

HEALTH LAW ALERT



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The SHB Health Law Practice is nationally renowned for its experience in developing delivery systems; physician/hospital ventures; managed care plans; ambulatory surgical and diagnostic centers; and multi-specialty clinics.

If you have questions about the new interagency Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team, please contact

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DOJ AND HHS ANNOUNCE NEW INTERAGENCY HEALTH CARE FRAUD PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION TEAM

On May 20, 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the creation of a new interagency Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT) to combat Medicare fraud.

HEAT will include senior Department of Justice (DOJ) and Health and Human Services (HHS) officials who will meet biweekly to build on and strengthen existing programs and implement new state-of-the-art technology to identify and analyze potential fraud with “unprecedented speed and efficiency.”

Efforts will include, among other things, the expansion of the joint DOJ-HHS Medicare Fraud Strike Force teams, which use a “data-driven” approach to identify unexplainable billing patterns, and additional demonstration projects by the HHS Inspector General and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that focus on suppliers of durable medical equipment.

Announcement of HEAT comes amid unprecedented increases in the proposed 2010 federal budget to strengthen program integrity in Medicare and Medicaid and a stated AG commitment to a “sustained focus by senior-level leadership” to fight Medicare fraud and abuse.

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