CENTENE CORP Form 3 May 04, 2006

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement CENTENE CORP [CNC] A Schuster Glendon A (Month/Day/Year) 04/25/2006 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner Director _X_ Form filed by One Reporting _X__ Officer Other Person ST. LOUIS, MOÂ 63105 (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by More than One Senior VP and CIO Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Ownership (Instr. 4) Ownership (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Common Stock $4,000^{(1)}$ Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of

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information contained in this form are not

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		4. Conversion or Exercise	5. Ownership Form of	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			(Instr. 4)		Price of	Derivative	(Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	Derivative	Security:	
					Security	Direct (D)	
						or Indirect	

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				Shares		(I) (Instr. 5)	
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	10/31/2006(2)	10/31/2015	Common Stock	7,500	\$ 18.76	D	Â
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	12/13/2006(3)	12/13/2015	Common Stock	5,000	\$ 25.4	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
Schuster Glendon A 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE	Â	Â	Senior VP and	Â			
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105			CIO				

Signatures

/s/ Glendon A.
Schuster

**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) The shares represent restricted stock units which vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on December 13, 2006.
- (2) The options vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on October 31, 2006.
- (3) The options vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on December 13, 2006.

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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