

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on October 27, 2000, Nasser Ordoubadi M.D., Kelly Jorgensen, Robert Sorenson, and Robin Andres were sentenced in the Western District of Washington, Seattle WA in relation to the submissions of health care claims to TRICARE (formerly CHAMPUS), Medicare, and private insurance companies. Ordoubadi was the owner of General Medical Clinics, TRICARE providers, and he operated a billing company called Wellnet that contracted with the GMCs in the Seattle/Tacoma, WA areas. Jorgensen, Sorenson, and Andres assisted Ordoubadi in the operations and billings for the General Medical Clinics.

Ordoubadi was sentenced to 35 months of confinement and 3 years of probation. He was also ordered to pay a restitution of \$400,000 and a special assessment of \$200. Jorgensen was sentenced to six months of home detention with electronic surveillance, five years of probation, and was ordered to pay restitution of \$20,000 and a special assessment of \$100. Sorenson was sentenced to ten months of home detention with electronic surveillance, five years of probation, and was ordered to pay restitution of \$30,000 and a special assessment of \$100. Andres was sentenced to five years of probation, 500 hours of community service, and ordered to pay restitution of \$10,000 and a special assessment of \$100.

On August 4, 2000, Ordoubadi entered a guilty plea to two counts of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and mail fraud in relation to his submissions of health care claims to the government and private insurance companies. Between November 1999 and June 2000, Jorgensen, Sorenson, and Andres also plead guilty to charges related to the submission of health care claims by the General Medical Clinics. In October 1999, Ordoubadi and these three associates were indicted on various counts of health care fraud and mail fraud. These charges were the result of an investigation into allegations of false and inflated claims that included billings for services not rendered, billings for services at a higher reimbursement level than the service provided (upcoding), and billings for services not covered by health insurance plans.