

COGGIN D GERALD

Form 4

January 03, 2005

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
COGGIN D GERALD

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORP
[NHC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
1942 DILTON-MANKIN ROAD
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
12/29/2004

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)
Sr. V.P., Corp Relations

MURFREESBORO, TN 37127

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
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 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 or Disposed of (A) or (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)
Shares of Common Stock in my name and my spouse's name	12/29/2004		M	24,000 A	\$ 3 322,263	D	
Shares of Common Stock					7,136	I	Family Partnership

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. 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)	8. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	9. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
Employee Stock Option-"Right to Buy"	\$ 3	12/29/2004		M	24,000	12/29/2004 10/25/2006	Common Stock	24,000	
Employee Stock Option - "Right to Buy"	\$ 20.9					02/22/2010 03/23/2010	Common Stock	50,000	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
COGGIN D GERALD 1942 DILTON-MANKIN ROAD MURFREESBORO, TN 37127	Sr. V.P., Corp Relations

Signatures

D. Gerald
Coggin
12/30/2004
**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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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