DITMORE ROBERT K

Form 4

December 15, 2004

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB 3235-0287

Number:

Expires:

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Issuer

January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

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

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

CENTENE CORP [CNC]

3 Date of Farliest Transaction

Symbol

(Middle)

1(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

DITMORE ROBERT K

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

(First)

(Last)	(First) (N	Aiddle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction								
	(Month/Day/Year)						_X_ Director		Owner		
7711 CARONDELET 11/30/2				.004				Officer (give		er (specify	
AVENUE, SUITE 800 below) below)									below)		
	(Street)	4	4. If Ame	ndment, Da	te Origina	.1		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
Filed(Month/Day/Year)						Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person					
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105								Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned											
1.Title of	2. Transaction Date			3.	4. Securi		_	5. Amount of	6. Ownership		
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution	Date, if		on(A) or Disposed of (D)			Securities	Form: Direct		
(Instr. 3)		any (Month/Da	av/Vear)	Code (Instr. 8)	(Instr. 3,	4 and	3)	Beneficially Owned	(D) or Indirect (I)	Beneficial Ownership	
		(WIOIIII)Di	iy/ i cai)	(msu. o)				Following	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)	
						(4)		Reported	,	,	
						(A)		Transaction(s)			
				Code V	Amount		Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)			
Common Stock	11/30/2004			A	1,450	A	\$ 53.49	96,700 (1)	D		
Stock							33.47			~	
Common	11/20/2004				2 100		\$	00.000 (1)	*	See	
Stock	11/30/2004			A	2,100	A	\$ 53.49	98,800 (1)	I	Footnote	
										(2)	
Common							\$			See	
Stock	11/30/2004			A	700	A	\$ 53.48	99,500 (1)	I	Footnote	
							001.0			(2)	
Common										See	
Common Stock	11/30/2004			A	6,750	A	\$ 53.5	106,250 <u>(1)</u>	I	Footnote	
Stock										(3)	

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Common Stock	11/30/2004	A	700	A	\$ 53.49	106,950 (1)	I	See Footnote (3)
Common Stock	11/30/2004	A	100	A	\$ 53.48	107,050 (1)	I	See Footnote (3)
Common Stock	11/30/2004	A	300	A	\$ 53.47	107,350 (1)	I	See Footnote (3)
Common Stock	11/30/2004	A	1,500	A	\$ 53.44	108,850 (1)	Ι	See Footnote (3)

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.

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(9-02)

9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr

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

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exerc	isable and	7. Titl	le and	8. Price of	
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transaction	orNumber	Expiration Da	ate	Amou	ınt of	Derivative	Į
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	rlying	Security	
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Secur	ities	(Instr. 5)	
	Derivative				Securities			(Instr.	3 and 4)		
	Security				Acquired]
					(A) or]
					Disposed						
					of (D)						-
					(Instr. 3,						
					4, and 5)						
									Amount		
						D-4-	E!4!		or		
						Date	Expiration	Title	Number		
						Exercisable	Date		of		
				Code V	(A) (D)				Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
DITMORE ROBERT K 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SUITE 800 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105	X						

Reporting Owners 2

Signatures

/s/ Robert K.

Ditmore 12/15/2004

**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).
- Includes shares owned by Ditmore 2002 Charitable Remainder Unit Trust, of which Mr. Ditmore is a co-trustee and shares owned by the Ditmore Family Management Company LLC, of which Mr. Ditmore is a chief manager. Mr. Ditmore disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, and the inclusion of these shares in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of all of the reported shares for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.
- Owned by the Ditmore 2002 Charitable Remainder Unit Trust, of which Mr. Ditmore is a co-trustee. Mr. Ditmore disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, and the inclusion of these shares in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of all of the reported shares for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.
- Owned by the Ditmore Family Management Company LLC, of which Mr. Ditmore is a chief manager. Mr. Ditmore disclaims beneficial (3) ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, and the inclusion of these shares in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of all of the reported shares for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

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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