

MANNING FREDERICK J

Form 4

December 14, 2009

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
MANNING FREDERICK J

(Last) (First) (Middle)

7711 CARONDELET AVENUE

(Street)

SAINT 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)
12/10/2009

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)

Executive Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
__X__ 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	12/10/2009		A	5,000	A \$ 18.98	23,036 ⁽¹⁾	D

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not
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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)	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)	\$ 16.79					07/01/2011	07/01/2018	Common Stock	20,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
MANNING FREDERICK J 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SAINT LOUIS, MO 63105	Executive Vice President

Signatures

/s/ William N. Scheffel (executed by attorney-in-fact) 12/14/2009

__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).
- Ownership includes this award of 5,000 restricted stock units which vest in three annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date.
- (1) In addition, ownership includes a previous award of 13,333 shares of restricted stock units which are subject to vesting requirements.

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.