

ABERNATHY JAMES PAUL  
Form 4  
June 19, 2018

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
ABERNATHY JAMES PAUL

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)  
2102 GREENLAND DRIVE  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
06/15/2018

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

MURFREESBORO, TN 37130  
  
(City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount or Price   |  |                                   |
| Shares of Common Stock          | 06/15/2018                           |  | M                              |   | 7,500<br>(1)  | A  | \$ 52.93 29,519 D                 |
| Shares of Common Stock          | 06/15/2018                           |  | F                              |   | 5,599<br>(2)  | D  | \$ 70.89 23,920 (3) D             |

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

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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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Option to Purchase Common Stock            | \$ 52.93   | 06/15/2018                           |  | M                              | 7,500   | 05/08/2014 05/07/2019                                    | Common Stock  | 7,500                         |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock            | \$ 61.25   |                                      |  |                                |   | 05/07/2015 05/06/2020                                    | Common Stock  | 3,418                         |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock            | \$ 62.78   |                                      |  |                                |   | 06/02/2016 06/01/2021                                    | Common Stock  | 5,508                         |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock            | \$ 72.94   |                                      |  |                                |   | 05/09/2017 05/08/2022                                    | Common Stock  | 7,500                         |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock            | \$ 61.9  |                                      |  |                                |   | 05/03/2018 05/02/2023                                    | Common Stock  | 7,500                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| ABERNATHY JAMES PAUL<br>2102 GREENLAND DRIVE<br>MURFREESBORO, TN 37130 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ J. Paul  
Abernathy

06/18/2018

\_\_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) These stock options were granted pursuant to the 2005 Stock Option Plan on May 8, 2014. The grant and exercise of these stock options are exempt from Section 16(b) pursuant to Rule 16b-3(d).
  - (2) Shares were withheld by the Company to pay the exercise price.
  - (3) Total amount of common shares owned following transactions reported on this form.

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.