

BURGESS ERNEST G III
 Form 4
 May 04, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
BURGESS ERNEST G III

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)
7097 FRANKLIN ROAD
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
04/30/2009

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

MURFREESBORO, TN 37128
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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 (A) or Price (D) | | | | |
| Shares of Common Stock | 04/30/2009 | | M | | 6,372 (1) | A | \$ 27.01 | 156,204 | D |
| Shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock | | | | | | | | 147,560 | D |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not

SEC 1474 (9-02)

required to respond unless the form 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 | \$ 27.01 | 04/30/2009 | | A | 6,372 (1) | 04/30/2009 | 05/30/2009 | Common Stock | 6,372 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 27.01 | 04/30/2009 | | M | 6,372 (1) | 04/20/2004 | 05/30/2009 | Common Stock | 6,372 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 32.01 | | | | | 05/03/2005 | 05/02/2010 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| 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 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| | | | | X |

BURGESS ERNEST G III
7097 FRANKLIN ROAD
MURFREESBORO, TN 37128

Signatures

Ernest G. Burgess, III by Ann S. Benson,
POA

05/04/2009

**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) This stock option was originally granted pursuant to the Company's 2002 Stock Option Plan on April 20, 2004 and expired on April 19, 2009. The Reporting Person inadvertently failed to exercise the option prior to such expiration. The Company elected to amend the option to extend the expiration date to May 30, 2009. This amendment may be deemed the grant of a new option. 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.