



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LEXINGTON DOCTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD RELATED TO TESTOSTERONE

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated that Horace W. "Butch" Bledsoe, Jr., age 58, of Lexington, pled guilty today in federal court to obtaining testosterone by fraud, a violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(a)(3). United States District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie accepted the plea and will sentence Bledsoe on December 17, 2009.

Bledsoe was a physician working at Lexington Medical Center's Gilbert Family Practice. On October 2, 2008, a patient was administered a partial dose of testosterone, a controlled substance, from a one-cc, single-dose vial. According to hospital policy, the remaining testosterone was to be wasted or disposed of, and clinic records indicated that had taken place. However, the leftover testosterone was

actually delivered to Dr. Bledsoe's office at his direction. Some of the testosterone was for his own use, and some he gave to a medical assistant and other unidentified individuals. By causing the falsification of the drug administration records, Dr. Bledsoe was able to conceal from the hospital this diversion of a controlled substance. Similar activity took place on approximately twenty occasions between October 2008 and February 2009. Bledsoe and several others who knew of this conduct were dismissed from Lexington Medical Center in February 2009, when the diversion scheme was discovered.

Mr. Wilkins stated the maximum penalty Bledsoe can receive is a fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment for four years.

The case was investigated by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorney Winston D. Holliday, Jr., of the Columbia office handled the case.

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