



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**PHOENIX PHYSICIAN TO PAY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$525,000
FOR FALSE MEDICARE BILLINGS**

PHOENIX – Roberto Ruiz, M.D., a physician practicing in Phoenix, has agreed to pay the federal government \$525,000 to resolve allegations that he and his medical practice, Southwest Internal Medicine Group (SWIMG), violated the federal False Claims Act by submitting several false bills to Medicare.

The settlement agreement resolves allegations that Dr. Ruiz and SWIMG falsely billed Medicare for treatment provided to several hospice patients by representing to Medicare that Dr. Ruiz was not employed or paid under agreement by the patients' hospice providers, even though the hospices were paying Dr. Ruiz as a medical director and as a home care team physician.

The case was handled by Lon R. Leavitt, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

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