

HEALTH CARE REIT INC /DE/  
Form 4  
January 30, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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**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 \*  
Thomas John T

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
HEALTH CARE REIT INC /DE/ [HCN]

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

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
4500 DORR STREET  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/26/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP- Medical Facilities

TOLEDO, OH 43615  
(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)
				(A) or (D) Price			
			Code V	Amount (D)	Price (1)		
Common Stock	01/26/2012		A	12,953 A	\$ 0 (1) 38,272	D	

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

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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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 57.33	01/26/2012		A	22,280	01/15/2013 <sup>(2)</sup> 01/26/2022	Common	22,280
Deferred Stock Units	\$ 0 <sup>(4)</sup>	01/26/2012		A	17,443	01/31/2012 <sup>(4)</sup> 01/31/2017 <sup>(4)</sup>	Common	17,443

### Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Thomas John T 4500 DORR STREET TOLEDO, OH 43615			EVP- Medical Facilities	

### Signatures

By: Erin C. Ibele Attorney-in-Fact For: John T. Thomas  
Date: 01/30/2012

\_\_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) The shares were granted without cash consideration as shares of restricted stock under the Amended and Restated Health Care REIT, Inc. 2005 Long-Term Incentive Plan.
- (2) Options for the purchase of 22,280 shares of common stock at \$57.33 per share were granted to Mr. Thomas on January 26, 2012. Options for the purchase of 4,456 shares will vest on January 15 of each of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- (3) The options were granted under the Amended and Restated Health Care REIT, Inc. 2005 Long-Term Incentive Plan and had no acquisition price.
- (4) These deferred stock units were granted without cash consideration on January 26, 2012 under the Amended and Restated Health Care REIT, Inc. 2005 Long-Term Incentive Plan. Each deferred stock unit represents a right to receive one share of common stock of Health Care REIT, Inc. at the time of vesting of the unit. These deferred stock units vest in four installments with 4,361 units vesting on January 31, 2012, 4,361 units vesting on January 31 of each of 2015 and 2016 and 4,360 units vesting on January 31, 2017.

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.