

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No. **18-20434**

CR-WILLIAMS
/TORRES

18 U.S.C. § 1349
18 U.S.C. § 1347
18 U.S.C. § 2
18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(7)

FILED by **TB** D.C.
MAY 24 2018
STEVEN M. LARIMORE
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.
S. D. of FLA. - MIAMI

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

ALIAN MIRANDA,

Defendant.

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges that:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

At all times material to this Indictment:

The Medicare Program

1. The Medicare Program (Medicare) was a federally funded program that provided free or below-cost health care benefits to certain individuals, primarily the elderly, blind, and disabled. The benefits available under Medicare were governed by federal statutes and regulations. The United States Department of Health and Human Services, through its agency, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), oversaw and administered Medicare. Individuals who received benefits under Medicare were commonly referred to as Medicare "beneficiaries."

2. Medicare programs covering different types of benefits were separated into different program "parts." Part D of Medicare (the "Medicare Part D Program") subsidized the costs of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries in the United States. The Medicare Part D Program

was enacted as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 and went into effect on January 1, 2006.

3. In order to receive Part D benefits, a beneficiary enrolled in a Medicare drug plan. Medicare drug plans were operated by private companies approved by Medicare. Those companies were often referred to as drug plan "sponsors." A beneficiary in a Medicare drug plan could fill a prescription at a pharmacy and use his or her plan to pay for some or all of the prescription.

4. A pharmacy could participate in the Part D Program by entering a retail network agreement directly with a plan or with one or more Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). A PBM acted on behalf of one or more Medicare drug plan. Through a plan's PBM, a pharmacy could join the plan's network. When a Part D beneficiary presented a prescription to a pharmacy, the pharmacy submitted a claim either directly to the plan or to a PBM that represented the beneficiary's Medicare drug plan. The plan or PBM determined whether the pharmacy was entitled to payment for each claim and periodically paid the pharmacy for outstanding claims. The drug plan's sponsor reimbursed the PBM for its payments to the pharmacy.

5. A pharmacy could also submit claims to a Medicare drug plan to whose network the pharmacy did not belong. Submission of such out-of-network claims was not common and often resulted in smaller payments to the pharmacy by the drug plan sponsor.

6. Medicare, through CMS, compensated the Medicare drug plan sponsors. Medicare paid the sponsors a monthly fee for each Medicare beneficiary of the sponsors' plans. Such payments were called capitation fees. The capitation fee was adjusted periodically based on various factors, including the beneficiary's medical conditions. In addition, in some cases where a sponsor's

expenses for a beneficiary's prescription drugs exceeded that beneficiary's capitation fee, Medicare reimbursed the sponsor for a portion of those additional expenses.

7. Medicare and Medicare drug plan sponsors were "health care benefit program[s]," as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b).

The Defendant and Related Company

8. Rodriguez Pharmacy, Corp., (Rodriguez Pharmacy) was a Florida corporation located at 6600 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida, purportedly providing prescription drugs to Medicare beneficiaries.

9. **ALIAN MIRANDA**, a resident of Miami-Dade County, was the incorporator, registered agent and sole corporate officer of Rodriguez Pharmacy.

COUNT 1
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND WIRE FRAUD
(18 U.S.C. § 1349)

1. The General Allegations section of this Indictment is re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

2. From in or around October 2014, through in or around July 2017, in Miami-Dade County in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant,

ALIAN MIRANDA,

did knowingly, that is, with the intent to further the objects of the conspiracy, and willingly combine, conspire, confederate and agree with others, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit offenses against the United States, that is:

a. to knowingly and willfully execute a scheme and artifice to defraud a health care benefit program affecting commerce, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b),

specifically, Medicare and Medicare drug plan sponsors, and to obtain by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money and property owned by, and under the custody and control of, said health care benefit programs, in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care benefits, items, and services in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347; and

b. to knowingly and with the intent to defraud, devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and for obtaining money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, knowing the pretenses, representations, and promises were false and fraudulent when made, and for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice, did knowingly transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSPIRACY

3. It was a purpose of the conspiracy for the defendant and his co-conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by, among other things: (a) offering and paying kickbacks for the referral of fraudulent Medicare prescriptions to Rodriguez Pharmacy; (b) submitting and causing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to health care benefit programs via interstate wire communications; (c) concealing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to health care benefit programs, and the receipt and transfer of fraud proceeds; and (d) diverting fraud proceeds for the personal use and benefit of themselves and others, and to further the fraud.

MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

The manner and means by which the defendant and his co-conspirators sought to accomplish the objects and purpose of the conspiracy included, among other things:

4. **ALIAN MIRANDA** and his co-conspirators recruited and paid kickbacks and bribes to Medicare beneficiaries to induce the beneficiaries to obtain prescriptions for pharmaceutical drugs to be used in conjunction with false and fraudulent billing of the Medicare Part D Program through Rodriguez Pharmacy.

