

Mason Mary V
 Form 4
 December 14, 2007

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 *
 Mason Mary V

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 7711 CARONDELET AVE.
 (Street)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 CENTENE CORP [CNC]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/12/2007

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 SVP & Chief Medical Officer

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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| Common Stock | 12/12/2007 | | A | V | 2,500 | A | \$ 24.79 16,899 ⁽¹⁾ D |
| Common Stock | 12/12/2007 | | F | | 325 ⁽²⁾ | D | \$ 24.79 16,574 ⁽³⁾ D |
| Common Stock | | | | | | I | 200 By spouse ⁽⁴⁾ |

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

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number.

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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Phantom Stock | \$ 0 ⁽⁵⁾ | 12/14/2007 | | A | 4.397 ⁽⁶⁾ | 12/14/2007 | 12/14/2007 ⁽⁷⁾ | Common Stock | 4.397 |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 26.29 | | | | | 01/03/2011 | 01/03/2016 | Common Stock | 7,500 |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 28.26 | | | | | 04/24/2011 | 04/24/2016 | Common Stock | 2,000 |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 25.21 | | | | | 12/12/2011 | 12/12/2016 | Common Stock | 5,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Mason Mary V 7711 CARONDELET AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 | | | SVP & Chief Medical Officer | |

Signatures

/s/ J. Per Brodin (executed by attorney-in-fact) 12/14/2007

**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).

Dr. Mason's ownership includes this award of 2,500 restricted stock units which vest in four annual installments over a four year period.

- (1) Vesting of this grant is predicated on a one year performance condition being met. In addition, ownership includes previous awards of 9,800 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.
- (2) Shares withheld for taxes upon vesting of previously reported stock grant.
- (3) Dr. Mason's ownership includes 12,300 restricted stock units subject to vesting requirements.
- (4) Shares owned by spouse who shares Dr. Mason's household.
- (5) Each share of phantom stock represents the right to receive the fair market value of one share of Centene common stock.
- (6) The phantom stock was acquired by Dr. Mason through regular scheduled payroll contributions to the Company's deferred compensation plan.
- (7) The phantom stock has no formal expiration date. The phantom stock will be settled in cash or other non-Company securities upon Dr. Mason's termination with the Company or on such other date Dr. Mason may elect.

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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