

FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
FORT MYERS DIVISION

2020 APR 30 PM 2:22
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CASE NO. ^{2:20} 20-~~18~~-78-FM-60MRM
15 U.S.C. § 1

FLORIDA CANCER SPECIALISTS
& RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LLC

INFORMATION

The United States of America, acting through its attorneys, charges that at all times relevant to this Information:

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy to Restrain Trade)

General Allegations

1. Oncology was the branch of medical science dealing with tumors, including the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. An oncologist was a doctor who treats cancer and provides medical care for a person diagnosed with cancer. The field of oncology had three major areas or specialties: medical, radiation, and surgical. A medical oncologist treated cancer using chemotherapy or other medications. A radiation oncologist treated cancer using radiation therapy.

2. Different types of oncologists often worked together to create a patient's overall treatment plan that combined different types of treatments, including a

combination of chemotherapy (administered by medical oncologists), radiation therapy (administered by radiation oncologists), and surgery.

3. Oncologists typically treated cancer patients together with other oncologists as part of a practice group. An oncology practice could have included one or more oncologist specialists, including medical oncologists and radiation oncologists.

4. Cancer patients typically relied on private or public health insurance to pay for oncology treatments provided by oncologists or oncology practices.

The Defendant and Its Co-Conspirators

5. Defendant FLORIDA CANCER SPECIALISTS & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LLC (“FCS”) was a privately held oncology practice with approximately 100 locations in Florida. FCS’s headquarters was in Fort Myers, Florida. In various locations in Florida, FCS provided both medical oncology treatments and radiation oncology treatments. In Collier, Lee, and Charlotte counties of Florida (“Southwest Florida”), FCS did not provide radiation oncology treatments to patients.

6. Oncology Company A was headquartered in Fort Myers, Florida and operated an integrated network of outpatient cancer treatment centers in Florida and elsewhere. In various locations in Florida, Oncology Company A provided both medical oncology treatments and radiation oncology treatments. In Southwest

Florida, Oncology Company A did not provide medical oncology treatments to patients.

7. Various co-conspirators not made defendants in this Information, including Oncology Company A and others, knowingly participated in the offense charged in this Information and performed acts and made statements in furtherance of the conspiracy.

8. Any reference in this Information to any act, deed, or transaction of any company means that the company engaged in the act, deed, or transaction by or through its members, partners, officers, directors, employees, agents, or other representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control, or transaction of its business or affairs.

Description of the Offense

9. From at least as early as 1999 and continuing through at least as late as September 2016, the exact dates being unknown to the United States, in the Middle District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant

FLORIDA CANCER SPECIALISTS & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LLC knowingly entered into and participated in a conspiracy with Oncology Company A and other co-conspirators to suppress and eliminate competition by agreeing to allocate medical oncology treatments for cancer patients to FCS and radiation oncology treatments for cancer patients to Oncology Company A in Southwest Florida.

10. FCS and Oncology Company A agreed that FCS would not offer radiation oncology treatments within Southwest Florida, and that Oncology Company A would not offer medical oncology treatments within Southwest Florida.

11. The conspiracy engaged in by FCS, Oncology Company A, and their co-conspirators was a *per se* unlawful, and thus unreasonable, restraint of interstate trade and commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act (15 U.S.C. § 1).

12. The charged conspiracy consisted of a continuing agreement, understanding, and concert of action among FCS and its co-conspirators, the substantial terms of which were to allocate medical oncology treatments and radiation oncology treatments for cancer patients in Southwest Florida, reserving medical oncology treatments for FCS and radiation oncology treatments for Oncology Company A.

Means and Methods of Conspiracy

13. For the purpose of forming and carrying out the charged conspiracy, FCS and its co-conspirators did those things that they conspired to do, including, among other things:

a. participating in conversations and communications to discuss the allocation of oncology treatments for cancer patients in Southwest Florida;

b. agreeing during those conversations and communications to allocate medical oncology treatments and radiation oncology treatments for cancer patients in Southwest Florida between FCS and Oncology Company A;

c. agreeing during those conversations and communications that FCS would not employ radiation oncologists and Oncology Company A would not employ medical oncologists in Southwest Florida;

d. participating in conversations and communications for the purpose of maintaining the allocation agreement and working together to prevent competition from third-party oncology treatment providers unaffiliated with either FCS and Oncology Company A in Southwest Florida;

e. participating in conversations and communications about certain pharmaceutical drug and treatment options and which company should provide them consistent with the agreement to allocate medical oncology treatments and radiation oncology treatments for cancer patients in Southwest Florida;

f. participating in conversations and communications for the purpose of reaffirming, monitoring, and enforcing adherence to the agreement to allocate medical oncology treatments and radiation oncology treatments for cancer patients in Southwest Florida;

g. providing and refraining from providing medical oncology treatments and radiation oncology treatments for cancer patients in Southwest Florida consistent with the allocation agreement; and

h. submitting requests for payment to and accepting payments from payors and patients for medical oncology and radiation oncology treatments for cancer patients rendered consistent with the allocation agreement in Southwest Florida.

Trade and Commerce

14. From at least as early as 1999 and continuing through at least as late as September 2016, the business activities of FCS and its co-conspirators that are the subject of this Information were within the flow of, and substantially affected, interstate trade and commerce. For example: (a) payors located in states other than Florida, including federal and state insurance plans and private insurance plans, paid FCS and Oncology Company A for oncology treatments each provided in the state of Florida; (b) FCS and Oncology Company A received payments in Florida from payors located in states other than Florida for oncology treatments each provided; (c) FCS and Oncology Company A purchased and received supplies from outside of Florida for use in providing oncology treatments in Florida; and (d) FCS and Oncology Company A treated in the state of Florida cancer patients who, at the time of treatment, were not full-time residents of Florida.

ALL IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 15, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1.

DATED: April 30, 2020



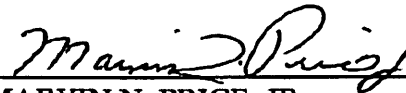
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