

12

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

United States of America,

Plaintiff,

v.

D-1 COREY TUCKER

Defendant.

Case:2:18-cr-20402
Judge: Steeh, George Caram
MJ: Grand, David R.
Filed: 06-12-2018 At 04:09 PM
SEALED MATTER (LG)

VIO: 18 U.S.C. § 371
42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b

INDICTMENT

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

General Allegations

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

The Medicare Program

1. The Medicare program was a federal health care program providing benefits to persons who were over the age of 65 or disabled. Medicare was administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a federal agency under the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Individuals who received benefits under Medicare were referred to as Medicare “beneficiaries.”

2. Medicare was a “health care benefit program,” as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b).

3. The Medicare program included coverage under two primary components, hospital insurance (“Part A”), and medical insurance (“Part B”). Part A covered physical therapy, occupational therapy, and skilled nursing services if a facility was certified by CMS as meeting certain requirements. Part B of the Medicare Program covered the cost of physicians’ services and other ancillary services not covered by Part A.

4. National Government Services was the CMS intermediary for Medicare Part A in the state of Michigan. Wisconsin Physicians Service was the CMS contracted carrier for Medicare Part B, which included home visits, in the state of Michigan. TrustSolutions LLC was the Program Safeguard Contractor for Medicare Part A and Part B in the state of Michigan until April 24, 2012, when it was replaced by Cahaba Safeguard Administrators LLC as the Zone Program Integrity Contractor (ZPIC). The ZPIC is the contractor charged with investigating fraud, waste and abuse. Cahaba was replaced by AdvanceMed in May 2015.

5. By becoming a participating provider in Medicare, enrolled providers agreed to abide by the policies and procedures, rules, and regulations governing reimbursement. In order to receive Medicare funds, enrolled providers, together with their authorized agents, employees, and contractors, were required to abide by

all the provisions of the Social Security Act, the regulations promulgated under the Act, and applicable policies, procedures, rules, and regulations issued by CMS and its authorized agents and contractors.

6. Upon certification, the medical provider, whether a clinic or an individual, was assigned a provider identification number for billing purposes (referred to as a PIN). When the medical provider rendered a service, the provider submitted a claim for reimbursement to the Medicare contractor/carrier that included the PIN assigned to that medical provider.

7. Health care providers and others were given and/or provided with online access to Medicare manuals and services bulletins describing proper billing procedures and billing rules and regulations. Providers could only submit claims to Medicare for services they rendered and providers were required to maintain patient records to verify that the services were provided as described on the claim form.

8. In order to receive reimbursement for a covered service from Medicare, a provider was required to submit a claim, either electronically or using a form (e.g., a CMS-1500 form or UB-92) containing the required information appropriately identifying the provider, patient, and services rendered.

9. Medicare does not cover home health services that are procured by kickbacks or bribes.

The Defendant

10. COREY TUCKER, 44, is a resident of Wayne County, Michigan. TUCKER received illegal kickbacks and bribes in exchange for referring Medicare beneficiaries to home health agencies and physicians located in Detroit, Michigan and elsewhere.

11. U.S. Home Health Care, Inc. (“USHH”) was a Michigan corporation doing business at 901 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48208.

12. USHH is a home health agency that purportedly provided in-home physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, and/or skilled nursing services to patients. USHH was an enrolled as a participating Medicare provider and submitted claims to Medicare.

13. Tasadaq Ali Ahmad (“Ahmad”), a resident of Wayne County, Michigan, owned and controlled USHH. Ahmad paid illegal kickbacks and bribes in return for referrals by TUCKER of Medicare beneficiaries for USHH.

COUNT 1

Conspiracy To Pay and Receive Healthcare Kickbacks

(18 U.S.C. § 371)

D-1 COREY TUCKER

14. Paragraphs 1 through 13 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

15. From in or around August 2015, and continuing through in or about February 2017, the exact dates being unknown to the Grand Jury, in the Eastern

District of Michigan, and elsewhere, defendant COREY TUCKER, did willfully and knowingly combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with Ahmad, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit certain offenses against the United States, that is,

a. to defraud the United States by impairing, impeding, obstructing, and defeating through deceitful and dishonest means, the lawful government functions of the Department of Health and Human Services in its administration and oversight of the Medicare program;

b. to violate Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b(b)(1)(A) by knowingly and willfully soliciting or receiving any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe, or rebate) directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind in return for referring an individual to a person for the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which payment may be made in whole or in part by Medicare, a Federal health care program as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b); and

c. to violate Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b(b)(2)(A) by knowingly and willfully offering or paying any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe, or rebate) directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash, in check, or in kind in return for referring an individual to a person for the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which payment may be

made in whole or in part by Medicare, a Federal health care program as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b).

