

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 7, 2014

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**CHICAGO UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS' OFFICE HALTS HEALTH CARE FRAUD
PROSECUTION AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS – ALL CHARGES TO BE
DISMISSED FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF DEFERRED PROSECUTION
AGREEMENT**

Dr. Neelesh Patel, DC through his lawyers, Steven A. Miller and Denise M. Ware of Reed Smith, LLP, announced today that a Deferred Prosecution Agreement has been entered between Dr. Patel and the United States Attorneys' Office -- effectively ending his criminal prosecution more than two years after charges were brought against him.

On August 31, 2011, Dr. Patel was indicted along with chiropractors Brad Mattson and Steven Paul on charges of health care fraud. According to the indictment, Mattson, Paul, and Dr. Patel billed millions to private health care insurance companies by ordering medically unnecessary tests and billing for services not rendered. Mattson and Paul each pleaded guilty. Mattson was sentenced to 78 months in prison and Paul's sentencing was stayed pending completion of a cooperation provision in his plea agreement. Pursuant to Paul's plea agreement, the Anticipated Advisory Sentencing Guideline Range as calculated by the United States is 63-78 months, less any reduction granted by the Court based on cooperation. Paul disputes certain Sentencing Guideline calculations.

Dr. Patel entered a plea of not guilty and contested the charges. The trial was scheduled to commence on April 7, 2014 and last approximately one month.

Today, the United States Attorneys' Office filed a Deferred Prosecution Agreement suspending all further criminal proceedings against Dr. Patel and effectively ending the prosecution. The Agreement was agreed to and entered by federal district court judge Ronald A. Guzman. Under the Agreement, Dr. Patel is required to pay \$87,852 to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, refrain from any violations of law, and report as ordered to a pre-trial services officer. Upon successful completion of the terms of the Agreement, in twelve months all charges against him will be dismissed.

Steven A. Miller, lead counsel for Dr. Patel, stated "[t]oday's resolution was the result of our two year analysis of very complicated statistical, medical, and witness evidence. After presenting our analysis to the government, it agreed that a Deferred Prosecution Agreement rather than further efforts to convict Dr. Patel was the appropriate outcome." Mr. Miller added that he is "very pleased with the manner in which the United States Attorneys' Office acted once our view of the evidence was brought to its attention," and he commended its decision as "consistent with the highest traditions of the Office."

With today's resolution, the white collar defense group at Reed Smith in Chicago continues an unbroken string of successes on behalf of corporate and individual clients in Chicago and nationwide.