

TUCKER LAWRENCE C  
Form 4  
December 31, 2009

**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 \*  
TUCKER LAWRENCE C

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)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/30/2009

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

C/O BROWN BROTHERS  
HARRIMAN ("BBH"), 140  
BROADWAY

(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

NEW YORK, NY 10005-1101

(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 Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Shares of Common Stock					591,100 <sup>(1)</sup>	I	The 1818 Fund II, L.P.
Shares of Common Stock	12/30/2009		M	11,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 32.01	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)

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**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)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 32.01	12/30/2009		M	11,000	05/03/2005 05/02/2010	Common Stock 11,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 44.25					05/03/2006 05/02/2011	Common Stock 15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 52.5					04/24/2007 04/23/2012	Common Stock 15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 51.5					05/01/2008 05/01/2013	Common Stock 15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 37.7					05/05/2009 05/04/2014	Common Stock 15,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
TUCKER LAWRENCE C C/O BROWN BROTHERS HARRIMAN ("BBH") 140 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10005-1101	X			

## Signatures

Lawrence C. Tucker by Ann S. Benson,  
POA

12/31/2009

\_\_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 securities are owned by The 1818 Fund II, L.P. Tucker is a general partner of BBH, the general partner of The 1818 Fund II, L.P., and, as such, his pecuniary interest in the securities is limited to his percentage interest in BBH's interest in such securities.
  - (2) These stock options were granted pursuant to the Company's 2002 Stock Option Plan on May 3, 2005. The grant and exercise of these stock options are exempt from Section 16(b) pursuant to Rule 16b-3(d).

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.