

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on August 1, 2001, Suman Dewan, M.D., of New Orleans, LA, pled guilty to one count of health care fraud. U.S. District Court Judge Eldon E. Fallon, Eastern District of Louisiana, accepted this plea and scheduled the sentencing for October 10, 2001.

This plea is a result of an investigation of allegations Dewan submitted false claims by billing TRICARE, Medicare and the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan for skin graft procedures called adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangements when she actually performed excisions of lesions with simple nonlayered closures. The reimbursement rates for the skin graft procedures are significantly higher. TRICARE is DoD's health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors, and retired members and their families.

Dewan faces up to 10 years imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, and/or a \$250,000 fine.