

Mason Mary V
 Form 3
 March 06, 2007

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 and Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Mason Mary V		(Month/Day/Year)	CENTENE CORP [CNC]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	03/01/2007	
7711 CARONDELET AVE.			4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
(Street)			(Check all applicable)	
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105			<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
			(give title below) (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
			SVP & Chief Medical Officer	

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)
Common Stock	9,289 ⁽¹⁾	D	^
Common Stock	200	I	By spouse ⁽²⁾

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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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	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security:	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Security	Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Phantom Stock	02/23/2007	02/23/2007 ⁽³⁾	Common Stock	535.116 ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 0 ⁽⁵⁾	D	Â
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	01/03/2011	01/03/2016	Common Stock	7,500	\$ 26.29	D	Â
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	04/24/2011	04/24/2016	Common Stock	2,000	\$ 28.26	D	Â
Common Stock Option (right to buy)	12/12/2011	12/12/2016	Common Stock	5,000	\$ 25.21	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Mason Mary V 7711 CARONDELET AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO 63105	Â	Â	Â SVP & Chief Medical Officer	Â

Signatures

/s/ J. Per Brodin (executed by attorney-in-fact) 03/06/2007

__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).

Dr. Mason's ownership includes 1,000 restricted stock units which vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on April 24, 2007, and 5,000 restricted stock units which vest in five equal annual installments on the anniversary of the grant date beginning on December 12, 2007.

(2) Shares owned by spouse who shares Dr. Mason's household.

(3) The phantom stock has no formal expiration date. The phantom stock will be settled in cash upon Dr. Mason's termination with the Company or on such other date Dr. Mason may elect.

(4) The phantom stock was acquired through regular scheduled payroll contributions to the Company's deferred compensation plan.

(5) Each share of phantom stock represents the right to receive the fair market value of one share of Centene common stock.

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.