

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor
Camden, New Jersey 08101



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.

News on the Internet: News Releases, related documents and advisories are posted short-term at our website, along with links to our archived releases at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. **Go to:** <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/>

Assistant U.S. Attorney
MATTHEW SKAHILL
856-968-4929
MATTHEW SMITH
856-757-5104

vaso1003.rel
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 3, 2008

Washington Township Doctor Admits Illegally Dispensing Oxycodone

(More)

Greg Reinert, PAO
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233
973-645-2888

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

CAMDEN – A Washington Township, Gloucester County, doctor pleaded guilty today to a one-count Information that charges 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 had maintained a practice as a specialist in neurology and neuropathic pain management at Washington Township Neurological Associates, P.C. located in Washington Township, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Renée M. Bumb. Judge Bumb continued Vasoya's release on a \$500,000 secured bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Jan. 12, 2009.

Vasoya was arrested at his home on June 12, 2008, and later that day had an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Joel Schneider in federal court in Camden.

At his plea hearing, Vasoya admitted that on April 29, 2008, he met with an individual, who he later learned was an undercover police officer, in a parking lot at a Pep Boys automotive store in Turnersville, for the purpose of selling him prescriptions for controlled substances. During the meeting, Vasoya agreed to sell the undercover officer four prescriptions for controlled substances in exchange for \$3,000, he admitted. Vasoya admitted that he wrote the prescriptions in the names that were provided to him by the undercover police officer. Vasoya provided the undercover police officer with two prescriptions for ninety tablets of 40 mg. of Oxycontin and with two prescriptions for sixty tablets of 30 mg. of Roxicodone in exchange for the cash payment, he admitted.

Furthermore, Vasoya admitted that he also sold prescriptions to the undercover police officer on April 7, April 10 and May 28 for Oxycontin and Roxicodone pills.

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

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Bumb will 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.

-end-

Defense Attorney: Morris W. Pinsky, Esq. Haddon Township