

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on August 18, 2000, The Arthritis Pain Center, Incorporated (APC), St. Louis, MO, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri, St. Louis, MO, to 2 years probation, fined \$10,000, ordered to pay a \$400 special assessment, and ordered to make restitution to Medicare, TRICARE, and private insurance companies in the amount of \$50,000. The company was also ordered to pay \$25,000 in investigative costs.

On May 19, 2000, the APC pleaded guilty to a one-count Criminal Information for submitting a false claim to the U.S. Government. An investigation disclosed that the APC submitted false claims for payment to Medicare, TRICARE, and private insurance companies, claiming that Dr. Rachna Mehra, the owner and operator of APC, had personally provided services, or that Dr. Mehra was present while a non-physician provided the services, when in fact Dr. Mehra was out of town.