

# 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* John K. Lines 1825 Lombardy Avenue Nashville, TN 37215	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol National HealthCare Corporation [NHC]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)  Senior V.P. & General Counsel
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction Required to be Reported (Month/Day/Year) 02/22/2012	
	4. If amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> 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 (mm/dd/yy)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (mm/dd/yy)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, & 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3, & 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	02/22/2012		M		6,000 (1)	A	\$46.69	21,500	D	

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

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

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Form 4 (cont.)

Name and Address of Reporting Person  
 John K. Lines  
 1825 Lombardy Avenue  
 Nashville, TN 37215

Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 National HealthCare Corporation [NHC]

Period Of Report  
 02/22/2012

**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 (mm/dd/yy)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (mm/dd/yy)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. No. of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, & 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (mm/dd/yy)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 & 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. No. of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3, & 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Option to Purchase Common Stock "Right to Buy"	\$46.69	02/22/2012		M			6,000	02/21/2012	02/29/2016	Common Stock	60,000	\$46.69	54,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) - These stock options were granted pursuant to the Company's 2010 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan on March 1, 2011. The grant and exercise of these stock options are exempt from Section 16(b) pursuant to Rule 16b-3(d).

By: John K. Lines  
 \*\*Signature of Reporting Person

2/24/2012  
 Date

\*\*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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