NEIDORFF MICHAEL F

Form 4

December 14, 2006

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

OMB Number:

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

Check this box if no longer

Expires:

January 31, 2005

0.5

subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Estimated average burden hours per response...

Form 5 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 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * NEIDORFF MICHAEL F

(Street)

(State)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

below)

Person

(Last)

(First) (Middle) CENTENE CORP [CNC]

(Check all applicable)

7711 CARONDELET

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

12/12/2006

_X__ Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

AVENUE. SUITE 800

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Chairman and CEO

below)

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

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

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

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

(City)

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

(Month/Day/Year)

(Zip)

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

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)

Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) or

(D)

Transaction(s)

Code V Amount

(Instr. 3 and 4) Price

Common Stock

1,471,837 (1)

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)

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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. Transact Code (Instr. 8)	ctionD S S) A D	5. Number Derivative Securities Acquired (A Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4,	A) or of (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amo Underlying Secu (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Ar Nu Sh
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.21	12/12/2006	12/12/2006	A]	100,000		12/12/2009(4)	12/12/2016	Common Stock	
Phantom Stock	\$ 0 (3)							12/01/2006	12/01/2006(2)	Common Stock	20
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 7.57							07/24/2007	07/24/2012	Common Stock	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.58							08/26/2008	08/26/2013	Common Stock	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.98							12/16/2006	12/16/2013	Common Stock	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 17.85							07/27/2007	07/27/2014	Common Stock	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.4							12/13/2008	12/13/2015	Common Stock	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address				
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other

Reporting Owners 2

Relationships

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NEIDORFF MICHAEL F 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SUITE 800 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

Chairman and CEO

Signatures

/s/ J. Per Brodin (executed by attorney-in-fact)

12/14/2006

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

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

X

- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) 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.
- (2) The phantom stock has no formal expiration date. The phantom stock will be settled in cash upon Mr. Neidorff's termination with the Company or on such other date Mr. Neidorff may elect.
- (3) Each share of phantom stock represents the right to receive the fair market value of one share of Centene common stock.
- (4) The options vest in three equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on December 12, 2007.

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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