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VILLAGES WOMAN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS FOR MEDICARE FRAUD

Orlando, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Gregory A. Presnell today sentenced Barbara Georgiades (59, The Villages, Florida) to 15 months in federal prison for health care fraud. As part of her sentence, the court also entered a money judgment in the amount of \$227,603.00, the proceeds of the health care fraud.

Georgiades pled guilty on January 11, 2011. According to court documents, Georgiades was a managing member of and participated in the daily operations of New Traditions in Health, LLC, an alternative medicine practice located in Summerfield, Florida that specialized in acupuncture and massage therapy. Knowing that Medicare does not pay for acupuncture, massage therapy, or any related services, Georgiades submitted false claims to Medicare seeking reimbursement for office visits conducted by a medical doctor. In fact, the patients were treated by an acupuncturist or massage therapist, and not a medical doctor. Between September 2005 and September 2008, Medicare paid New Traditions \$227,603.00 based on the false claims.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Katherine M. Ho.