

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on September 13, 2000, New England Health Associates, Incorporated (NEHA) agreed to pay \$493,465 to settle allegations under the False Claims Act that NEHA submitted, or caused to be submitted, false claims to Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE for reimbursement in connection with evaluation and management services.

Upon discovering billing problems in connection with a particular physician's services, NEHA voluntarily reported the inaccurate bills to the Government, sought to resolve any liabilities resulting from the improper bills, and immediately took corrective action to resolve the billing problem for the future.

The agreement settles improperly billed NEHA claims to Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE from 1995 to 1997 in connection with services provided by a particular physician. The Government contends that NEHA billed higher reimbursing codes for evaluation and management services that were supplied by a physician who actually performed services, costs that should have been billed at a lower reimbursing level, or not billed at all.