

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORP

Form 4

May 10, 2017

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 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)
 05/09/2017

4. If Amendment, Date Original
 Filed(Month/Day/Year)

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

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)
				(A) or (D)			
				Code V Amount	Price		
Shares of Common Stock					24,278	D	

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

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 information contained in this form are not
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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)**

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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)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 52.93					05/08/2014	05/07/2019	Common Stock 7,500
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 61.25					05/07/2015	05/06/2020	Common Stock 5,459
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 62.78					06/02/2016	06/01/2021	Common Stock 5,508
Option to Purchase Common Stock	\$ 72.94	05/09/2017		A	7,500 (1)	05/09/2017	05/08/2022	Common Stock 7,500

Reporting Owners

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

Signatures

/s/ J. Paul
Abernathy
05/09/2017

**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).

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- (1) These stock options were granted pursuant to the Company's 2010 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan on May 9, 2017. 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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