CENTENE CORP Form 4

December 10, 2004

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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response...

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

Check this box

obligations may continue.

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

1(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

See Instruction

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * WITTY KAREY L

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(First) (Middle) CENTENE CORP [CNC] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

Director 10% Owner

7711 CARONDELET, SUITE 800

(Month/Day/Year) 12/08/2004

X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below)

(Check all applicable)

Senior Vice President and CFO

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial (T)

Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

(A)

Reported Transaction(s)

(Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of Derivative Security

Conversion or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

any

4. 5. Number of **Transaction**Derivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount Underlying Securitie (Instr. 3 and 4)

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(Instr. 3) Price of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Acquired (A) Derivative Security

(D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)

or Disposed of

Code V (A) (D) Date Exercisable Expiration

Date

Title

Amour orNumbe of Shar

25,00

Common

Stock Option

\$ 52.14 12/08/2004 A 25,000 12/08/2005(1) 12/08/2014

Common Stock

(right to buy)

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Director 10% Owner Officer Other

WITTY KAREY L 7711 CARONDELET **SUITE 800** ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

Senior Vice President and CFO

Signatures

/s/ Karey L. 12/09/2004 Witty

**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) The options vest in 5 equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on December 8, 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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