CENTENE CORP Form 4 March 18, 2013

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB

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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. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

(Last)

(City)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * STEWARD DAVID L

(First)

(Street)

(State)

7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Middle)

CENTENE CORP [CNC] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 03/14/2013

X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title

(Check all applicable)

below) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Other (specify

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

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

| (City) | (State) | (Zip) Tabl | e I - Non-I | Derivative | Securi | ities Acqu | iired, Disposed of | , or Beneficial | y Owned |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------|--|--|---|
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securition(A) or Di (Instr. 3, | sposed | of (D) | 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 | 03/14/2013 | | M | 15,000 | A | \$ 10.84 | 91,495.31 (1) | D | |
| Common Stock | 03/14/2013 | | M | 10,000 | A | \$ 16.65 | 101,495.31 (1) | D | |
| Common Stock | 03/14/2013 | | F/K | 12,581 (2) | D | \$ 47.02 | 88,914.31 <u>(1)</u> | D | |

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 ionDerivative 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) | \$ 10.84 | 03/14/2013 | | M | | 15,000 | 05/06/2004 | 05/06/2013 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Common Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 16.65 | 03/14/2013 | | M | | 10,000 | 04/26/2005 | 05/04/2014 | Common Stock | 10,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|--|
| • | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | |
| STEWARD DAVID L 7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD ST. LOUIS, MO 63105 | X | | | | | | |

Signatures

/s/ Keith H. Williamson (executed by attorney-in-fact)

**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) Mr. Steward's ownership includes 4,000 shares of restricted stock subject to vesting requirements.
- (2) Shares withheld for payment of exercise price and tax liability of previously reported stock grant.

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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