

Hutchens James Justin
 Form 4
 December 28, 2009

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

OMB APPROVAL
 OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
 Hutchens James Justin

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 NATIONAL HEALTH INVESTORS INC [NHI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 222 ROBERT ROSE DRIVE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/23/2009

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 President and COO

MURFREESBORO, TN 37129
 (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) | (A) or (D) | 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|------------|---|--|--|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | Price | | |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) 25.29 | 12/23/2009 | | M | | 25,000 | \$ 25.29 | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/23/2009 | | M | | 25,000 | \$ 25.29 | D | |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) 25.29 | 12/23/2009 | | M | | 75,000 | \$ 25.29 | D | |
| | 12/23/2009 | | M | | 75,000 | | D | |

Edgar Filing: Hutchens James Justin - Form 4

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--|---|--------|---|----------|--------|---|
| Common Stock | | | | | | \$ 25.29 | | |
| Common Stock | 12/23/2009 | | F | 17,389 | D | \$ 36.36 | 82,611 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/23/2009 | | F | 51,473 | D | \$ 36.85 | 31,138 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/24/2009 | | S | 15,000 | D | \$ 37.05 | 16,138 | 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 required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474
(9-02)

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) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Hutchens James Justin 222 ROBERT ROSE DRIVE MURFREESBORO, TN 37129 | | | President and COO | |

Signatures

/s/Kimberly V. Ouimet, attorney-in-fact for Mr. Hutchens 12/28/2009

__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).

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.