US Department of Health and Human Services Exclusion Program

Thomas Sowinski
Special Agent in Charge/
Reviewing Official
Overview

- Authority to exclude individuals and entities from Federal Health Care Programs
  - Medicare
  - Medicaid
  - Any other plan/program funded directly or indirectly by the United States government.
- Does not affect a person’s rights to receive program benefits
- Remedial, not punitive
- Over 51,000 individuals currently excluded
Exclusion Regional Boundaries
Authorities

- Social Security Act, Sections 1128 and 1156
- Mandatory – Convictions
  - Health care fraud
  - Patient abuse
  - Theft – Health care related
  - Drug distribution
- Permissive – Other
  - Board actions – Performance, Competency, Financial Integrity
  - Relationship with an excluded entity
Sources

- Law enforcement
- State and local governments
- State boards
- Media
- Congress
Process

- Analyst receives a referral for exclusion
- Investigations
  - Identify appropriate authority
  - Verifies data
  - Mails notice of intention to exclude (30 days)
- Submits case to supervisor for review
- Determination by Reviewing Official
- Final actions – Publish to website/close
Needed Documentation

- Transmission of referral within 30 days of sentencing (see MFCU Performance Standard 8.F)
- Conviction-based referrals
  - Final judgment order
  - Charging documents
  - Plea agreements
  - Summary of the case
  - Point of contact
Reinstatement

- Not automatic
- Requires the provider to apply for reinstatement
- Assessment for further actions?
Contact Information

HHS/OIG/OI
Exclusions Branch
PO Box 23871
Washington, DC 20026
Phone: 202-691-2311
Fax: 202-691-22980
Email: sanction@oig.hhs.gov
Referral POCs

- DHHS/OIG/OI- Exclusion Staff
  Boston Regional Office
  JFK Federal Building, Room 2475, Boston, MA 02203
  Telephone: 617-565-2664

Responsible for: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/OI-Exclusion Staff
  New York Regional Office
  26 Federal Plaza, Room 13-124, New York, NY 10278
  Telephone: 212-264-1691

Responsible for: New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/OI-Exclusion Staff
  Philadelphia Regional Office
  150 South Independence Mall West, Suite 329, Philadelphia, PA 19106
  Telephone: 215-861-4586

Responsible for: District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/OI-Exclusion Staff
  Atlanta Regional Office
  61 Forsyth Street, Suite 5T18, Atlanta, GA 30303
  Telephone: 404-562-7603

Responsible for: Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/OI-Exclusion Staff
  Miami Regional Office
  c/o DHHS/OIG/OI, Attn: Exclusions, PO Box 23871, Washington, DC 20026
  Telephone: 202-691-2311

Responsible for: Florida
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/OI-Exclusion Staff
  Chicago Regional Office
  233 North Michigan Ave, Suite 1330, Chicago, IL 60601
  Telephone: 312-353-2740

Responsible for: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois (Northern District), Wisconsin, Minnesota
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/OI-Exclusion Staff
  Kansas City Regional Office
  c/o DHHS/OIG/OI, Attn: Exclusions, PO Box 23871,
  Washington, DC 20026
  Telephone: 202-691-2311

Responsible for: Iowa, Illinois (Southern, Central Districts), Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/OI-Exclusion Staff
  Dallas Regional Office
  1100 Commerce St, Room 629, Dallas, TX 75242
  Telephone: 214-767-8406

Responsible for: Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/0I-Exclusion Staff
  San Francisco Regional Office
  1855 Gateway Blvd, Suite 585, Concord, CA 94520
  Telephone: 925-356-7558

Responsible for: Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California (Northern, Eastern, Central Districts), Alaska
Referrals (continued)

- DHHS/OIG/OI-Exclusion Staff
  Los Angeles Regional Office
  600 West Santa Ana Blvd, Ste 1100, Santa Ana, CA 92701
  Telephone: 714-246-8302

Responsible for: Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, California (Southern District)
Questions?