

DROZDA JOSEPH P JR  
 Form 4  
 December 14, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

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. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**DROZDA JOSEPH P JR**

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)  
**7711 CARONDELET AVENUE, SUITE 800**  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/12/2006**

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
**Sr. VP & Chief Medical Officer**

**ST. LOUIS, MO 63105**

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock				(A) or (D) Price	32,181 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	

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

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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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Share
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.21	12/12/2006		A	2,500	12/12/2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	12/12/2016	Common Stock	2,500
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 7.57					07/24/2007	07/24/2012	Common Stock	20,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.58					08/26/2008	08/26/2013	Common Stock	12,554
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.98					12/16/2008	12/16/2013	Common Stock	40,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.07					12/08/2009	12/08/2014	Common Stock	12,500
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.4					12/13/2010	12/13/2015	Common Stock	5,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director      10% Owner      Officer      Other

DROZDA JOSEPH P JR  
7711 CARONDELET AVENUE  
SUITE 800  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

Sr. VP &  
Chief  
Medical  
Officer

## 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).
  - \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Mr. Drozda's ownership includes 1,600 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.
  - (2) The options vest in five 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.  
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