

OWNED BY	None

EACH	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
7	
REPORTING	171,000
PERSON	-----
	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH	8
	None

9	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
	171,000

10	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*
	[]

11	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)
	1.8%

12	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*
	IA

CUSIP NUMBER 314462102

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Item 1.

(a) Name of Issuer:

The Female Health Company

(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

1919 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2208
Chicago, IL 60611

Item 2.

(a) Name of Person Filing:

Heartland Advisors, Inc.

(b) Address of Principal Business Office:

Heartland Advisors, Inc.
790 North Milwaukee Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

(c) Citizenship:

Heartland Advisors is a Wisconsin corporation.

(d) Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

(e) CUSIP Number:

314462102

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b),

or 13d-2(b), check whether the person filing is a:

(a) _____ Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act.

(b) _____ Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act.

- (c) _____ Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a) (19) of the Act.
- (d) _____ Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- (e) _____ Investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
- (f) _____ Employee Benefit Plan, Pension Fund which is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or Endowment Fund; see Sec 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (F).
- (g) _____ Parent Holding Company, in accordance with Sec 240.13d-1(b) (ii) (G) (Note: See Item 1).
- (h) _____ Group, in accordance with Sec 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (H).

Item 4. Ownership.

 For information on ownership, voting and dispositive power with respect to the above listed shares, see Items 5-9 of the Cover Page.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

 If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following:

Item 6. Ownership of more than Five Percent on Behalf of Another

 Person.

Not Applicable.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the

 Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

 Not Applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

 Not Applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

 By signing below, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

DATE: January 27, 1998

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

By: PATRICK J. RETZER
 Patrick J. Retzer
 Senior Vice President/Treasurer