5. **ALIAN MIRANDA** recruited and paid kickbacks to co-conspirators in exchange for referring Medicare beneficiaries to be used in conjunction with false and fraudulent billing of the Medicare Part D Program through Rodriguez Pharmacy.

6. **ALIAN MIRANDA** and his co-conspirators submitted and caused the submission of claims via interstate wire communications that falsely and fraudulently represented that prescription drugs were medically necessary, prescribed by a doctor, and had been provided to the Medicare beneficiaries by Rodriguez Pharmacy.

7. As a result of such false and fraudulent claims, Medicare prescription drug plan sponsors, through their PBMs, made overpayments funded by the Medicare Part D Program to the corporate bank account of Rodriguez Pharmacy.

8. **ALIAN MIRANDA** and his co-conspirators used the proceeds from the false and fraudulent Medicare Part D claims for their own use and the use of others, and to further the fraud.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNTS 2-11
HEALTH CARE FRAUD
(18 U.S.C. § 1347)

1. The General Allegations section of this Indictment is re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

2. From in or around October 2014, through in or around July 2017, in Miami-Dade County in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant,

ALIAN MIRANDA,

in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care benefits, items, and services, did knowingly and willfully execute, and attempt to execute, a scheme and artifice to defraud a health care benefit program affecting commerce, as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), that is, Medicare and Medicare drug plan sponsors, and to obtain, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money and property owned by, and under the custody and control of, said health care benefit programs.

Purpose of the Scheme and Artifice

3. It was a purpose of the scheme and artifice for the defendant and his accomplices to unlawfully enrich themselves by, among other things: (a) offering and paying kickbacks for the referral of fraudulent Medicare prescriptions to Rodriguez Pharmacy; (b) submitting and causing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to health care benefit programs; (c) concealing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to health care benefit programs, and the receipt and transfer of fraud proceeds; and (d) diverting fraud proceeds for the personal use and benefit of themselves and others, and to further the fraud.

The Scheme and Artifice

4. The allegations contained in the Manner and Means section of Count 1 of this Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein as a description of the scheme and artifice.

Acts in Execution or Attempted Execution of the Scheme and Artifice

5. On or about the dates set forth as to each count below, in Miami-Dade County in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant, in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care benefits, items, and services, did knowingly and willfully execute, and attempt to execute, the above-described scheme and artifice to defraud a health care benefit program affecting commerce, as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), that is, Medicare and Medicare drug plan sponsors, and to obtain, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money and property owned by, and under the custody and control of, said health care benefit programs, in that the defendant submitted and caused the submission of false and fraudulent claims seeking the identified dollar amounts, and representing that Rodriguez Pharmacy provided pharmaceutical items and services to Medicare beneficiaries pursuant to a physician's orders and prescriptions:

Count	Approximate Date of Claim	Beneficiary	Claim Number	Item Claimed; Approx. Amount Claimed
2	12/21/2015	M.Z.	51972199599	Namenda XR; \$334
3	12/21/2015	M.Z.	51972199596	Budesonide; \$941
4	12/28/2015	A.R.	52186782744	Seroquel XR; \$1224
5	01/27/2016	A.R.	53181984610	Namenda XR; \$360

Count	Approximate Date of Claim	Beneficiary	Claim Number	Item Claimed; Approx. Amount Claimed
6	11/11/2016	P.L.	59657259405	Advair Diskus; \$500
7	12/05/2016	M.C.	61246960040	Diclofenac Gel; \$2404
8	02/23/2017	L.B.	63199268204	Advair Diskus; \$534
9	03/29/2017	P.L.	67915170150	Seroquel XR; \$448
10	03/29/2017	M.C.	64002923361	Seroquel XR; \$758
11	03/29/2017	L.B.	67915170162	Tazorac; \$1216

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1347 and 2.

FORFEITURE
(18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(7))

1. The allegations contained in this Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of certain property in which the defendant **ALIAN MIRANDA** has an interest.

2. Upon conviction of any violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1347 or 1349, as alleged in Counts 1 through 11 of the Indictment, the defendant shall forfeit to the United States all of his right, title and interest in any property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived, directly or indirectly, from gross proceeds traceable to the commission of such violations, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7).

3. The property subject to forfeiture includes, but is not limited to, the sum of at least \$1,300,000 in United States currency, which is a sum of money equal in value to the gross proceeds


traceable to the commission of the violations alleged in this Indictment, which the United States will seek as a forfeiture money judgment as part of the defendant's sentence.

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7); and the procedures set forth at Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, as made applicable through Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1).


A TRUE BILL _____

FOI


BENJAMIN G. GREENBERG
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY


JON M. JENGER
ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY