CENTENE CORP Form 4 October 02, 2008

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

S IN RENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

STATE OF THE PROPERTY STATES STATES

Expires: 2005
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

burden hours per response... 0.5

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * ROBERTS JOHN R			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTENE CORP [CNC]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check an applicable)		
7711 CARONDELET AVENUE			(Month/Day/Year) 09/30/2008	_X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (special below)		
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original	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) Tab	le I - Non-	Derivative S	ecuriti	es Acqui	red, Disposed of,	or Beneficial	ly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities oner Disposed (Instr. 3, 4 a	of (D)	` ′	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	09/30/2008		A	1,797.31 (1)	A	\$ 21.56	33,841.082 (2)	D	
Common Stock							10,246	I	See footnote

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

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SEC 1474

(9-02)

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

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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. DriNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	:		Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Pr Deri Secu (Inst
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 16.65					04/26/2005	05/04/2014	Common Stock	10,000	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
ROBERTS JOHN R 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE ST. LOUIS, MO 63105	X						

Signatures

/s/ Keith H. Williamson (executed by attorney-in-fact) 10/02/2008

**Signature of 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).

Date

- (1) Shares represent restricted stock units reserved in lieu of cash payment of fees under the Company's Non-employee Directors Stock Compensation Plan.
- (2) Mr. Roberts' ownership includes 7,168 shares of restricted stock which are subject to vesting requirements.
- (3) Owned by a revocable trust for the benefit of Mr. Robert's spouse.

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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