

SIERRA HEALTH SERVICES INC
 Form 4
 December 16, 2004

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 *
 PALMER PAUL H

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 SIERRA HEALTH SERVICES INC [SIE]

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

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 2724 N. TENAYA WAY
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/15/2004

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Sr. V.P., CFO & Treas

LAS VEGAS, NV 89128
 (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 | | | |
| Common Stock | 12/15/2004 | | M | 5,000 A \$ 8.93 | 28,279.97 | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/15/2004 | | S ⁽¹⁾ | 5,000 D \$ 56.93 | 23,279.97 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 13,490.72 | I | By 401(k) Plan |

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

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number.

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) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) ⁽²⁾ | \$ 8.93 | 12/15/2004 | | M | 5,000 | 12/10/2002 ⁽³⁾ 12/09/2011 | Common Stock | 5,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| PALMER PAUL H 2724 N. TENAYA WAY LAS VEGAS, NV 89128 | | | Sr. V.P., CFO & Treas | |

Signatures

Paul H. Palmer/Jayne
Primaky POA
12/16/2004

**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) Sale under Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plan.
- (2) Exercise of options granted in consideration for services under the Company's 1995 Long-Term Incentive Plan, which meets the requirements of, and which transactions are exempted by, Rule 16b-3 and Rule 16b-6(b).
- (3) Exercisable as to 33 1/3% on each of 12/10/02, 12/10/03 and 12/10/04.

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.