

CENTENE CORP
Form SC 13G/A
February 11, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 13G/A

(Rule 13d-102)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT
TO RULES 13d-1(b), (c), AND (d) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED

PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-2(b)

(AMENDMENT 1)

CENTENE CORPORATION

(NAME OF ISSUER)

COMMON STOCK

(Title of Class of Securities)

15135B101

(CUSIP Number)

DECEMBER 31,2003

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1 (b)

Rule 13d-1 (c)

Rule 13d-1 (d)

CUSIP No.
15135B101

13G/A

Page 1 of 3 pages

1. Names of reporting persons J.P.Morgan Chase & Co.

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS 13-2624428
(ENTITIES ONLY)

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a)
GROUP*

(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER 424,474

SHARES

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER 0

OWNED BY

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 432,331

REPORTING

PERSON WITH	8.	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	4,824
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9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

437,817

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES

CERTAIN SHARES

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

2.0%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

HC

**Item
1 (a) .**

Name of Issuer:

CENTENE CORPORATION

**Item
1 (b) .**

Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

7711 CARONDELET AVENUE, SUITE 800

ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

**Item
2 (a) .**

Name of Person Filing:

J.P. MORGAN CHASE & CO.

**Item
2 (b) .**

Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence:

270 PARK AVE

NEW YORK, NY 10017

**Item
2 (c) .**

Citizenship

Delaware

**Item
2 (d) .**

Title of Class of Securities:

COMMON STOCK

Unless otherwise noted, security being reported is common stock

**Item
2 (e) .**

CUSIP Number: 15135B101

Item 3

If this Statement is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b)

Or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is a :

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act;
- (b) Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act;
- (c) Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Exchange Act;
- (d) Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act;
- (e) An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f)

An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with

Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);

- (g) A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h) A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- (i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an Investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company act;
- (j) Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), check this box.

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Item 4. Ownership

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and Percentage of the class of securities of issuer identified in Item 1.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned:

437,817

Including

0 shares where there is a Right to Acquire.

- (b) Percent of class:

2.0%

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i)	Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:	424,474
(ii)	Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:	0
(iii)	Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:	432,331
(iv)	Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:	4,824

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class. YES

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date

hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more

than five percent of the class of securities, check the following. (X)

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. is the beneficial owner of

437,817 shares of the

issuer's common stock on behalf of other persons known to have one or more of

the following:

the right to receive dividends for such securities;

the power to direct the receipt of dividends from such securities;

the right to receive the proceeds from the sale of such securities;

the right to direct the receipt of proceeds from the sale of such securities;

No such person is known to have an interest in more than 5% of the class of securities reported herein unless such person is identified below.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the

Security being reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

This notice is filed on behalf of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and its wholly owned

Subsidiary (ies),

Chase Manhattan Bank USA, National Association

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK

J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable

Item 10. Certifications

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief,

the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection

with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

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SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: FEBRUARY 11, 2004 J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.

By: /s/ Margaret R. Rubin

Margaret R. Rubin

Corporate Compliance

The original statement shall be signed by each person on whose behalf the statement

is filed or his authorized representative. If the statement is signed on behalf of a person by his authorized representative (other than an executive officer or general partner of the filing person), evidence of the representative's authority to sign on behalf of such person shall be filed with the statement, provided, however, that a power of attorney for this purpose which is already on file with the commission may

be incorporated by reference. The name and any title of each person who signs the
the statement shall be typed or printed beneath his signature.
