

Pfizer Agrees to \$14.5 Million Settlement to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations

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The United States Attorney announced Friday that prescription drug manufacturer Pfizer Inc. has agreed to pay the federal government \$14.5 million to resolve charges that it illegally marketed one of its drugs, Detrol, for a condition known as “overactive bladder.” Pfizer was accused of marketing Detrol to men with prostate conditions and other related urinary tract conditions to treat overactive bladder, when in fact Detrol was never approved for that use.

The settlement will be shared between state Medicaid programs and the federal government, with the majority of the settlement going to the federal government. Whistleblowers who reported Pfizer’s allegedly illegal market practices will also receive a portion of the settlement, under provisions of the False Claims Act that cover whistleblowers’ suits.

Pfizer denied all wrongdoing in a statement, claiming that the settlement allows Pfizer to “avoid the cost and distraction of litigation.” This settlement will resolve the last of ten whistleblower lawsuits against Pfizer, dating back to 2003, that claimed Pfizer marketed its prescription drugs for unauthorized uses. For additional information, see the [Washington Post](#).