

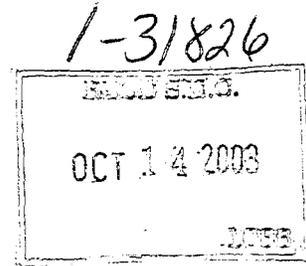
Oct-14-03 12:31pm From-
Paras Madho
Manager
Securities Operations

T-307 P.002/003 F-586
20 Broad Street
New York, NY 10005

tel: 212.656.5026
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pmadho@nyse.com



October 14, 2003



Mr. Brian Johnson
Branch Chief
Securities and Exchange Commission
Branch of Filer Support 2
Room 1004 - STOP/1-4
450 Fifth Street, NW
Judiciary Plaza
Washington, DC 20549

PROCESSED
T OCT 16 2003
THOMSON
FINANCIAL

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The New York Stock Exchange certifies approval for listing and registration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, CENTENE CORPORATION, Common Stock, \$.001 par value per share and requests immediate acceleration of registration. Adequate distribution assured. Form 8-A received on October 14, 2003. Tentative listing date - October 16, 2003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paras Madho".