

CENTENE CORP

Form 4

January 12, 2010

FORM 4
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
HARROLD JASON M

(Last) (First) (Middle)

7711 CARONDELET AVE.

(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)
01/08/2010

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

SVP, Specialty Business Unit

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
__X__ 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			Code	V Amount (D) Price	29,567 ⁽¹⁾	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
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SEC 1474
(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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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
Phantom Stock	\$ 0 ⁽²⁾	01/08/2010		A		7.061 ⁽³⁾		01/08/2010	01/08/2010 ⁽⁴⁾	Phantom Stock	7.061
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.21							12/12/2011	12/12/2016	Common Stock	7,500
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 24.79							12/12/2012	12/12/2017	Common Stock	5,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 18.44							07/27/2014	07/27/2019	Common Stock	5,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
HARROLD JASON M 7711 CARONDELET AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63105	SVP, Specialty Business Unit

Signatures

/s/ William N. Scheffel (executed by
attorney-in-fact)

01/12/2010

__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) Ownership includes previous awards of 28,200 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.
- (2) Each share of phantom stock represents the right to receive the fair market value of one share of Centene common stock.
- (3) The phantom stock was acquired by Mr. Harrold through regular scheduled payroll contributions to the Company's deferred compensation plan.
- (4) The phantom stock has no formal expiration date. The phantom stock will be settled in cash or other non-Company securities upon Mr. Harrold's termination with the Company or on such other date Mr. Harrold may elect.

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.