# united states district court southern district of florida 24-20256-CR-DAMIAN/VALLE

Case No.

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

FILED BY MP D.C.

Jun 18, 2024

ANGELA E. NOBLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

YORDANY RIVERA BERMUDEZ,

| _            | _   | _  |     |     |
|--------------|-----|----|-----|-----|
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### **INDICTMENT**

The Grand Jury charges that:

## **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

#### The Medicare Program

- 1. The Medicare Program ("Medicare") was a federal health care program that provided free or below-cost health care benefits to individuals who were sixty-five years of age or older or disabled. The benefits available under Medicare were governed by federal statutes and regulations. The United States Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS"), through its agency the Center 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 was subdivided into multiple program "parts." Medicare Part A covered health care services provided by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospices, and home health

agencies. Medicare Part B covered physician services and outpatient care, including an individual's access to durable medical equipment ("DME").

3. Medicare was a "health care benefit program" as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b).

#### The Medicaid Program

- 4. The Florida Medicaid Program ("Medicaid") was a partnership between the State of Florida and the federal government that provided health care benefits to certain low-income individuals and families in Florida. The benefits available under Medicaid were governed by federal and state statutes and regulations. Medicaid was administered by CMS and the State of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration ("AHCA"). Individuals who received benefits under Medicaid were commonly referred to as Medicaid "recipients."
- 5. Medicaid reimbursed DME companies and other health care providers for items and services rendered to recipients, including DME. To receive payment from Medicaid, providers submitted or caused the submission of claims to Medicaid, either directly or through a Medicaid Managed Care Organization ("MCO").
- 6. Medicare beneficiaries who were dual-enrolled Medicaid recipients were referred to as "dual-eligible beneficiaries." To receive payment for dual eligible beneficiaries, providers submitted or caused the submission of claims to Medicare and Medicaid, either directly or through a billing company or MCO. Medicare would reimburse the primary cost (80%) and Medicaid would cover the secondary cost (20%) for dual-eligible beneficiaries.
- 7. Medicaid was funded with both federal and state money, and was a "health care benefit program," as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b).

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#### **Durable Medical Equipment**

- 8. DME was equipment designed for everyday or extended use and for a medical purpose, such as orthotic devices, speech generating devices, collagen dressing, prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs, nebulizers, and oxygen concentrators.
- 9. Medicare and Medicaid reimbursed DME companies and other health care providers for items and services rendered to beneficiaries. To receive payment, providers submitted or caused the submission of claims, either directly or through a billing company.
- 10. A claim for DME reimbursement was required to set forth, among other things, the beneficiary's name and unique identification number, the equipment provided to the beneficiary, the date the equipment was provided, the cost of the equipment, and the name and unique physician identification number of the physician who prescribed or ordered the equipment.
- 11. A claim for DME qualified for reimbursement only if it was medically necessary for the treatment of the beneficiary's illness or injury, prescribed by a licensed physician, and actually provided to the beneficiary as billed.

#### The Defendant and Related Entities

- 12. Acqualina Health Medical Solutions, Inc. ("Acqualina") was a Florida corporation located at 12955 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 322, North Miami, Florida, that purportedly provided DME to Medicare beneficiaries and Medicaid recipients. Acqualina had a corporate bank account at JPMorgan Chase with an account number ending in x7835 ("Acqualina Account").
- 13. Defendant **YORDANY RIVERA BERMUDEZ** was a resident of Lee County, Florida, and the president and registered agent of Acqualina.

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# COUNTS 1-4 Health Care Fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1347)

- 1. The General Allegations section of this Indictment is re-alleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 2. From in or around December 2021, and continuing through in or around October 2022, in Miami-Dade County, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant,

#### YORDANY RIVERA BERMUDEZ,

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 health care benefit programs affecting commerce, as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), that is, Medicare and Medicaid, 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 to unlawfully enrich himself by, among other things: (a) submitting and causing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to health care benefit programs; (b) concealing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to health care benefit programs; (c) concealing the receipt of the fraud proceeds; and (d) diverting the fraud proceeds for his personal use and benefit, the use and benefit of others, and to further the fraud scheme.

#### MANNER AND MEANS OF THE SCHEME AND ARTIFICE

The manner and means by which the defendant sought to accomplish the object and purpose of the scheme and artifice included, among others, the following:

- 4. YORDANY RIVERA BERMUDEZ submitted and caused Acqualina to submit false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and Medicaid in the approximate amount of \$2.9 million for DME that was medically unnecessary and not provided as represented.
- 5. As a result of such false and fraudulent claims, Medicare and Medicaid paid approximately \$1.2 million to Acqualina, which was deposited into the Acqualina Account.
- 6. YORDANY RIVERA BERMUDEZ used the proceeds of the fraud for his personal use and benefit, the use and benefit of others, and to further the fraud scheme.

