

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on October 3, 2000, a federal grand jury in Louisville, Kentucky, returned a twenty-four count indictment charging Dr. Peter W. Jannace, Louisville, KY with mail fraud, health care fraud and submitting false claims.

The indictment charges that from approximately July 1995 to October 1997, Dr. Jannace defrauded health care benefit programs, including TRICARE, through the fraudulent billing of physician services concerning weight loss programs. Specifically, it was alleged that in order to obtain payment from health care benefit programs for weight loss services that Dr. Jannace knew were not covered, Dr. Jannace billed and caused to be billed false and fraudulent diagnoses to make it appear that his patients were being treated for something other than weight loss. Dr. Jannace used different false diagnoses codes on medical claims to obtain payment for weight loss treatments, including hypokalemia (low potassium), osteoarthritis (degenerative arthritis) and allergic rhinitis (allergies).

If convicted, Dr. Jannace faces a maximum of 190 years imprisonment, and a \$6,000,000 fine.