



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas*

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PHYSICIAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD

Little Rock – Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today the guilty plea of Dr. Brian T. Nichol, M.D. Nichol, age 43, a pain management physician, pleaded guilty to one count of health care fraud before United States District Judge James M. Moody.

Nichol, at the time of the offense, operated Interventional Pain Consultants in North Little Rock, Arkansas. In the plea, he admitted that he knowingly, by means of deliberate ignorance, executed a scheme to defraud Medicare and the Arkansas Medicaid program by making false certifications on a number of claims he submitted. He agreed to pay restitution of \$15,300.69.

“The integrity of our federal health care programs is threatened everyday by acts of fraud and abuse. We are committed to vigorously investigating, prosecuting and punishing those health care providers who seek to manipulate the system for their own financial gain,” stated Duke.

Nichol faces a potential statutory sentence of not more than ten years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. His actual sentence, however, will be determined by Judge Moody after consultation of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura Hoey.

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