

Donovan James D JR  
 Form 3  
 November 01, 2004

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

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *			2. Date of Event Requiring Statement		3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â Donovan James D JR (Last) (First) (Middle)			(Month/Day/Year) 10/26/2004		CENTENE CORP [CNC]	
7711 CARONDELET AVENUE,Â SUITE 800					4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	
(Street)					(Check all applicable)	
ST. LOUIS,Â MOÂ 63105					___ Director ___ 10% Owner ___X___ Officer ___ Other (give title below) (specify below) Senior VP Product Development	
(City) (State) (Zip)					5. 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	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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

(Instr. 5)

Common Stock Option (right to buy)	09/27/2005 <sup>(1)</sup>	09/27/2014	Common Stock	30,000	\$ 39.06	D	Â
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## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Donovan James D JR 7711 CARONDELET AVENUE SUITE 800 ST. LOUIS, MO 63105	Â	Â	Â Senior VP Product Development	Â

## Signatures

/s James D. Donovan Jr.	11/01/2004
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\*\*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 options vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning September 27, 2005.

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.