

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on August 4, 2000, Nasser Ordoubadi M.D., entered a guilty plea to two counts of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and mail fraud in the Western District of Washington, Seattle WA in relation to the submissions of health care claims to TRICARE (formerly CHAMPUS), Medicare, and private insurance companies. Ordoubadi, is the owner of General Medical Clinic (GMC), a TRICARE provider, and he operated a billing company called Wellnet that contracted with the General Medical Clinics of the Seattle/Tacoma, WA areas.

In October 1999, Ordoubadi and others were indicted on the following charges: two counts of health care fraud and 16 counts of mail fraud. These charges are the result of an investigation into allegations of false and inflated claims submitted by Ordoubadi and the General Medical Clinics. These inflated claims contain billings for services not rendered, billings inflated through upcoding, and billings for uncovered services.

Sentencing for Ordoubadi has been scheduled for September 29, 2000. He faces a fine of up to \$100,000 and a prison sentence of up to five years.