



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**THREE PODIATRISTS AND A PHARMACY OWNER ARRESTED ON
HEALTH CARE FRAUD CHARGES**

United States Attorney Benton J. Campbell today announced the filing of two separate criminal complaints charging four Medicare providers for their alleged involvement in health care fraud schemes in the Eastern District of New York.¹

Earlier today, law enforcement agents arrested Vadim Nekritin, Zhanna Glikman, and Igor Loshakov, all of whom are licensed doctors of podiatric medicine, on health care fraud charges. According to the first criminal complaint, between January 2005 and the present, these defendants allegedly billed Medicare for chemical cauterizations of granulation tissue, which treatments were not actually provided to the Medicare beneficiary/patients.

Also arrested today was James Ehrlein, the owner and president of Jayson Drugs, Inc., a pharmacy certified to provide durable medical equipment to Medicare beneficiaries. According to the second criminal complaint, between January 2007 and August 2009, Ehrlein allegedly billed Medicare for providing ankle gauntlets and heat-molded diabetic shoe inserts to beneficiaries, when, in fact, the items were not provided to the beneficiaries. The complaint charges that Ehrlein and Jayson Drugs billed Medicare more than \$90,000 in connection with these fraudulent claims.

“Health care fraud investigation and prosecution is a priority program of this Office and the Department of Justice,” stated United States Attorney Campbell. “We will remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent fraud against one of our nation’s most significant programs.” In announcing today’s charges, United States Attorney Campbell acknowledged the assistance provided by the Office of Personnel Management-Office of Inspector General, the New York City Human Resources Administration-Bureau of Fraud Investigation, the New York State

¹ The charges announced today are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Office of the Medicaid Inspector General-Division of Medicaid Investigations, and the New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau.

The charges and arrests announced today are another example of the effectiveness of the Brooklyn Medicare Strike Force in the investigation and prosecution of those who would defraud the Medicare program and taxpayers,” said Thomas O’Donnell, Special Agent-in-Charge, for the New York Region of the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services. “This enforcement action was a successful joint agency operation by OIG, DOJ, and FBI. The Brooklyn Strike Force will continue to pursue all violators who seek to victimize our Medicare beneficiaries in New York City and surrounding areas.”

Joseph M. Demarest, Jr., FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge, New York Field Office, said, “Health care fraud nationally is a multibillion-dollar plague, and Medicare fraud is an assault on publicly-financed health care. Taxpayer dollars are being stolen by medical professionals who, by billing for un-rendered services, violate the oath to ‘do no harm.’ The Task Force was established to cure this problem.”

If convicted each of the defendants faces up to ten years’ incarceration.

The cases announced today were brought as part of the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, a joint effort of the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services to address fraudulent billing and other crimes that adversely affect the delivery of health care through the Medicare system. Since the inception of Strike Force operations in March 2007 – Miami (Phase One), Los Angeles (Phase Two), Detroit (Phase Three), Houston (Phase Four), Brooklyn (Phase Five), Tampa (Phase Six), and Baton Rouge (Phase Seven) – the Strike Force has obtained indictments of more than 460 individuals and organizations that collectively were charged with billing the Medicare program for more than \$1 billion.

To learn more about the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT), go to: www.stopmedicarefraud.gov.

The Defendants:

Vadim Nekretin

Zhanna Glikman

Igor Loshakov

James Ehrlein