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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): November 3, 2011

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-13489
(Commission File Number)

52-2057472
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**100 Vine Street
Murfreesboro, Tennessee**
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

37130
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (615) 890-2020

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

National HealthCare Corporation (“NHC”) issued a press release on November 3, 2011 announcing its September 30, 2011 earnings. The entire press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 8.01. Other Events.

NHC issued a press release on November 3, 2011 announcing its preferred and common dividends. The entire press release is attached as Exhibit 99.2 and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
99.1	Copy of press release issued on November 3, 2011 by National HealthCare Corporation announcing September 30, 2011 earnings
99.2	Copy of press release issued on November 3, 2011 by National HealthCare Corporation announcing preferred and common dividends

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: November 3, 2011

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

By: /s/ Donald K. Daniel
Name: Donald K. Daniel
Title: Senior VP/Controller
Principal Accounting Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

99.1	Copy of press release issued on November 3, 2011 by National HealthCare Corporation announcing September 30, 2011 earnings
99.2	Copy of press release issued on November 3, 2011 by National HealthCare Corporation announcing preferred and common dividends



For release: November 3, 2011
Contact: Gerald Coggin, Sr. VP of Corporate Relations
Phone: (615) 890-2020

NHC Reports Third Quarter Earnings

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- National HealthCare Corporation (NYSE Amex: NHC; NYSE Amex: NHC.PRA), a publicly traded long-term health care company, today announced net income available to common shareholders for the quarter ended September 30, 2011 of \$15,044,000 compared to \$12,914,000 for the quarter September 30, 2010, an increase of 16.5%. Net income was \$1.09 per common share basic for the quarter ended September 30, 2011 compared to \$.95 per common share basic for the quarter ended September 30, 2010.

Revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2011 totaled \$197,064,000 compared to \$178,551,000 for the same three months of 2010, an increase of 10.4%.

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. NHC cautions investors that any forward-looking statements made involve risks and uncertainties and are not guarantees of future performance. The risks and uncertainties are detailed from time to time in reports filed by NHC with the S.E.C., including Forms 8-K, 10-Q and 10-K, and include, among others, the following: liabilities and other claims asserted against us and patient care liabilities, as well as the resolution of current litigation; availability of insurance and assets for indemnification; national and local economic conditions; including their effect on the availability and cost of labor, utilities and materials; the effect of government regulations and changes in regulations governing the healthcare industry, including our compliance with such regulations; changes in Medicare and Medicaid payment levels and methodologies and the application of such methodologies by the government and its fiscal intermediaries, the ability of third parties for whom we have guaranteed debt to refinance certain short term debt obligations; and other factors referenced or incorporated by reference in the S.E.C. filings. The risks included here are not exhaustive. All forward-looking statements represent NHC's best judgment as of the date of this release.

About NHC

NHC affiliates operate for themselves and third parties 76 long-term health care centers with 9,548 beds. NHC affiliates also operate 36 homecare programs, six independent living centers and 17 assisted living communities. NHC's other services include Alzheimer's units, long-term care pharmacies, hospice, a rehabilitation services company, and providing management and accounting services to third parties. Other information about the company can be found on our web site at www.nhccare.com.

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Condensed Statements of Income*(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)*

	Three Months Ended September 30		Nine Months Ended September 30	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Revenues:				
Net patient revenues	\$ 182,134	\$ 165,344	\$ 536,531	\$ 486,153
Other revenues	14,930	13,207	44,264	42,644
Net operating revenues	<u>197,064</u>	<u>178,551</u>	<u>580,795</u>	<u>528,797</u>
Costs and Expenses:				
Salaries, wages and benefits	106,870	98,531	320,425	292,287
Other operating	54,807	49,296	148,084	146,657
Facility rent	10,000	9,518	29,744	28,440
Depreciation and amortization	7,307	6,800	21,344	19,890
Interest	136	136	333	396
Total costs and expenses	<u>179,120</u>	<u>164,281</u>	<u>519,930</u>	<u>487,670</u>
Income Before Non-Operating Income	17,944	14,270	60,865	41,127
Non-Operating Income	<u>5,140</u>	<u>5,424</u>	<u>14,856</u>	<u>14,958</u>
Income Before Income Taxes	23,084	19,694	75,721	56,085
Income Tax Provision	<u>(5,873)</u>	<u>(4,611)</u>	<u>(26,175)</u>	<u>(18,745)</u>
Net Income	17,211	15,083	49,546	37,340
Dividends to Preferred Stockholders	<u>(2,167)</u>	<u>(2,169)</u>	<u>(6,503)</u>	<u>(6,505)</u>
Net Income Available to Common Stockholders	<u>\$ 15,044</u>	<u>\$ 12,914</u>	<u>\$ 43,043</u>	<u>\$ 30,835</u>
Earnings Per Common Share:				
Basic	\$ 1.09	\$ 0.95	\$ 3.13	\$ 2.25
Diluted	\$ 1.05	\$ 0.95	\$ 3.02	\$ 2.25
Weighted average common shares outstanding				
Basic	13,807,995	13,649,174	13,762,084	13,705,477
Diluted	16,444,749	13,650,916	16,404,305	13,707,590

Balance Sheet Data*(in thousands)*

	Sept. 30 2011	Dec. 31 2010
Cash and marketable securities	\$ 267,051	\$ 236,463
Current assets	343,369	322,126
Property and equipment, net	432,020	436,392
Total assets	846,327	829,015
Current liabilities	206,367	223,806
Long-term debt	10,000	10,000
Deferred revenue	13,707	13,990
Stockholders' equity	598,996	561,146

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Selected Operating Statistics

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30		September 30	
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Per Diems:				
Medicare	\$ 471.80	\$ 387.53	\$ 460.45	\$ 382.27
Managed Care	\$ 424.22	\$ 393.59	\$ 419.64	\$ 386.25
Medicaid	\$ 156.56	\$ 158.03	\$ 157.41	\$ 156.29
Private Pay and Other	\$ 188.00	\$ 184.65	\$ 187.66	\$ 184.69
Patient Days:				
Medicare	116,128	107,945	351,334	330,151
Managed Care	28,009	23,049	78,671	65,871
Medicaid	286,841	280,119	850,938	827,029
Private Pay and Other	<u>153,259</u>	<u>152,239</u>	<u>454,701</u>	<u>442,427</u>
	584,237	563,352	1,735,644	1,665,478
Average Per Diem	\$ 240.30	\$ 218.84	\$ 238.56	\$ 217.72



For release: November 3, 2011
Contact: Gerald Coggin, Senior VP of Corporate Relations
Phone: (615) 890-2020

NHC Announces Preferred and Common Dividends

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- National HealthCare Corporation (NYSE Amex: NHC, NHC.PRA), one of the nation's oldest long-term health care companies, announced today the Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$.20 per preferred share to shareholders of record on December 15, 2011 and payable on January 16, 2012. The Board of Directors has also declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$.30 per common share to shareholders of record on December 30, 2011 and payable on March 1, 2012.

Forward-Looking Statements

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