

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS

Defendant.

Case:2:15-cr-20365  
Judge: Battani, Marianne O.  
MJ: Grand, David R.  
Filed: 06-17-2015 At 10:00 AM  
INFO USA V. SANDERS (DA)

VIO: 18 U.S.C. § 1347  
18 U.S.C. § 2  
31 U.S.C. § 5324  
18 U.S.C. § 982  
31 U.S.C. § 5317

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**INFORMATION**

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CHARGES:

**General Allegations**

At all times relevant to this Information:

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 B of the Medicare Program covered the cost of physician's services and other ancillary services not covered by Part A. The psychotherapy services discussed herein were covered by Part B.

4. Wisconsin Physicians Service was the CMS-contracted carrier for Medicare Part B, in the state of Michigan. TrustSolutions, LLC was the program safeguard contractor for Medicare Part A and Part B in the State of Michigan tasked with investigating fraud, waste and abuse until April 24, 2012, when it was replaced by Cahaba Safeguard Administrators LLC ("Cahaba") as the zone program integrity contractor (ZPIC). On April 10, 2015, AdvanceMed replaced Cahaba as the ZPIC.

5. To participate in Medicare, providers were required to submit an application. By becoming a participating provider in Medicare, enrolled providers agreed to abide by the policies and procedures, rules, and regulations governing reimbursement. 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, is assigned a provider identification number for billing purposes (referred to as a PIN). When the medical provider renders a service, the provider submits a claim for reimbursement to the Medicare contractor/carrier that includes the PIN assigned to that medical provider.

7. Health care providers are given and/or provided with online access to Medicare manuals and services bulletins describing proper billing procedures and billing rules and regulations. Providers can only submit claims to Medicare for medically necessary services they rendered and providers must maintain patient records to verify that the services were provided as described on the claim form. These records were required to be sufficient to permit Medicare, through its contractors, to review the appropriateness of Medicare payments made to the health care provider.

8. To receive reimbursement for a covered service from Medicare, a provider must submit a claim, either electronically or using a form, containing the required information appropriately identifying the provider, patient, and services rendered.

9. CBC Services, LLC, was a Michigan corporation that operated, at various times, at 124 Pearl Street – Suite 308, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. CBC Services, LLC was a Medicare provider and submitted claims directly to Medicare.

10. CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS, a resident of Washtenaw County, Michigan, was the owner and controller of CBC Services, LLC and a registered social worker.

**COUNT 1**  
**(18 U.S.C. §§ 1347 and 2 – Health Care Fraud)**

11. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of the General Allegations section of this Information are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

12. From on or about October, 2005, through on or about November, 2014, in Washtenaw County, in the Eastern District of Michigan and elsewhere, CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, in connection with the delivery of any 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 in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), that is, Medicare, 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 Medicare, in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care benefits, items and services.

### **Purpose of the Scheme and Artifice**

13. It was a purpose of the scheme and artifice that CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS would enrich herself through the submission of false and fraudulent Medicare claims for psychotherapy services that were medically unnecessary and/or not performed.

### **The Scheme and Artifice**

14. CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS would incorporate CBC Services, LLC in Washtenaw County, Michigan.

15. CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS would obtain and maintain a group Medicare provider number for CBC Services, LLC to submit Medicare claims.

16. CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS would control the day-to-day operations at CBC Services, LLC.

17. CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS would submit claims for psychotherapy services for Medicare beneficiaries who did not need and/or did not receive psychotherapy services.

18. CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS would submit claims for psychotherapy services that she purportedly performed while she was out of the country or that totaled over 24 hours per day.

19. CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS would submit claims for psychotherapy services under her individual Medicare provider number for services performed by other social workers, without supervising these services.

20. From in or about October, 2005, through in or about November, 2014, CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS through CBC Services, LLC submitted approximately \$3,881,422.63 in claims for psychotherapy services, and she was paid approximately \$1,712,699.77 on those claims.

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

**COUNT 2**  
**(31 U.S.C. § 5324(a)(1) – Structuring  
Bank Withdrawals to Avoid Reporting Requirements)**

21. Paragraphs 1 through 20 of this Information are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

22. On or about the dates specified in below, in Washtenaw and Wayne counties, in the Eastern District of Michigan, and elsewhere, defendant CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS did knowingly and for the purpose of evading the reporting requirements of Title 31, United States Code, Section 5324(a) and the regulations prescribed thereunder, structure, cause to be structured, and assist in structuring, while violating another law of the United States—that is, health care fraud— did with a domestic financial institution—namely, Fifth Third—withdraw

from said institution amounts of \$10,000 or less, including the following withdrawals on the date and in the amounts below:

Paragraph	Bank	Approximate Date of Withdrawal	Withdrawn by	Withdrawal Amounts
23	Fifth Third	February 8, 2012	CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS	\$5,000 \$5,000 \$10,000 \$10,000 \$10,000

All in violation of Title 31, United States Code, Section 5324(a)(1).

**FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 982 and 31 U.S.C. § 5317—Criminal Forfeiture)**

24. The allegations contained in Counts 1 and 2 of this Information are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America of any property, real or personal obtained by CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS, by commission of the offenses charged in Counts 1 and 2, pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7) and Title 31, United States Code, Section 5317.

25. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7), upon conviction of CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS for Count 1 of this Information, she 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 offense charged in Count 1 of this Information.

26. Pursuant to Title 31, United States Code, Section 5317, upon conviction of the offense charged in Count 2 of this Information, she shall forfeit to the United States all property, real or personal, involved in the offense and any property traceable thereto.

27. Substitute Assets: If the property described above as being 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 that cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek to forfeit any other property of CELESTINE BROWN SANDERS up to the value of such property.

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7) and Title 31, United States Code, Section 5317.



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Date: June \_\_\_, 2015