

Ussery Robert Michael
 Form 5
 January 21, 2005

FORM 5

**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).
 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Ussery Robert Michael

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORP
 [NHC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
 12/31/2004

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Senior V.P., Operations

2508 BELFAST COURT
 (Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting
 (check applicable line)

MURFREESBORO, TN 37129

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

| 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) | (A) or (D) | Price | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Shares of Common Stock owned by myself & spouse | 01/21/2005 | ^ | J | 574 | A | \$ 19.64 | 36,019 | D | ^ |
| Shares of Common Stock in | ^ | ^ | ^ | ^ | ^ | ^ | 35 | D | ^ |

name of
child

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

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(9-02)

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. 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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option-"Right to Buy" | \$ 20.9 | Â | Â | Â | Â Â | 02/22/2009 03/23/2009 | Common Stock | 40,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Ussery Robert Michael 2508 BELFAST COURT MURFREESBORO, TN 37129 | Â | Â | Â Senior V.P., Operations | Â |

Signatures

R. Michael Ussery 01/21/2005

**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).

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Remarks:

J:Â Â RuleÂ 16b-3(c)Â acquisitionÂ forÂ 2004Â PlanÂ Year,Â pursuantÂ toÂ theÂ NHCÂ EmployeeÂ StockÂ PurchaseÂ

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Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.