

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on August 8, 2000, Frances Carr Casper, staff nutritionist, Consultants in Nutritional Services, Incorporated (CNS), Norfolk, VA, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk, VA, to three years probation, 180 days of home detention, 288 hours of community service, and ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine, a \$100 special assessment fee and restitution in the amount of \$109,437. Casper previously pled guilty on May 17, 2000, to a criminal information charging her with conspiracy to commit health care fraud.

An investigation disclosed that Casper and other co-conspirators submitted numerous fraudulent health care claims to TRICARE, Medicare, and the TRIGON Insurance Company. The claims falsely depicted the provider of services and disguised the actual services furnished.

CNS offered nutritional counseling and weight loss management to its clients. Nutritional counseling and weight loss management are not covered benefits under the TRICARE, Medicare, or TRIGON programs. The aggregate loss to the health care programs is \$109,437.