



Neurological Institute of Northern Virginia operators found guilty in Federal District Court

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Dec. 1 -- The U.S. Department of Justice's U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Virginia issued the following press release:

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that Dr. Abdorasool Janati, M.D., age 57, and his wife, Forouzandeh Janati, age 56, of Great Falls, Virginia, operators of the Neurological Institute of Northern Virginia, were found guilty in Federal District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia of one count of conspiracy and 61 counts of health care fraud for devising a scheme to defraud government and private health insurance plans between 1996 and 2003. Specifically, the Janatis inflated their invoices and billed for services not rendered.

Judge Claude M. Hilton scheduled sentencing for February 25, 2005. The maximum penalty that the Janatis face is 615 years imprisonment, a fine of \$15,500,000, and full restitution to the their victims.

Dr. Janati, a neurologist, was the primary physician at the Neurological Institute of Northern Virginia, with offices in Woodbridge and Alexandria, Virginia. Mrs. Janati functioned as the office manager at the institute. The Neurological Institute operated as a health care clinic and was engaged in the business of providing neurological testing and evaluations to patients.

Many of Dr. Janati's patients came to see Dr. Janati for brief office visits. Dr. and Mrs. Janati, however, caused claims to be submitted to the patients' insurance companies which falsely indicated that Dr. Janati conducted comprehensive office visits, during which a physician performs, among other things, a comprehensive medical examination and typically spends 40 minutes in face-to-face contact with patients.

Paul McNulty said: "Doctors who cheat the government are in reality stealing from the American tax payer. This case is a clear warning to all doctors that they are not above the law those who steal will be prosecuted."

In addition, the Janatis caused the submission of insurance claims which falsely indicated that certain neurological procedures had been performed on patients when, in fact, such tests had not been performed. In furtherance of their scheme to defraud government and private insurance plans, the Janatis altered patient billing and medical records.

The case was investigated by the FBI, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, **the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General**, and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Office of Inspector General, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Steve Linick and Thomas McQuillan.