#### FORM 4

### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this box if no longer subject to |
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| Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5           |
| obligations may continue. See          |
| Instruction 1(b).                      |

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

OMB APPROVAL OMB Number: Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

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*  SCHNEIER CRAIG ERIC  |   |  |  |         |                              | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol BIOGEN IDEC INC [ BIIB ] |   |             |                                       |                             |   |  |   | Check   | c all applic<br>Directo                        | cable)<br>r   | g Person(s) to I  | Owner   |
|--|---|--|--|---------|------------------------------|--|---|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 14 CAMBRIDGE CENTER  |   |  |  |         |                              | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/18/2004          |   |             |                                       |                             |   |  |   | X Officer (give title Other (specify below)  EVP, Human Resources |  |   |   |   |
| (Street) CAMBRIDGE MA 02142  |   |  |  | 4. 11   | f Ame                        | ndmer  | nt, Date o  | of Original | al Filed (Month/Day/Year)             |                             |   |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing<br>ine)  X Form filed by One Repo |   |  | e Reporting Per   | son   |   |
| (City)   | (State) (Zip)   |  |  |         |                              |  |   |             |                                       |                             |   |  |   | Person  |  |   |   |   |
|  |   | Tab  | le I - No                                    | n-Deriv | ative                        | Sec  | curit   | ies Ac      | quired,                               | Dis                         | posed c   | f, or Be   | nefici  | ally  | Owned  | l   |   |   |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transac Date (Month/Da   |   |  |  |         |                              | ar) E  | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |             | Code (                                | Transaction<br>Code (Instr. |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A)<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4<br>5) |   |   |  | es<br>ally<br>Following   | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership |
|  |   |  |  |         |                              |  |   |             | Code                                  | v                           | Amount  | (A) or<br>(D)  | (A) or (D) Price  |   | Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |   |   | (Instr. 4)  |
| Common Stock 08  |   |  |  |         | 3/2004                       |  |   |             | М                                     |                             | 9,323   | A \$45.9   |   | 5.93  | 112,823  |   | D   |   |
| Common Stock   |   |  |  | 08/18   | 08/18/2004                   |  |   |             | S <sup>(1)</sup>                      |                             | 7,719   | D  | \$60  | ).05  | 105  | ,104  | D   |   |
| Common Stock 08/   |   |  |  | 08/18   | 3/2004                       | 1  |   |             | S <sup>(1)</sup>                      |                             | 1,000   | D  | \$60  | ).04  | 10,  | ,104  | D   |   |
| Common Stock 08/18/  |   |  |  |         | 3/2004                       | ′2004  |   |             |                                       |                             | 604   | D  | \$(   | 50  | 103  | ,500  | D   |   |
| Common Stock   |   |  |  |         |                              |  |   |             |                                       |                             |   |  |   |   | 16,02  | 1.4578  | D   |   |
| Common Stock   |   |  |  |         |                              |  |   |             |                                       |                             |   |  |   | 460   |  | I   | by<br>Spouse  |   |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |  |  |         |                              |  |   |             |                                       |                             |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)  | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deem<br>Execution<br>if any<br>(Month/Da | Date,   | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |  | n of E  |             | 6. Date Ex<br>Expiration<br>(Month/Da | n Date                      | r) Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Sec<br>(Instr. 3 and 4 |  | of<br>S<br>Ig<br>e Securit  | De<br>Se<br>(Ir   | Price of<br>erivative<br>ecurity<br>1str. 5)   | 9. Number<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficial<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transactic<br>(Instr. 4) | Ownersh<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr.      | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>t (Instr. 4)             |
|  |   |  |  |         | Code                         | v  | (A)   |             | Date<br>Exercisab                     |                             | Expiration<br>Date  | Title  | Amour<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                                 | er  |  |   |   |   |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right-to-<br>buy) <sup>(2)</sup>   | \$45.93   | 08/18/2004                                 |  |         | M                            |  |   | 9,323       | (3)                                   | 1                           | 0/08/2011   | Common<br>Stock  | 9,32  | 3   | (2)  | 103,50  | 0 D   |   |

#### **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Sale pursuant to a trading plan intended to comply with Rule 10b5-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 2. Granted under one of the Issuer's stock option plans, in an exempt transaction under SEC rule 16(b)-3(d).
- 3. The stock option becomes exercisable in four (4) equal annual installments, commencing one year after the grant date of 10/08/01.

# Remarks:

By: Benjamin S. Harshbarger For: Craig Eric Schneier

08/19/2004

\*\* 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 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).

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.