



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release

September 25, 2007

ANESTHESIOLOGIST INDICTED ON DRUG CHARGES

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of an indictment¹ against Edward J. Quirk, M.D., charging him with eleven counts of obtaining Schedule II controlled substances, namely, fentanyl and morphine, by fraud or forgery from in or about December 2006 through in or about February 2007.

“When a member of the medical profession ignores the oath and ethics devised to guide him and other members of the profession and to protect the public, the entire profession suffers,” said Meehan. “In this case, according to the indictment, the defendant traded his ethics for a quick fix.”

Dr. Quirk was an anesthesiologist at Jeanes Hospital located in Philadelphia. According to the indictment, Dr. Quirk acquired vials of fentanyl and morphine fraudulently and deceptively in that he (a) withdrew vials for certain patients when, in fact, those patients were previously discharged and no longer admitted at Jeanes Hospital; (b) withdrew vials for unidentified patients under general codes without later matching up the withdrawal of medications to the patient’s name, when, in fact, there was no emergency such that a patient required medications or surgical intervention before the patient was registered; (c) withdrew vials for certain patients that was in excess of what was documented on the patient chart; and (d) withdrew vials under the user names of other employees of Jeanes Hospital. Dr. Quirk obtained these controlled substances by circumventing and manipulating the system in place at Jeanes Hospital to reflect that he needed these controlled substances to treat pain, and by concealing the fact that he was in fact acquiring the controlled substances for his own personal use.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Edward J. Quirk, M.D.	Delran, New Jersey	52 years old

If convicted the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 44 years imprisonment, a three-year period of supervised release, a \$2.75 million fine, and a \$1,100 special assessment.

¹ An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Philadelphia Police Department and has been assigned to Manisha M. Sheth.

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