

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on July 11, 2001, an information was filed charging Dr. Lucia Pinon Quintana, Holiday, FL, with income tax evasion.

Dr. Quintana received monthly kickback payments from two competing mobile ultrasound diagnostic companies: SOMED Company (SOMED), Clearwater, FL, and Physicians Choice Diagnostic Services (PCDS), Orlando, FL. Each company was paying Dr. Quintana monies identified as space rental payments. In addition, SOMED paid for Dr. Quintana's wedding reception expenses; exceeding \$4,500, and also paid her spouse, a retired Certified Public Accountant, for accounting services he never performed. All of these payments were made to Dr. Quintana in return for her patient referrals, which included those patients covered by TRICARE. The information charges that these payments were not included as income on Dr. Quintana's Federal income tax returns for tax years 1994, 1995 and 1996. This is the second physician criminally charged as a result of investigations of SOMED and PCDS. In addition, the presidents of both SOMED and PCDS have been previously convicted of paying kickbacks.