

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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ROCHESTER PODIATRIST PLEADS GUILTY TO HEALTH CARE AND MAIL FRAUD

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that MICHAEL AKYUZ, 44, of Rochester, NY, plead guilty before U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa to a felony information charging him with Health Care Fraud and Mail Fraud. Health Care Fraud carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, while Mail Fraud carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Both counts are also punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig R. Gestring, who handled the prosecution of the case, stated that the defendant, a Podiatrist, knowingly submitted false and fraudulent Insurance Claim Forms to Medicare and Excellus which certified that he performed approved medical services when, in fact, he had not. As a result of this, he received inflated reimbursement checks, which were mailed to his Rochester Office via the United States Postal Service. Over the course of this scheme to defraud, he received over \$750,000 in health care reimbursements that he would not otherwise have been entitled to.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James H. Robertson, Special Agents of the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Inspector General, under Special Agent in Charge Thomas F. O'Donnell, and Investigators from the New York State Insurance Department - Frauds Bureau, under the direction of Frank Orlando.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 7, 2010, in Rochester, NY, in front of U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa.