

MERGE HEALTHCARE INC  
 Form 4  
 August 20, 2008

**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 \*  
**STEARNS NEELE E**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**MERGE HEALTHCARE INC  
 [MRGE]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**08/19/2008**

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

**6737 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 2250**

(Street)

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

**MILWAUKEE, WI 53214**

(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)
Common Stock				(A) Code V Amount (D) Price	221,610	I	Partnership (1)

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)				
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount
Stock Options	\$ 1.47	08/19/2008		A		300,000		08/19/2008 <sup>(2)</sup>	08/18/2018	Common Stock	300,000

## Reporting Owners

**Reporting Owner Name / Address**

**Relationships**

Director    10% Owner    Officer    Other

STEARNS NEELE E  
 6737 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
 SUITE 2250  
 MILWAUKEE, WI 53214

X

## Signatures

Julie Ann B. Schumitsch, by Power of Attorney for Neele E. Stearns, Jr.

08/20/2008

\_\_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) Shares of Common Stock held by S I P of Illinois Limited Partnership, of which Mr. Stearns is a partner, the beneficial ownership of which Mr. Stearns disclaims.
- (2) Nonqualified stock options to purchase shares of Common Stock vesting in sixteen (16) equal quarterly increments of 18,750, with the first increment vesting on August 19, 2008 and then subsequent increments vesting on November 30, February 28, May 31 and August 31 thereafter.

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.