TADICH JOHN

Form 4

December 02, 2004

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB 3235-0287

OMB APPROVAL

Number:

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

Check this box

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue.

See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * TADICH JOHN			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)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check an applicable)			
7711 CARONDELET AVENUE, SUITE 800			(Month/Day/Year) 12/01/2004	Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) Senior VP, Specialty Companies			
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105			Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acc	quired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned			

		Table	Table 1 - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Deficiency Owned							
1.Title of	2. Transaction Date	2A. Deemed	3.	4. Securi	ties A	cquired	5. Amount of	6. Ownership	7. Nature of	
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	n(A) or D	ispose	d of (D)	Securities	Form: Direct	Indirect	
(Instr. 3)		any	Code	(Instr. 3,	4 and	5)	Beneficially	(D) or	Beneficial	
		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)				Owned	Indirect (I)	Ownership	
							Following	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)	
					()		Reported			
					(A)		Transaction(s)			
			Code V	Amount	or (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)			
C			Code v	Amount	(D)	d Price				
Common	12/01/2004		M	9,749	A	\$	9,749	D		
Stock	12,01,200.			,,,,,		19.85	<i>>,</i>	_		
Common										
Common	12/01/2004		S	9,749	D	\$ 54	0	D		
Stock				, -		•				

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

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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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number on 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
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 19.85	12/01/2004		M	9,749	11/14/2004	11/14/2012	Common Stock	9,749

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

TADICH JOHN 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SUITE 800 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

Senior VP, Specialty Companies

Signatures

/s/ John Tadich 12/02/2004

**Signature of 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).

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.

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