

QUALITY OF CARE CASE: Program Integrity is seeing more and more cases of fraud that involve significant quality of care and patient harm issues.

On June 8, 2000, John R. Stewart, M.D., owner of Allergy Clinic, Salt Lake City, UT, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, District of Utah. Stewart was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, 24-months supervised release, ordered to pay restitution of \$70,000. Stewart pled guilty to making false statements related to health care matters, submitting false claims to the U.S. Government, and mail fraud. One of Dr. Stewart's practices was having all patients undergo allergy tests without first seeing the patient and establishing the medical necessity for the tests. Then regardless of the test results, for virtually all patients, the same serum was administered to all patients (a universal allergy serum). Dr. Stewart also billed for services not rendered and upcoded services as well.