

Pain clinic operators to pay \$820,000 for fraud

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

03/10/2010

**ST. LOUIS** — A Town and Country physician, his wife and their pain-management clinics will pay the federal government \$820,000 to resolve allegations of filing false medical claims.

The U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Missouri on Tuesday announced a civil settlement with Abdul Naushad, his wife, Wajiha Naushad, and the clinics, which do business as Advanced Pain Centers. The settlement also resolves claims against Naushad's billing company, Ultimate Practice Solutions, and its owner Azeem Meo, of Carmel, Ind.

Federal attorneys alleged that the defendants submitted false claims to Medicare, Missouri Medicaid and TRICARE for spinal decompression services. The claims were for one-on-one physical therapy services.

In fact, according to the U.S. attorney's office, "no one at APC performed physical therapy and APC did not even employ a physical therapist." It said the false claims were made to obtain payment for use of a DRX-9000 machine that is deemed experimental and is not covered or reimbursable under the health plans.

A call to Advanced Pain Center St. Louis on Tuesday was not immediately returned.

Billings by Naushad and the clinics will be subject to close scrutiny by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Ultimate Practice Solutions will be excluded from participation in federal health care programs for five years.

The civil settlement dismisses a complaint that was filed by whistleblowers Annetta Schwader and Amanda Richards, former employees of APC, but the two will share \$131,200 from the settlement. The whistleblowers were represented by the qui tam law firm Kenney & McCafferty.

Advanced Pain Center has clinics in Cape Girardeau, Cuba, Eureka, Farmington, Festus, Kennett, Poplar Bluff, Potosi, St. Louis and Sullivan.

### **About Kenney & McCafferty**

Kenney & McCafferty ("K&M") specializes in qui tam and tax whistleblower litigation. K&M represents whistleblowers nationwide and has recovered more than \$4 billion for the government in False Claims Act and tax whistleblower cases. Recent K&M pharmaceutical False Claims Act settlements include Pfizer, Inc./Geodon; Eli Lilly/Zyprexa; and Cephalon, Inc./Actiq, Provigil and Gabitril. For additional information, please call 610-940-0327 or visit their website at [www.quitam-lawyer.com](http://www.quitam-lawyer.com).