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DITMORE ROBERT K

Form 4

February 09, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Estimated average

burden hours per

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Expires: January 31, 2005

0.5

OMB APPROVAL

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

response...

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1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1 Name and Address of Departing D

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * DITMORE ROBERT K (Last) (First) (Middle) 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE, SUITE 800				2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTENE CORP [CNC] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/31/2004					5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer				
									(Check all applicable) _X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below)				
(Street) ST. LOUIS, MO 63105				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				
	(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned												
Sec	Fitle of curity str. 3)	2. Transaction Date 2A. Dee (Month/Day/Year) Execution any (Month/M			3. 4. Securities Acquired (A Transaction Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8) (A) or Code V Amount (D) Price))	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)		
	ommon ock	12/31/2004			A	549.113 (4)	A	\$ 29.32	145,289.113	D			
	ommon ock								6,800	I	By spouse $\frac{(3)}{}$		
	ommon ock								5,600	I	See Footnote		
	ommon ock								59,200	I	See Footnote		

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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)

> 9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans

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	cisable and	7. Titl	le and	8. Price of	9
Sec	Derivative	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	TransactionNumber		Expiration Date		Amount of		Derivative	J
	Security			any (Month/Day/Year)	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Underlying	Security	,	
	(Instr. 3)				(Instr. 8)	Derivative			Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	(Instr. 5)]	
						Securities					(
						Acquired]
						(A) or]
						Disposed						-
						of (D)						(
						(Instr. 3,						
						4, and 5)						
										Amount		
							Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	or		
										Number		
										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

Signatures

/s/ Robert K.

Ditmore 02/09/2005

**Signature of
Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

Date

- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations, See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- Owned by the Ditmore 2002 Charitable Remainder Trust, of which Mr. Ditmore is a co-trustee. Mr. Ditmore disclaims beneficial (1) 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 (2) 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.

(3)

Reporting Owners 2

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Shares owned by spouse who shares Mr. Ditmore's household. Mr. Ditmore disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by his spouse, 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.

(4) Shares represent restricted stock units reserved in lieu of cash payment of fees under the Company's Non-employee Directors Deferred Stock Compensation Plan

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.