

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Inspector General**



**Inspector General**  
**April 29, 2013**

**DRUG MANUFACTURER AMGEN AGREES TO PAY MEDICAID PROGRAM  
OVER \$14.7 MILLION TO RESOLVE ILLEGAL KICKBACK CASE**

Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today that the District of Columbia, as part of a national settlement against the drug manufacturer Amgen, Inc. (Amgen), has resolved allegations that Amgen violated federal and state law, including the Federal False Claims Act, the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute, and certain states' false claims acts, with respect to its prescription drug Aranesp.

The District, along with the federal government and several other states, alleged that Amgen agreed to provide certain institutional pharmacies additional rebates on the nephrology drug Aranesp in exchange for the promise that these pharmacies would promote the drug in the "therapeutic interchange" programs implemented in nursing homes they served. The alleged purpose of the scheme was to induce medical professionals working at these facilities to dispense Aranesp in the place of competing drugs.

This settlement covers the qui tam action United States, et al., ex rel. Frank Kurnik v. Amgen, Inc., et al. filed in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. The District's recovery pursuant to this national, multi-state settlement is \$248,260.76.

The District of Columbia was represented by a national settlement team comprised of state attorneys and analysts from New York, California, Illinois, Indiana, and North Carolina, and working through the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units.