

LAROCHE RICHARD F JR  
Form 4  
January 03, 2005

**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 \*  
LAROCHE RICHARD F JR

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)  
2103 SHANNON DRIVE  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/29/2004

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
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, held in trust, subject to life estate					29,523	I	Remainder in GRAT
Common Stock - IRA					1,038	D	
Common Stock - Partnership					246,436	D	
	12/29/2004		M	40,000 A \$ 3	63,638	I	

Common Stock - Family Partnership						Family Partnership
Common Stock - Family Foundation	24,000	I				Trustee of Family Foundation

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option-Right to Buy	\$ 3	12/29/2004		M	40,000	12/29/2004 10/25/2006	Common Stock	40,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 19.6					04/24/2003 04/23/2008	Common Stock	15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 27.01					04/20/2004 04/19/2009	Common Stock	15,000

## Reporting Owners

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

LAROCHE RICHARD F JR  
2103 SHANNON DRIVE  
MURFREESBORO, TN 37129

## Signatures

Richard F. LaRoche, Jr. by Ann S. Benson,  
POA

12/30/2004

\_\_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).

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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