



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 9, 2004

*Contact: Duncan Woodford
Public Information Officer
(409) 839-2538*

TWO PLEAD GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING MEDICARE

(Sherman, Texas) Two North Texas brothers have pleaded guilty to defrauding Medicare. On Monday, **ANIETIE H. EDOHO-UKWA**, 46, and **UKWA H. EDOHO-UKWA**, 48, each pleaded guilty to one count of Health Care Fraud before U.S. District Judge Paul Brown.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, the brothers each owned medical equipment companies. Anietie Edoho-Ukwa owned Grace Medical Services in McKinney, his brother Ukwa owned Genesys Medical Equipment in Frisco. Between August 2002 and July 2003, each brother submitted fraudulent bills for power wheelchairs to the Medicare program. In particular, Anietie Edoho-Ukwa admitted his company submitted 10 fraudulent claims totaling nearly \$95,000 for power wheelchairs which Medicare beneficiaries were either never provided or given a cheaper scooter instead. In his separate plea agreement, Ukwa Edoho-Ukwa admitted his company submitted nine fraudulent claims totaling more than \$75,000 for power wheelchairs in which the Medicare beneficiaries were either never provided or given a cheaper scooter instead.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, praised the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Health

--more--

and Human Services, Office of Inspector General and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, "Through effective investigative techniques, we were able to stop this fraud and prevent further loss to the government. We will continue efforts to insure the integrity of the Medicare program and prosecute those who seek to undermine it."

In addition to the guilty plea, each defendant has agreed to forfeit a luxury automobile as well as a significant amount of money that was obtained through the fraudulent billings. Additionally, each could face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Judge Brown set a sentencing date of September 30, 2004.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Stover is prosecuting the case.

###