

**FACT SHEET: PHASE ONE
MEDICARE FRAUD STRIKE FORCE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.**

The Medicare Fraud Strike Force's first phase began in Miami-Dade County, Fla., in March 2007. Five teams of criminal prosecutors from the Criminal Division's Fraud Section and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida worked with federal and state investigative agents from the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), the FBI, the City of Hialeah Police Department and the Florida Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to investigate and prosecute cases.

- In May 2007, DOJ and HHS announced the arrests of 38 defendants and unsealing of 34 indictments involving \$142 million in fraudulent claims to Medicare. All indictments also sought forfeiture of the criminal proceeds.
- Charges brought against the defendants in these schemes included conspiracy to defraud the Medicare program, criminal false claims and violations of the anti-kickback statutes.
- Targeted providers were associated with hundreds of millions of dollars in fraudulent claims submitted to Medicare for durable medical equipment (DME) supplies, pharmacies that mix "compound" medications for use with DME supplies such as inhalers and nebulizers, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infusion clinics, and fraudulent billing companies.

Key Phase One Accomplishments:

- More than \$220 million in court-ordered restitution to the Medicare program in 87 cases filed involving 159 defendants charged with criminal health care fraud offenses.
- 117 guilty pleas and 12 jury trials resulting in guilty verdicts against 17 defendants.
- 113 sentences to prison, ranging from 30 years to four months, and averaging 48.8 months.
- Estimated reductions of \$1.75 billion in DME claim submissions and \$334 million in DME claims paid by Medicare after the Strike Force's inception (*This is based on a 12-month before-vs.-after Strike Force operations comparison of Medicare claims submissions and payments in Miami-Dade Co., and does not specifically claim an exclusive cause and effect relationship.*)







