

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on January 26, 2001, Aurelio P. Jimenez, D.P.M., owner of Kokomo Podiatry Clinic, Kokomo, IN, pleaded guilty to six-counts of mail fraud, one-count of forfeiture and one-count of criminal contempt. On March 25, 2000 and January 17, 2001, Jimenez was indicted by a Federal grand jury and charged with 25 counts of mail fraud, one-count of forfeiture and one-count criminal contempt.

The investigation disclosed that Jimenez submitted claims for services not rendered and services not medically necessary. Additionally, Jimenez illegally inflated the claims for the services that he did render. From 1993 to 1997, Jimenez received more than \$3.35 million from Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE; the indictments charged that \$2.76 million of the payments were obtained fraudulently.

Jimenez violated the terms of his pre-trial release for his March 25, 2000 indictment by committing wire fraud resulting in the January 17, 2001 contempt indictment. Jimenez provided fraudulent information in order to obtain a home mortgage on an Illinois residence.