

Medicaid Fraud Report

July / August 1997

Psychiatrists: Florida

Attorney General Butterworth announced the conviction of Dr. Andrew Shankman, a psychiatrist from St. Simons Island, Georgia on one count of conspiracy, 59 counts of mail fraud, 30 counts of wire fraud, ten counts of prescribing drugs without legitimate purpose and 25 counts of money laundering.

Shankman billed the Florida and Georgia Medicaid programs, CHAMPUS and the Florida and Georgia Medicare programs for services which were not rendered. Specifically, Shankman billed for psychiatric services which are required to be rendered by the psychiatrist. The services were allegedly provided in nursing homes and in doctors' offices throughout Florida and Georgia. An investigation revealed that Shankman billed for services when he was not in the geographic region where the services were allegedly provided, billed for therapy provided to deceased recipients and billed for services actually provided by a therapist.

The case was investigated by the Georgia and Florida MFCU, the F.B.I. Savannah office, HHS, DCIS and IRS. The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

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