



# Department of Justice

## United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

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### TWO INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF HEALTH CARE FRAUD

Gulfport, Mississippi - United States Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today that two more people have been convicted of defrauding Medicare.

**Pamela Hull**, of Moss Point, Mississippi was convicted by a jury on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, of Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud, three counts of Health Care Fraud and twelve counts of making false statements relating to health care. Hull, along with her co-defendant, was indicted on November 20, 2007. Hull was the owner and operator of Rehabicare, Inc., which was held out to be a "Physical Medicine" company. In reality, Rehabicare illegally provided physical therapy type services by sending untrained and unqualified people into the homes of elderly Medicare patients, who believed they were being treated by licensed and trained health care professionals. These untrained employees were paid between \$10 and \$18 dollars per patient, while Rehabicare billed Medicare as much as \$1,300 per patient visit. As part of the scam, Rehabicare billed Medicare as if the one hour treatment sessions lasted as long as twelve hours per day, and were performed by a licensed physician. In the one year period Rehabicare was in operation, they submitted \$23,000,000 in false bills to Medicare and received more than \$5,000,000 in stolen government funds.

**Jacqueline Crawley**, of Messer, North Carolina, also stood trial and was convicted of Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud, three counts of Health Care Fraud and twelve counts of making false statements relating to health care. Crawley was also an owner of Rehabicare and served as the manager of the company. The evidence at trial showed that Crawley hired the unqualified and untrained employees who actually provided the illegitimate therapy treatments to their unknowing patients. Crawley would spend two to eight days orienting these employees before they were sent out alone to conduct "therapy" on their patients. Crawley, who is a licensed Occupational Therapy Assistant in Mississippi and North Carolina, had previously worked for another "Physical Medicine" company before opening up Rehabicare.

At the conclusion of the trial, both Hull and Crawley were remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal to await sentencing. Sentencing is set for both defendants of May 8, 2009 at 9 a.m. in front of United States District Judge Louis Guirola, Jr., in Gulfport, Mississippi. Both Hull and Crawley face up to 95 years in prison and 4 million dollars in fines. Both defendants are subject to pay restitution and the United States is seeking to forfeit \$1.4 million in previously seized funds from Hull.

The case was investigated by the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorneys Scott Gilbert, Jay Golden and David Blank prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

