

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

OMB APPROVAL	
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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Smith Martin Dewayne</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) 4000 MERIDIAN BLVD  (Street) FRANKLIN TN 37067  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 12/10/2008	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS INC [ CYH ]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Division Pres.; Division Ops</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	12,834	D	

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date				
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	05/21/2003 <sup>(1)</sup>	05/21/2012	Common Stock	2,000	27.7	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	05/22/2004 <sup>(1)</sup>	05/22/2013	Common Stock	10,000	20.3	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	05/22/2004 <sup>(1)</sup>	05/22/2013	Common Stock	2,000	20.3	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	12/09/2004 <sup>(1)</sup>	12/09/2013	Common Stock	5,000	25.7	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	05/25/2005 <sup>(1)</sup>	05/25/2014	Common Stock	2,000	25.13	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	02/28/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>	02/28/2013	Common Stock	5,000	32.37	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	03/01/2007 <sup>(1)</sup>	03/01/2014	Common Stock	3,000	38.3	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	02/28/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>	02/28/2015	Common Stock	1,500	37.21	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	02/27/2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	02/27/2018	Common Stock	1,500	32.28	D
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	07/25/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>	07/25/2015	Common Stock	8,000	40.41	D

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. Vesting occurs in 1/3 increments on the first, second and third anniversary of the date of grant.

**Remarks:**

Rachel A. Seifert, Attorney in 12/11/2008  
Fact for Martin D. Smith

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (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.

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 Number.