

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on April 25, 2001, a Federal Grand Jury in Norfolk, VA, returned a 24-count indictment against HealthWise Medical Rehabilitation Centers (HealthWise), Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, VA, and Michael J. Concessi, Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) and owner/operator of HealthWise. Each of the defendants was charged with one count of health care fraud and 23 counts of false statements relating to health care matters.

The criminal indictment alleges that Concessi and HealthWise submitted numerous fraudulent health care claims for payment to TRICARE and the TRIGON Insurance Company. The claims submitted to TRICARE and TRIGON falsely depicted the provider of services and were for services not eligible for payment.

HealthWise is a multidiscipline practice that employs medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy on a contractual basis to give initial medical exams to patients prior to receiving chiropractic services performed by Concessi, but billed under the medical doctor's name and provider identification number to TRICARE and other insurance programs. Chiropractic services are not covered benefits under the TRICARE program.