

**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): August 6, 2012 (August 1, 2012)

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 (17CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On August 1, 2012, the Board of Directors of the Company approved a \$25 million stock repurchase program. Under the new stock repurchase program, the Company may repurchase up to \$25 million of its common stock over a one year period from the authorization date. The Company may repurchase its common stock from time to time, in amounts and at prices the Company deems appropriate, subject to market conditions and other considerations. The Company's repurchase may be executed using open market purchases, privately negotiated agreements or other transactions. The repurchases will be funded from cash on hand, available borrowings or proceeds from potential debt or other capital markets sources. The stock repurchase program may be suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice.

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 August 6, 2012 by National HealthCare Corporation announcing a \$25 million stock repurchase program.

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: August 6, 2012

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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

NHC

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

NHC Announces \$25 Million Stock Repurchase Program

For release: August 6, 2012
Contact: Gerald Coggin, Sr. VP of Corporate Relations
Phone: (615) 890-2020

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – National HealthCare Corporation (NYSE MKT: NHC, NHC.PRA), announces that its Board of Directors, at a regularly scheduled meeting, has authorized a new stock repurchase program that will allow for repurchases of up to \$25 million of its common stock over a one year period from the authorization date. The Company will provide an update regarding any purchases made pursuant to the stock repurchase program each time it reports its results of operations.

Under the new stock repurchase program, the Company may repurchase its common stock from time to time, in amounts and at prices the Company deems appropriate, subject to market conditions and other considerations. The Company's repurchases may be executed using open market purchases, privately negotiated agreements or other transactions. The Company intends to fund repurchases under the new stock repurchase program from cash on hand, available borrowings or proceeds from potential debt or other capital market sources. The stock repurchase program may be suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice.

About NHC

NHC affiliates operate for themselves and third parties 75 long-term health care centers with 9,460 beds. NHC affiliates also operate 37 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.

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.