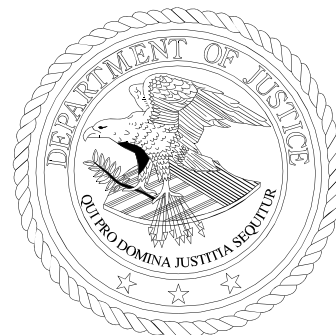


NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor
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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

More Information? Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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vaso0612.rel
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2008

Washington Township Doctor Charged with Illegally Dispensing Oxycodone

(More)

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Breaking News (NJ) <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

CAMDEN – A Washington Township, Gloucester County, doctor was arrested yesterday on a one-count criminal complaint charging him with distribution, possession with intent to distribute and dispensing oxycodone without a legitimate medical purpose and outside the usual course of professional practice, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Dr. Pravin Vasoya, 41, of Mt. Laurel, who maintains a practice as a specialist in neurology and neuropathic pain management at Washington Township Neurological Associates, P.C. located in Washington Township, was arrested at his home yesterday morning and later that day had an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Joel Schneider in federal court in Camden. Judge Schneider detained Dr. Vasoya, pending a bail hearing scheduled for June 13 at 1:30 p.m.

The complaint alleges that Dr. Vasoya illegally sold prescriptions for oxycodone, namely Oxycontin and Roxicodone, to individuals. According to the complaint, beginning in April 2008 and continuing through June 2008, Special Agents with the DEA and Investigators with the Washington Township Police Department investigated the activities of Dr. Vasoya after gaining information from a confidential informant (“CI”) who claimed to have been illegally purchasing prescriptions from the doctor. The CI indicated that he had met Dr. Vasoya in parking lots on at least four occasions and had purchased prescriptions for Oxycontin from him.

According to the complaint, the CI introduced an undercover law enforcement officer (“UC”) to Dr. Vasoya. Allegedly, during four separate meetings, the UC purchased a total of nine prescriptions from Dr. Vasoya for a total of \$8,000. According to the complaint, the prescriptions were written by Dr. Vasoya for the UC in a total of four different names and that the doctor never performed an examination of the UC to determine a medical basis for the prescriptions.

The drug distribution charge carries a maximum statutory sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$1,000,000.

Despite the charge set forth in the complaint, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

In determining an actual sentence, the judge to whom the case is assigned would, upon a conviction, consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer in Newark, Police Officers with the Washington Township Police Department, under the direction of Chief Rafael Muniz, and Investigators with the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Sean Dalton, with the investigation leading to the criminal complaint.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Matthew Skahill and Matthew Smith of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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