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Indianapolis dentist faces charges for Medicaid fraud scheme
*Allegations include removing thirty-three teeth from three patients, all residents of
Midtown Saint George Residential Facility*

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that charges have been filed against Arnel J. Gallanosa, D.D.S., for falsely billing the State of Indiana's Medicaid program for dental treatment he allegedly provided to patients. Dr. Gallanosa was also charged for giving potential patients a kickback for using his services.

A Probable Cause Affidavit filed in support of the charges alleges as follows. In an effort to garner more business for his dental practice, Dr. Gallanosa paid staff members and a "runner" to recruit new patients who were eligible for Medicaid benefits. The patients would be offered five or ten dollars and "free" dental work. The Indiana Medicaid program reimbursed Dr. Gallanosa for services rendered and the patients would have no out of pocket cost.

In one specific instance, Dr. Gallanosa paid Darnell White to recruit three dental patients from the Midtown Saint George Residential facility where he believed many residents are eligible for Medicaid benefits. That morning 33 teeth were removed from the three patients. Each patient was then given a prescription for penicillin and Vicodin. White then drove the patients to a pharmacy where he filled their prescriptions. White kept the Vicodin prescriptions and gave the patients their penicillin.

"A licensed medical professional, such as a dentist, should inspire trust and respect," said Prosecutor Curry. "It is thus particularly disturbing for a medical professional to abuse the trust of his patients and prey upon some of our most vulnerable citizens. We will vigorously prosecute any such fraud and abuse."

In addition to the incident involving the Midtown residents, Dr. Gallanosa allegedly submitted other fraudulent claims to the Indiana Medicaid program on behalf of additional patients.

The Indiana Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) investigates fraudulent claims submitted for reimbursement to the Medicaid program and investigates abuse or neglect of patients in institutional settings. An MFCU investigator worked with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office on the Gallanosa case.

"The violation of vulnerable patients' trust alleged in this provider's brazen scheme victimized not only his patients, but also others who could have benefited from health services the stolen Medicaid funds could have provided; so we thank Prosecutor Curry for filing felony charges to hold the defendant accountable," Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller said. Zoeller added that the Attorney General's Office also reviews consumer complaints about health care providers and files licensing actions with the appropriate health licensing board, when appropriate.

Dr. Gallanosa now faces ten counts of Medicaid fraud (D felony), five counts of theft (D felony), and three counts of conspiracy to commit Medicaid fraud (D felony). White previously pleaded guilty to D felony prescription fraud for stealing the Vicodin prescriptions of the three Midtown residents. He remains on probation stemming from that conviction.