

HASSAN EMIL E
Form 4
March 18, 2010

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 *
HASSAN EMIL E

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)
1704 IRBY LANE

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
03/18/2010

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

MURFREESBORO, TN 37127

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price |
| Shares of Common Stock | 03/18/2010 | | M | | 5,000 (1) | A | \$ 32.01 |
| Shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock | | | | | 17,000 | D | |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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 Common Stock | \$ 32.01 | 03/18/2010 | | M | 5,000 | 05/03/2005 | 05/02/2010 | Common Stock | 11,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 44.25 | | | | | 05/03/2006 | 05/02/2011 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 52.5 | | | | | 04/24/2007 | 04/23/2012 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 51.5 | | | | | 05/01/2008 | 05/01/2013 | Common Stock | 15,000 |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$ 37.7 | | | | | 05/05/2009 | 05/04/2014 | Common Stock | 15,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| HASSAN EMIL E 1704 IRBY LANE MURFREESBORO, TN 37127 | | X | | |

Signatures

Emil E. Hassan by Ann S. Benson,
POA

03/18/2010

__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).
- (1) These stock options were granted pursuant to the Company's 2002 Stock Option Plan on May 3, 2005. The grant and exercise of these stock options are exempt from Section 16(b) pursuant to Rule 16b-3(d).

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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