Purpose of the Conspiracy

16. It was a purpose of the conspiracy for defendant COREY TUCKER and his co-conspirator(s) to unlawfully enrich themselves by: (a) submitting or causing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare; (b) soliciting and receiving kickbacks and bribes for the purpose of recruiting Medicare beneficiaries and arranging for the use of their Medicare beneficiary numbers by the conspirators as the bases of claims filed for services; (c) concealing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare, the receipt and transfer of the proceeds from the fraud, and the payment of kickbacks; and (d) diverting proceeds of the fraud for the personal use and benefit of the defendants and their co-conspirators.

Manner and Means

17. The manner and means by which the defendant sought to accomplish the purpose of the conspiracy included, among other things:

18. COREY TUCKER and others recruited Medicare beneficiaries and obtained information that could later be used by home health agencies to submit claims to Medicare for home health services.

19. COREY TUCKER would solicit kickbacks and bribes in the form of cash or checks from Ahmad and others, in exchange for Medicare beneficiary information, which was used to support claims to Medicare on behalf of USHH and other home health agencies.

Overt Acts

20. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to accomplish its purposes and objects, at least one of the conspirators committed, or caused to be committed, in the Eastern District of Michigan, and elsewhere, the following overt acts, among others:

21. On or about May 20, 2016, COREY TUCKER deposited or caused to be deposited USHH check #18096 in the amount of \$1,100.00 into Comerica bank account number x5731.

22. On or about December 22, 2016, and other dates known and unknown to the grand jury, COREY TUCKER and Ahmad discussed the payment and receipt of illegal kickbacks and bribes in person.

23. On or about December 23, 2016, COREY TUCKER deposited or caused to be deposited USHH check #18860 in the amount of \$1,381.62 into Comerica bank account number x5731.

24. On or about February 22, 2017, COREY TUCKER either cashed, or deposited or caused to be deposited, USHH check #19513 in the amount of \$711.92 into an account at Level One Bank.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

COUNTS 2-4

**Receipt of Kickbacks in Connection with a
Federal Health Care Program
(42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b(b)(1)(A) and 18 U.S.C. § 2)
D-1 COREY TUCKER**

25. Paragraphs 1 through 13, and 16 through 24 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

26. On or about the dates enumerated below, in the Eastern District of Michigan, and elsewhere, defendant COREY TUCKER did knowingly and willfully solicit and receive remuneration, that is kickbacks and bribes, directly and indirectly, overtly and covertly, in the forms of checks and cash, to or from a person to refer an individual to a person for the furnishing and arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which payment may be made in whole or in part under a Federal health care program as defined in Title 18 United States Code, Section 24(b), that is, Medicare, as set forth below:

Count	Defendant	Approximate Date of Payment	Amount	Description
2	D-1 COREY TUCKER	May 20, 2016	\$1,100.00	Check # 18096 from USHH to COREY TUCKER

Count	Defendant	Approximate Date of Payment	Amount	Description
3	D-1 COREY TUCKER	December 23, 2016	\$1381.62	Check # 18860 from USHH to COREY TUCKER
4	D-1 COREY TUCKER	February 17, 2017	\$711.92	Check # 19513 from USHH to COREY TUCKER

All in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b(1)(A) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Forfeiture Allegations
(18 U.S.C. § 982)

27. The above allegations contained in this Indictment are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture against all defendants pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 982.

28. Upon being convicted of violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, and/or Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1320a-7b, as set forth in this Indictment, the convicted defendant shall forfeit to the United States all property, real and personal, which constitutes or is derived, directly or indirectly, from gross proceeds traceable to such violation(s), pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7).

29. **Forfeiture Money Judgment:** The United States shall also seek the imposition of a personal forfeiture money judgment against defendant COREY TUCKER in an amount up to the value of the gross proceeds obtained as a result of

defendants' violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1320a-7b.

30. Substitute Assets: Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b), defendant COREY TUCKER shall forfeit substitute property, if by any act or omission of the defendant, property subject to forfeiture: (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court; (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty.

THIS IS A TRUE BILL

GRAND JURY FOREPERSON

MATTHEW J. SCHNEIDER
United States Attorney

s/WAYNE F. PRATT
WAYNE F. PRATT
Chief, Health Care Fraud Unit
Assistant United States Attorney
211 W. Fort St., Suite 2001
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 226-2548
wayne.pratt@usdoj.gov

s/DUSTIN M. DAVIS

Dustin M. Davis
Assistant Chief
Criminal Division, Fraud Section
U.S. Department of Justice
1400 New York Avenue, N.W., Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 355-5643
dustin.davis@usdoj.gov

s/PATRICK J. SUTER

Patrick J. Suter
Jacob Foster
Trial Attorneys
Criminal Division, Fraud Section
U.S. Department of Justice
1400 New York Avenue, N.W., Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 679-1430
patrick.suter2@usdoj.gov

Date: June 12, 2018