

ABERNATHY JAMES PAUL

Form 4

February 23, 2011

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
ABERNATHY JAMES PAUL

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)

2102 GREENLAND DRIVE

(Street)

MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

(City) (State) (Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
02/21/2011

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

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
			Code	V	Amount (1)	(A) or (D)	Price		
Shares of Common Stock	02/21/2011		M		3,050	A	\$ 37.7	25,316	D
Shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock								12,388	D

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not**

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(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	\$ 52.5					04/24/2007 04/23/2012	Common Stock 12,620
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 51.5					05/01/2008 05/01/2013	Common Stock 15,000
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 37.7	02/21/2011		M	3,050	05/05/2009 05/04/2014	Common Stock 7,707

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
ABERNATHY JAMES PAUL 2102 GREENLAND DRIVE MURFREESBORO, TN 37130	X			

Signatures

J. Paul
Abernathy 02/22/2011

**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 2005 Stock Option Plan on May 5, 2009. The grant and exercise of these shares 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.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.