

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

WRIGHT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, INC.

Magistrate No. ~~10-3635~~ (MF) MCA
10-8233

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Megan L. Beneducci, the undersigned complainant, being duly sworn, state that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

From in or about January 2002 to in or about December 2007, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

WRIGHT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, INC. ("WRIGHT MEDICAL")

did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with others to commit an offense against the United States, that is to violate the Anti-Kickback statute by entering into financial arrangements with orthopedic surgeons who were offered or who solicited payments from WRIGHT MEDICAL in exchange for, in part, the surgeon's use of WRIGHT MEDICAL's hip and knee joint reconstruction and replacement products, contrary to Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1320a-7b(b)(2), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

I further state that I am a Postal Inspector with the United States Postal Inspection Service, and that this complaint is based upon the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.



Megan L. Beneducci, Postal Inspector
United States Postal Inspection Service

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,

September 30, 2010, at Newark, New Jersey

Honorable ~~Mark Falk~~ 
United States Magistrate Judge


Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

I, Megan L. Beneducci, state that I am a Postal Inspector with the United States Postal Inspection Service. I have personally participated in this investigation and am aware of the facts contained herein, based upon my own investigation, as well as information provided to me by other law enforcement officers. Because this Attachment A is submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, I have not included herein the details of every aspect of the investigation.

BACKGROUND

1. At all times relevant to this Complaint:

A. Defendant WRIGHT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, INC. (“WRIGHT MEDICAL”), with a principal place of business in Arlington, Tennessee, was a national manufacturer and distributor of orthopedic implant devices and supplies, including hip and knee reconstruction and replacement products.

B. The United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), was an agency of the United States and acted through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to administer and supervise the Medicare program (“Medicare”).

C. Medicare was a federal health care insurance program established to provide benefits to aged, blind, and disabled individuals who qualify for coverage. According to HHS statistics, during the years through and including 2002 to 2008, more than 700,000 hip and knee replacement surgeries have been performed in the United States annually. Approximately two-thirds of those surgeries have been performed on patients who were covered by Medicare.

D. The Medicare fraud statute, 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b, contains an anti-kickback provision, which prohibited companies from paying, and doctors from receiving, anything of value to influence the referral of federal health care program business.

OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY

2. Defendant WRIGHT MEDICAL used consulting agreements with orthopedic surgeons, and payments made thereunder, in part as inducements for such surgeons' use of WRIGHT MEDICAL's hip and knee reconstruction and replacement products.

OVERT ACTS

3. In furtherance of this conspiracy and to effect the unlawful object thereof, defendant WRIGHT MEDICAL and its co-conspirators committed, and caused to be committed, the following overt acts in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere: From in or about January 2002 to in or about December 2007, defendant WRIGHT MEDICAL entered into consulting agreements with certain orthopedic surgeons. Those agreements were designed and implemented, in part, to induce the surgeons to use, and cause the purchase of, WRIGHT MEDICAL's hip and knee reconstruction and replacement products.