

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DOD), announced today that on May 24, 2000, Drs. Kosmas Sarantis and Bipin Patel were indicted by the Federal Grand Jury, Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL. The 26 count indictment charged that Drs. Sarantis and Patel conspired with others to defraud TRICARE and Medicare health care programs by receiving kickback payments for patient referrals.

The doctors received kickback payments from Clearwater Community Laboratory, Inc., Clearwater, FL, for their patient referrals, including patients covered by the TRICARE program, the DoD medical program that pays the medical bills of military retirees, dependents and other specified individuals who receive medical care from civilian doctors and facilities.