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Today federal law enforcement officials announced what has been called the largest [health care fraud](#) case in U.S. History. Federal prosecutors have indicted a Dallas, Texas doctor for allegedly scamming medicare out of almost \$375 million billed for home health care services, which allegedly were not performed.

The federal government over the last several years has been cracking down on the increasing incidents of health care fraud. Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr., in testimony before a House Appropriations sub-committee, detailed the way that health care fraud has become central to his department's enforcement efforts. He reported that in the last fiscal year they had recovered nearly \$4.1 billion in funds improperly obtained from federal health care programs.

The alleged scheme involved considerable chutzpah. Apparently, "health care recruiters" were sent door to door to ask for signatures on forms that contained the doctor's electronic signature. Remarkably, the forms allegedly stated that the doctor had seen the people professionally for medical services that were never performed. It was also alleged that the conspirators dispatched more "recruiters" to a homeless shelter, and that they paid \$50 to street people to sign them up on the false forms. The scheme apparently went on for five years until it was closed down by federal officials.

The Texas physician, along with 78 home health agencies that were working with him, will be suspended from the medicare program for up to 18 months. If found guilty, the doctor faces life in prison and a \$250K fine, as well as restitution of the money allegedly taken from the government.

Many people may not know that there are private remedies for private citizens who have information about health care fraud. These remedies can involve substantial payouts to such informants, which may include health care workers, pharmaceutical representatives, doctors, nurses, or even patients, who had key information leading to the prosecution of those committing fraud. These whistleblowers, officially known as "relators," can actually bring a lawsuit on behalf of the government against the entity they believe is defrauding the government, and there are numerous laws set in place to protect these relators from retaliation.

Our law firm has obtained numerous rewards on behalf of individuals who came forward as [whistleblowers with information about health care fraud](#). If you have information about health care fraud occurring anywhere in the U.S., we encourage you to contact us by calling our toll free number or filling out the form on this page. This is a huge problem in this country and a core part of the federal government's efforts to combat health care fraud depends on private citizens coming forward with private attorneys to bring their information to the government's attention.