

STEARNS NEELE E  
Form 4  
March 05, 2012

**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 \*  
STEARNS NEELE E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
MERGE HEALTHCARE INC  
[MRGE]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
  
200 EAST RANDOLPH STREET, SUITE 2435  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/01/2012

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

CHICAGO, IL 60601

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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				(A) Code V Amount (D) Price	221,610	I	Partnership (1)

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

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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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
Stock Options	\$ 6.33	03/01/2012		A	300,000 (2)	03/01/2013 <sup>(3)</sup> 02/28/2018	Common Stock 300,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
STEARNS NEELE E 200 EAST RANDOLPH STREET SUITE 2435 CHICAGO, IL 60601		X		

## Signatures

/s/ Julie Ann B. Schumitsch, by Power of Attorney for Neele E. Stearns, Jr.

03/05/2011

\*\*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).
- (1) Shares of Common Stock held by S I P of Illinois Limited Partnership, of which Mr. Stearns is a partner, the beneficial ownership of which Mr. Stearns disclaims.
- (2) Nonqualified stock options to purchase shares of Common Stock granted to Neele E. Stearns, Jr., Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors, in lieu of cash compensation in accordance with Merge Healthcare's Director Compensation Plan.
- (3) Nonqualified stock options to purchase 75,000 shares of Common Stock vesting on each of March 1, 2013, March 1, 2014, March 1, 2015 and March 1, 2016.

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.