

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on April 18, 2000, Christine Lerner Warren, President of the now defunct Consultants in Nutritional Services, Incorporated (CNS), Norfolk, VA, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk, VA, to 180 days home detention, 5 years probation, ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$109,437.05, ordered to perform 90 hours of community service, and a special assessment fee of \$100.00. Warren had previously pled guilty on January 21, 2000, to a criminal information charging her with conspiracy to commit health care fraud.

An investigation disclosed that Warren and other co-conspirators submitted numerous fraudulent health care claim forms to TRICARE (formerly the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services), Medicare, and TRIGON Insurance Company. The claims falsely depicted the provider of services and disguised the actual services furnished.

CNS was a business that offered nutritional counseling and weight loss management to its customers. Nutritional counseling and weight loss management are not covered benefits under the TRICARE program. The aggregate loss to the health care programs is \$109,437.