Physician Charged with $20.7M Health Care Fraud and Kickback Scheme



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In February 2024, a federal grand jury in New Jersey returned an indictment charging a medical doctor with engaging in a health care fraud and illegal kickback scheme involving the submission of $20.7 million in false and fraudulent claims to Medicare for laboratory tests. According to the indictment, the physician allegedly received cash kickbacks from a laboratory representative and others in exchange for approving orders for laboratory tests billed to Medicare. As part of the scheme, the physician also allegedly participated in COVID-19 testing events at which he authorized COVID-19 tests as well as expensive and medically unnecessary cancer genetic tests that patients did not request, that were not used in the patient's treatment, and for which the patients rarely received the results. The indictment also charges the physician with participating in an illegal referral scheme in which the physician solicited and received cash kickbacks and bribes from the owner of a medical equipment supply company in exchange for ordering orthotic braces that were not medically necessary.

The physician is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, six counts of health care fraud, two counts of conspiracy to defraud the United States and pay and receive health care kickbacks, and one count of soliciting health care kickbacks. If convicted, the physician faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison for each count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, health care fraud, and soliciting health care kickbacks, and a maximum penalty of five years in prison on each count of conspiracy to defraud the United States and pay and receive health care kickbacks.

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