

President Obama's 2011 Funding Request Provides for Expansion of the HEAT Program to Additional Cities



(October 4, 2010): As DOJ has recently [noted in its own blog](#), over the last Fiscal Year, DOJ (including its 94 U.S. Attorneys' Offices), HHS' Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), have been extraordinarily active in jointly pursuing health care providers allegedly engaging in fraud as part of the HEAT program. As DOJ notes, the mission of the HEAT program is:

- ***To marshal significant resources across government to prevent waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs and crack down on the fraud perpetrators who are abusing the system and costing us all billions of dollars.***
- ***To reduce skyrocketing health care costs and improve quality of care by ridding the system of perpetrators who are preying on Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.***
- ***To highlight best practices by providers and public sector employees who are dedicated to ending waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare.***
- ***To build upon existing partnerships that already exist between the two agencies, including our Medicare Fraud Strike Forces to reduce fraud and recover taxpayer dollars.***

Together, DOJ, HHS-OIG and CMS have accomplished the following over the last Fiscal Year:

- ***Filed charges against more than 800 defendants.***
- ***Obtained 583 criminal convictions.***
- ***Opened 886 new civil health care fraud matters.***
- ***Obtained 337 civil administrative actions against parties committing health care fraud.***

Through these coordinated efforts, more than \$2.5 billion was recovered. Importantly, these successes have not gone unnoticed. President Obama's FY 2011 budget request includes an additional \$60.2 million in funding for the HEAT program initiative.

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Commentary: In light of the government's continuing efforts, we strongly recommend that our clients review their current compliance efforts to ensure that they take into account any and all risk areas that have been identified or associated with their areas of practice. Providers should work to ensure that their operations and billing activities fully comply with applicable statutory and regulatory billing and coding requirements.

Should you have questions, please give us a call for a complimentary consultation. We can be reached at 1 (800) 475-1906.