

Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 Form 4
 December 17, 2015

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 Lee Howard

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 [AMPH]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/15/2015

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

C/O AMPHASTAR
 PHARMACEUTICALS,
 INC., 11570 6TH STREET

(Street)

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

RANCHO
 CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 | | |
| Common Stock | 12/15/2015 | | M | | 36,536 A \$ 11.68 | 146,437 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/15/2015 | | S | | 36,536 D \$ 14.342 | 109,901 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/16/2015 | | M | | 1,926 A \$ 11.68 | 111,827 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/16/2015 | | S | | 1,926 D \$ 14.33 | 109,901 | D |

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

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SEC 1474
(9-02)

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 |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 11.68 | 12/15/2015 | | M | 36,536 | <u>(2)</u> 12/18/2015 | Common Stock | 36,536 |
| Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 11.68 | 12/16/2015 | | M | 1,926 | <u>(2)</u> 12/18/2015 | Common Stock | 1,926 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Lee Howard C/O AMPHASTAR PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. 11570 6TH STREET RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 | X | | | |

Signatures

/s/ Ken Stupak, by power of attorney
Date: 12/17/2015

__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) The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$14.30 to \$14.46, inclusive. The Reporting Person undertakes to provide to the Issuer, any security holder of the Issuer, or the staff of the

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Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price.

(2) Shares subject to the option are fully vested and immediately exercisable.

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