

DENBESTEN KENNETH D
 Form 4
 April 24, 2008

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 DENBESTEN KENNETH D

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 NATIONAL HEALTH INVESTORS INC [NHI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 1610 WEXFORD DRIVE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 04/23/2008

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Senior VP, Finance/Secretary

MURFREESBORO, TN 37129
 (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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (D) | Price |
| Common Stock (Restricted Stock Award) | 04/23/2008 | | M | | 4,771 | A | \$ 26.1 |
| Common Stock IRA (DRIP) | | | | | 5,746 | | |
| Common Stock in minor child's name | | | | | 2,918 | | |

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

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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 Stock - Right to Buy | \$ 29.24 | | | | | 02/04/2009 02/04/2013 | Common Stock 29,000 |
| Option to Purchase Stock - Right to Buy | \$ 26.1 | 04/23/2008 | | M | 33,333 | 03/09/2007 03/09/2016 | Common Stock 50,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |
|---|----------------------------------|
| | Director 10% Owner Officer Other |
| DENBESTEN KENNETH D 1610 WEXFORD DRIVE MURFREESBORO, TN 37129 | Senior VP, Finance/Secretary |

Signatures

/s/Kenneth D.
DenBesten
04/23/2008
Date

**Signature of Reporting Person

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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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