



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH
PODIATRIST TO PAY \$800,000 FOR SUBMITTING FALSE
MEDICARE CLAIMS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that the United States has settled a civil fraud lawsuit it filed against CHAIM CHAIMOWITZ, a podiatrist, for submitting false claims to Medicare. According to the lawsuit, CHAIMOWITZ sought reimbursement for non-compensable routine foot care, and billed Medicare for services that could not have been performed in the time period reported. The settlement, entered yesterday in Manhattan federal court by U.S. District Court Judge ROBERT W. SWEET, requires CHAIMOWITZ to pay \$800,000 to the United States under the False Claims Act. CHAIMOWITZ has also entered into an Integrity Agreement with the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services for a five year period that, among other things, requires him to establish and maintain a compliance program and undertake training obligations.

In its complaint, the Government alleged that from 1999 to 2006, CHAIMOWITZ submitted false claims to Medicare stating that he was providing examinations and treating foot-related ailments to patients at nursing homes when in fact he was merely providing routine foot care. In addition, the Government further alleged that CHAIMOWITZ billed Medicare for procedures that could not have been performed in the time period indicated in the claims. For example, on nine separate days, he billed services that should have taken him more than 35 hours to perform.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Office of the Inspector General.

This case is being handled by the Office's Civil Frauds Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney LAWRENCE H. FOGELMAN is in charge of the case.