

On April 25, 2000, Floyd Joseph Warwick, Jr., a licensed pharmacist in Jacksonville, FL, was sentenced in Federal District Court to 5 years probation, a \$1,000 fine, and ordered to serve 100 hours of community service. Warwick owned and operated an independent pharmacy, Highland Drug Company, and a home oxygen company, Aurex, Inc. Warwick was charged with paying kickbacks for patient referrals. Warwick offered to pay money to the doctor every time a patient was referred to him for home oxygen care.

The guilty plea was the result of a multi-agency Federal task force investigating health care fraud in Northeast Florida. The investigation disclosed that Warwick offered to pay and paid a physician a kickback for patient referrals. The patients were part of different Federal health care programs that include TRICARE and Medicare. TRICARE is the DoD program that pays the medical bills of military retirees, dependants, and other specified individuals who receive medical care from civilian doctors and medical facilities

The investigation was conducted by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (the investigative arm of the OIG, DoD), the Navy Criminal Investigative Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville Division, Jacksonville, FL, handled the prosecution.