



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7452

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**LOCAL CARDIOLOGIST PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING MEDICARE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that Dr. Piyush V. Patel pled guilty this morning to executing a scheme to defraud the federal government by submitting a claim to Medicare utilizing a provider number assigned to his wife, Dr. Meenakshi Patel.

Today's plea resulted from a June 27, 2002, conviction from the Northern District of Texas, where Dr. Patel plead guilty to Misprision of a Felony. In so pleading, Dr. Patel was prohibited from making claims to or receiving payments from Medicare for any health care services he might perform. While suspended from the Medicare program, he and his staff submitted claims to Medicare and other federal health care entities utilizing the provider numbers of his wife, Dr. Meenakshi P. Patel. These claims were false and fraudulent. Dr. Piyush V. Patel contends that his wife did not participate in his scheme to defraud the federal government.

The government contends that Dr. Patel defrauded the government of \$200,000 to \$400,000. Sentencing is scheduled for July 28, 2005, and he faces a maximum 10 year federal prison sentence and \$250,000 fine. He also faces sentencing for revocation of supervised release resulting from his conviction from the Northern District of Texas.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Office of Personnel Management. Assistant United States Attorney John S. Klassen is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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