
**Chairman and CEO**

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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |                                                    | Code                           | V Amount (D) Price                                                |                                                                                               |                                                          |                                                       |
| Common Stock                    | 04/27/2006                           |                                                    | S                              | 13,400 (1) D \$ 25.21                                             | 1,430,482 (2) D                                                                               |                                                          |                                                       |
| Common Stock                    | 04/28/2006                           |                                                    | S                              | 26,600 (1) D \$ 25.34                                             | 1,403,882 (2) D                                                                               |                                                          |                                                       |
| Common Stock                    | 04/28/2006                           |                                                    | M                              | 7,000 A \$ 0.45                                                   | 1,410,882 (2) D                                                                               |                                                          |                                                       |
| Common Stock                    | 04/28/2006                           |                                                    | M                              | 37,747 A \$ 7.57                                                  | 1,448,629 (2) 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)

**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                         | Title Amount or Number of Shares                              |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy)         | \$ 0.45                                                | 04/28/2006                           |                                                    | M                              | 7,000                                                                                   | 10/20/2005 10/20/2010                                    | Common Stock 7,000                                            |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy)         | \$ 7.57                                                | 04/28/2006                           |                                                    | M                              | 37,747                                                                                  | 07/24/2005 07/24/2012                                    | Common Stock 37,747                                           |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                                   | Relationships |           |                  |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
|                                                                                  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer          | Other |
| NEIDORFF MICHAEL F<br>7711 CARONDELET AVENUE<br>SUITE 800<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 | X             |           | Chairman and CEO |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Michael F. Neidorff 04/28/2006

\*\*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) Sale pursuant to a 10b5-1 Plan dated December 15, 2005.

(2) Includes 1,000,000 Restricted Stock Units, 600,000 of which vest in full on November 8, 2009 and 80,000 each on November 8, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

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.