



# PRESS NOTICE

## W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

---

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 \* Columbia, SC 29201 \* (803) 929-3000\**

---

**August 31, 2009**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT PERSON: KEVIN F. MCDONALD  
(803) 929-3000

### **LAKE WYLIE PHYSICIAN SETTLES LAWSUIT ALLEGING IMPROPER DRUG PRESCRIPTIONS**

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated that Dr. Steven Miskiewicz of Lake Wylie, South Carolina, agreed to pay the government \$72,000 to settle allegations that he improperly prescribed Oxycontin and other controlled substances for an individual who was incarcerated. During the patient's three year prison term, Dr. Miskiewicz did not see the patient but instead gave the prescriptions to his wife to be filled. The government alleged that the patient's wife was selling the prescriptions once she filled them. Many of the prescriptions were paid for by Medicaid, which triggered an investigation by federal authorities under the False Claims Act.

For a prescription for a controlled substance to be effective, federal

regulations require that it must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his professional practice. The government alleged that the prescriptions were not for a legitimate purpose, as the patient's wife was selling the drugs. Additionally, the government alleged that since Dr. Miszkiewicz did not see or contact the patient in three years, he did not maintain a legitimate patient-physician relationship with the individual when he had been incarcerated and therefore, the prescriptions were not issued in the usual course of his professional practice.

The case was investigated by Special Agent D. Brian Dimler with Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorneys Jennifer Aldrich and Fran Trapp of the Columbia office handled the case.

#####