

CENTENE CORP
Form 4
December 16, 2008

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
GOLDMAN CAROL

(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)
12/12/2008

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)
Exec VP Chief Admin 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	12/12/2008		F	779 ⁽¹⁾ D	\$ 16.11	61,122 ⁽²⁾	D
Common Stock	12/13/2008		F	260 ⁽¹⁾ D	\$ 15.96	60,862 ⁽²⁾	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)

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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. 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 ⁽³⁾					12/31/2007 12/31/2007 ⁽⁴⁾	Common Stock 220,672
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 7.57					07/24/2007 07/24/2012	Common Stock 7,500
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.58					08/26/2008 08/26/2013	Common Stock 20,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.98					12/16/2008 12/16/2013	Common Stock 6,056
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 16.65					05/04/2009 05/04/2014	Common Stock 9,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.07					12/08/2009 12/08/2014	Common Stock 40,000
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 25.4					12/13/2010 12/13/2015	Common Stock 10,000