# ACTS IN EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME AND ARTIFICE

7. On or about the dates set forth below, in Miami-Dade County, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, the defendant did knowingly and willfully execute, and attempt to execute, the above-described scheme and artifice to defraud a health care benefit program, in that the defendant, through Acqualina, caused the submission of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and Medicaid, seeking reimbursement for the cost of DME, as set forth below:

| Count | Approx. Date of Claim Sübmission | Medicare<br>Beneficiary<br>/ Medicaid<br>Recipient | Health Care Benefit<br>Program / Claim<br>Number | Item Claimed /<br>Approx. Amount<br>Claimed |
|-------|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1     | March 16, 2022                   | G.G.   | Medicare /                                       | A6021 Collagen                              |
| ,     |                                  |  | 122075700018000                                  | Dressing / \$6,606                          |
| 2     | March 28, 2022                   | J.M.   | Medicare /                                       | A6021 Collagen                              |
| i     | :                                |  | 122087700042000                                  | Dressing / \$6,606                          |
| 3:    | March 30, 2022                   | N.H.   | Medicare /                                       | A6021 Collagen                              |
|       |                                  |  | 122089753102000                                  | Dressing / \$6,606                          |
| 4     | April 1, 2022                    | D.G.   | Medicaid /                                       | A6021 Collagen                              |
|       |                                  |  | 22091418359                                      | Dressing / \$6,606                          |

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

#### FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

- 1. The allegations of this Indictment are hereby re-alleged and by this reference fully incorporated herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of certain property in which the defendant, **YORDANY RIVERA BERMUDEZ**, has an interest.
- 2. Upon conviction of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347, as alleged in this Indictment, the defendant shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived, directly or indirectly, from gross proceeds traceable to the commission of the offenses, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7).
- 3. The property subject to forfeiture as a result of the alleged offenses includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - (a) a sum of money equal in value to the total amount of funds constituting, or derived from, proceeds traceable to the commission of the alleged offenses, which may be sought as a forfeiture money judgment; and
- 4. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
  - (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
  - (b) has been transferred or 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 subdivided without difficulty;

the United States shall be entitled to the forfeiture of substitute property under the provisions of Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p).

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 incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1).

A TRUE BILL

**FOREPERSON** 

MARKENZY LAPOINTE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

MARC T. CANZZO

SPECIAL ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  | CASE NO.: <u>24-20256-CR-DAMIAN/VALL</u> E  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| v.  | CERTIFICATE OF TRIAL ATTORNEY   |  |  |
| YORDANY RIVERA BERMUDEZ,  |   |  |  |
| Defendant.  Court Division (select one)  Miami Key West FTP FTL WPB                               | Superseding Case Information:  New Defendant(s) (Yes or No)  Number of New Defendants  Total number of new counts   |  |  |
| witnesses and the legal complexities of the In 2. I am aware that the information supplied on the | f the indictment, the number of defendants, the number of probable dictment/Information attached hereto. his statement will be relied upon by the Judges of this Court in setting under the mandate of the Speedy Trial Act, Title 28 U.S.C. §3161. |  |  |
| 4. This case will take 5 days for the parties   | to try.   |  |  |
| I ⊠ 0 to 5 days ☐ Petty II ☐ 6 to 10 days ☐ Mind  | ck only one)<br>y<br>or<br>demeanor   |  |  |
| 6. Has this case been previously filed in this  | · , —   |  |  |
| If yes, Judge   | Case No   |  |  |
| 7. Has a complaint been filed in this matter? If yes, Magistrate Case No.                         |   |  |  |
| 8. Does this case relate to a previously filed I If yes, Judge                                    |   |  |  |
| 9. Defendant(s) in federal custody as of  |   |  |  |
| 10. Defendant(s) in state custody as of   |   |  |  |
| 11. Rule 20 from theDistrict of _ 12. Is this a potential death penalty case? (Yes                |   |  |  |
|   | ding in the Northern Region of the U.S. Attorney's Office   |  |  |
| prior to August 8, 2014 (Mag. Judge Shan  | iek Maynard? (Yes or No) No   |  |  |
|   | ding in the Central Region of the U.S. Attorney's Office prior  |  |  |
| to October 3, 2019 (Mag. Judge Jared Stra   | ·   |  |  |
| during his tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Of 16. Did this matter involve the participation of      | of or consultation with Magistrate Judge Eduardo I. Sanchez ffice, which concluded on January 22, 2023? No_of or consultation with now Magistrate Judge Marta Fulgueira torney's Office, which concluded on March 5, 2024? No_                      |  |  |
|   | By: Marc T. Canzio Special Assistant United States Attorney   |  |  |

FL Bar No.

106306

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

#### PENALTY SHEET

| Defendant's Name: _ | YORDANY RIVERA BERMUDEZ  | <br>_ |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| Case No:            |  | <br>_ |
| Counts #: 1-4       |  |       |
| Health Care Fraud   |  | <br>  |
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Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347

- \* Max. Term of Imprisonment: 10 years imprisonment as to each count
- \* Mandatory Min. Term of Imprisonment (if applicable): N/A
- \* Max. Supervised Release: Three (3) Years
- \* Max. Fine: \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss from the offense

<sup>\*</sup>Refers only to possible term of incarceration, supervised release and fines. It does not include restitution, special assessments, parole terms, or forfeitures that may be applicable.