

Williamson Keith H
 Form 3
 December 14, 2006

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * | | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Williamson Keith H (Last) (First) (Middle) | | 12/12/2006 | CENTENE CORP [CNC] | |
| 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE, SUITE 800 | | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| (Street) | | | (Check all applicable) | |
| ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) VP, General Counsel, Secretary | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock | 15,000 ⁽¹⁾ | D | À |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Title | | | |

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| | Expiration Date | Amount or Number of Shares | or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Commons Stock Option (right to buy) | 11/13/2011 ⁽²⁾ 11/13/2016 | Common Stock 15,000 \$ 24.11 | D |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Williamson Keith H 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SUITE 800 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 | | | VP, General Counsel, Secretary | |

Signatures

/s/ J. Per Brodin (executed by attorney-in-fact) 12/14/2006

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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).
- (1) Mr. Williamson's ownership includes an award of 15,000 restricted stock units which vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on November 13, 2007.
 - (2) The options vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on November 13, 2007.

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.