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PRESS RELEASE

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A local physician assistant sentenced to six months incarceration for making false statement to Medicare regarding his criminal history

Washington, D.C. - A local physician assistant was sentenced to six months incarceration for making a false statement regarding his criminal background in a application to Medicare to become a Medicare provider, announced United States Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, D.C. Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby, and Regional Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Health and Human Services Patrick J. Doyle. The sentence was imposed upon Larry J. Solomon, 53, of Old Prospect Hill Road, Glen Dale, by United States District Judge Richard W. Roberts. Solomon was sentenced after he had pleaded guilty to making a false statement in regard to health care matters in the District of Columbia.

According to the statement of offense agreed to by Solomon and the government, between February 2001 and May 2005, Solomon was a physician assistant who provided services in the District of Columbia. BPS Medical and Rehabilitation, P.L.L.C. ("BPS Medical") was incorporated in the District of Columbia. Among other services, BPS Medical provided health care to the public through home visits to senior citizens living in private and public residential buildings throughout the District of Columbia. BPS Medical and Solomon participated in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Both Medicare and Medicaid are "health care benefit programs" as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 24(b).

On or about May 31, 2002, Solomon knowingly stated in his application to Medicare for BPS Medical to become an authorized Medicare provider that he had no adverse legal history. This was a materially false statement because, in fact, Solomon had been convicted of Medicaid fraud in the state of Maryland on or about October 24, 1988, for submitting claims for dates on which no services were provided and for failing to be directly supervised by a physician as required.

As part of the basis for his sentence, Judge Roberts concluded that Solomon also had submitted more than \$148,000 in false claims to Medicare for services allegedly provided by a medical doctor which were, in fact, provided by a physician's assistant or medical assistant.

In announcing today's sentence, United States Attorney Taylor, Assistant Director in Charge Persichini, D.C. Inspector General Willoughby, and Regional Special Agent in Charge Doyle praised the joint investigative efforts of the lead investigators: Special Agents Sherri Queener and Leah Nemetz and Financial Analyst Leslie Smith of the Federal Bureau of Investigation - D.C. Healthcare Fraud Squad; Special Agent Sandra Adams of the District of Columbia Medicaid Fraud Control Unit; and Special Agents Bobby Hyland and Cindy Sheedy of the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, they specially acknowledged the support and cooperation provided by the AARP DC Legal Counsel for the Elderly Senior Medicare Error Patrol Project during the investigation of this matter. They also thanked Assistant United States Attorneys Kim Herd and Thomas Zeno, who prosecuted the case, and Legal Assistant Lisa Robinson, who provided substantial assistance to the prosecution team.

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