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# **News Release**

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## **Assisted living care provider pleads guilty to taking narcotics from patients**

Earlier today in federal court in St. Paul, a care provider at a senior assisted living facility in Burnsville pleaded guilty to taking prescribed narcotics from patients. Margaret Alice Mammen, age 54, no known address, pleaded guilty to one count of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud.

Mammen, who was charged on April 12, 2011, entered her plea before United States District Court Judge Susan Richard Nelson. In her plea agreement, Mammen admitted that from September 22 through October 8, 2009, she stole Oxycontin from patient rooms for her personal use, replacing the drug with ibuprofen.

For her crime, Mammen faces a potential maximum penalty of four years in prison. Judge Nelson will determine her sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-Criminal Investigation Division, the Burnsville Police Department, and the Minnesota Department of Health. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

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