

DOCUMENT TYPE SC 13G
TEXT

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 13G
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Name of Issuer: CENTENE CORP

Title of Class
of Securities: Common Stock

CUSIP Number: 15135B101

1) NAME AND I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF REPORTING PERSON

Prudential Financial, Inc. 22-3703799

2.) MEMBER OF A GROUP: (a) N/A
(b) N/A

3) SEC USE ONLY:

4) PLACE OF ORGANIZATION: New Jersey

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5) Sole Voting Power: 108,837 See Exhibit A
6) Shared Voting Power: 2,657,347 See Exhibit A
7) Sole Dispositive Power: 108,837 See Exhibit A
8) Shared Dispositive Power: 2,658,956 See Exhibit A
9) AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED: 2,767,793 See Exhibit A
10) AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES SHARES: Not Applicable
11) PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9): 5.4 See Exhibit A
12) TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON: HC

ITEM 1(a). NAME OF ISSUER:

CENTENE CORP

ITEM 1(b). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S EXECUTIVE OFFICES:

7700 FORSYTH BLVD.
ST LOUIS , MO 63105

ITEM 2(a). NAME OF PERSON FILING:

Prudential Financial, Inc.

ITEM 2(b). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE:

751 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102-3777

ITEM 2(c). CITIZENSHIP:

New Jersey

ITEM 2(d). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES:

Common Stock

ITEM 2(e). CUSIP NUMBER:

15135B101

ITEM 3. The Person filing this statement is a Parent Holding Company as defined in Section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP:

(a) Number of Shares
Beneficially Owned: 2,767,793
See Exhibit A

(b) Percent of Class: 5.4

(c) Powers	No. Of Shares
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Sole power to vote or to direct the vote	108,837 See Exhibit A
Shared power to vote or to direct the vote	2,657,347 See Exhibit A
Sole power to dispose or to direct disposition	108,837 See Exhibit A
Shared power to dispose or to direct disposition	2,658,956 See Exhibit A

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF 5% OR LESS OF A CLASS:

Not Applicable

ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN 5% ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON:

Our clients may have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities which are the subject of this filing.

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY:

See Exhibit A

ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP:

Not Applicable

ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP:

Not Applicable

ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION:

By signing below, Prudential Financial, Inc. certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and 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.

The filing of this statement should not be construed as an admission that Prudential Financial, Inc. is, for purposes of Sections 13 or 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the beneficial owner of such shares.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of its knowledge and belief, Prudential Financial, Inc. certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL, INC.

By: Richard Baker
Second Vice President

Date: 02/13/2013
As of: 12/31/2012

Exhibit A

ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP:

Through its parent/subsidiary relationship, Prudential Financial, Inc. may be deemed the beneficial owner of the same securities as the Item 7 listed subsidiaries and may have direct or indirect voting and/or investment discretion over 2,767,793 shares.

These shares were acquired in the ordinary course of business, and not with the purpose or effect of changing or influencing control of the Issuer. The filing of this statement should not be construed as an admission that Prudential Financial, Inc. is, for the purposes of Sections 13 or 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the beneficial owner of these shares.

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION/CLASSIFICATION:

Prudential Financial, Inc. is a Parent Holding Company and the indirect parent of the following subsidiaries, who are the beneficial owners of the number and percentage of securities which are the subject of this filing as set forth next to their names:

Subsidiaries		Number of Shares	Percentage
The Prudential Insurance Company of America	IC, IA	21,100	0.04%
Jennison Associates LLC	IA	2,595,644	5.03%
Prudential Investment Management, Inc.	IA	0	0%
Quantitative Management Associates LLC	IA	151,049	0.29%