

HOT TOPICS

March 14, 2016

FRAUD/ABUSE

Prison Sentence Handed Down in Scheme to Claiming to Reduce Falls: A chiropractor has been sentenced to approximately four years in prison and is to repay over \$2.2 million for a scheme in which is sold orthotic boots to nursing home residents as a part of a so-called "Fall Prevention Program". The Missouri man claimed that the boots would reduce falls by 20%, but the heavy boots were often found to be a cause of falls and ulcers in residents' ankles. Each of the 600 pairs of boots sold over a five-year period cost Medicare between \$2,400 and \$2,600. For more information, visit http://www.mcknights.com/news/chiropractor-sentenced-to-prison-in-snf-fall-reducing-boot-scheme/article/481005/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Daily&spMailingID=13886384&spUserID=MTM2NDA4NTY3MTQ4S0&spJobID=740262139&spReportId=NzQwMjYyMTM5S0 and http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/st-louis-county-chiropractor-gets-years-for-health-care-fraud/article_ea414319-f3c5-556a-a8f3-8aed8c43f8ea.html

NY SNF Receptionist Pleads Guilty to Stealing Resident Funds: A woman formerly employed by a New York nursing home has pled guilty to stealing almost \$12,000 from a resident trust account by forging endorsements on checks, cashing them, and taking the money for her own personal use. She will be sentenced this coming June.

Visit <http://www.dailyfreeman.com/general-news/20160302/columbia-county-nursing-home-employee-admits-stealing-almost-12k-from-patient-accounts> and <http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-guilty-plea-former-nursing-home-employee-charged-stealing> for more information.

Fraud:

Olympus Corporation of America settles with the United States for \$646 Million to resolve claims that its agents paid bribes and kickbacks to increase overall sales in both the U.S. and Latin America. This is the largest amount paid in U.S. history for violations of the Anti-Kickback statute. The company is accused of allowing their sales force to give cash, pay for trips, meals, events, and luxury treatments to doctors, hospital officials, and other medical professionals on a massive scale in return for purchasing Olympus' equipment. The illegal practices of the company were unveiled by the company's first compliance officer who filed a whistleblower suit in 2010. Olympus has signed a CIA, Corporate Integrity Agreement, with the federal government outlining its compliance program. Prior to 2010, the company did not have a compliance officer.

Please visit: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-03-01/olympus-will-pay-at-least-635-million-to-end-u-s-probes>