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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2009

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**MIAMI WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO \$6.5 MILLION MEDICARE FRAUD
CONSPIRACY**

Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that Riccy Mederos, a resident of Miami, Florida, entered a guilty plea in United States District Court before Chief Judge William T. Moore, Jr. to Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, and Health Care Fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347.

Booth noted that the indictment against Mederos arose out of Operation Redex Infuscam, a major investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Office of Health and Human Services (HHS) into fraudulent infusion billings to Medicare in and around the Southern District of Georgia.

According to Booth, the evidence at the guilty plea hearing showed that from December 2005 through March 2008, Mederos conspired to bill over \$6.5 million in fraudulent infusion claims to Medicare for United Therapy, a clinic located on Broughton Street which provided infusion therapy services. The evidence showed that Mederos, along with the assistance of her coconspirators, devised a scheme to defraud Medicare by recruiting patients for United Therapy from local homeless shelters and Section VIII housing, and, although many of these purported patients did not suffer from any medical problems, or did not receive any medical treatment from

United Therapy, submitting \$6.5 million dollars of phony infusion therapy bills for services that were never actually provided.

Booth noted that Mederos now faces a maximum statutory penalty of fifteen (15) years imprisonment; a fine of \$500,000; and three (3) years of supervised release. Mederos remains on bond pending sentence, which will be held upon the completion of a pre-sentence investigation and report.

Booth praised the work of Special Agents Mark A. Alig and Joshua Hayes of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with Special Agent David Graupner of the Office of Inspector General for HHS, who lead the on-going investigation of Operation Redex Infuscam. The Government was represented by Brian T. Rafferty, Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.