

ADAMS ROBERT G  
Form 4  
February 24, 2012

**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 \*  
ADAMS ROBERT G

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)  
100 VINE ST., SUITE 1400  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/22/2012

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

MURFREESBORO, TN 37130  
(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 in my name	02/22/2012		M	7,500 (1) A \$ 46.69	363,932	D	
Shares of Common Stock held in Trust					1,034	I	Trustee
Shares of Series A Conv Pref Stock held					662,789	I	Trustee

in Trust

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

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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 (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	\$ 46.69	02/22/2012		M	7,500	02/21/2012 02/29/2016	Common Stock	75,000	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
ADAMS ROBERT G 100 VINE ST., SUITE 1400 MURFREESBORO, TN 37130	X		CEO	

## Signatures

Robert G. Adams 02/24/2012

\*\*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 2010 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan on March 1, 2011. 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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