

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORP

Form 4

March 16, 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 *
SMITH JEFFREY RUSSELL

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 STREET

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 03/14/2017

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

SVP & Treasurer

MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
 Applicable Line)
 ____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
 Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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)
Shares of Common Stock held in my name			Code	V Amount (D) Price	7,558	D	

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

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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	\$ 72.94	03/14/2017		A		60,000 <u>(1)</u>		02/09/2022	03/11/2022	Common Stock	60,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
SMITH JEFFREY RUSSELL 100 VINE STREET MURFREESBORO, TN 37130	SVP & Treasurer

Signatures

/s/ Jeffrey Russell
Smith 03/16/2017

__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).

(1) These stock options were granted pursuant to the Company's 2010 Omnibus Equity Incentive plan on March 14, 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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