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Performance Management

Local pharmacy ordered to repay $3.3M in Medicaid claims

Chris Swingle – Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

February 23, 2009, Rochester, NY — Saratoga Pharmacy in Rochester has been ordered to pay back more than $3.3 million in Medicaid claims from 2004 and 2005 for which paperwork was lacking, county and state officials announced today.

The pharmacy, which had a total of $22 million in Medicaid claims in those years, disagrees with the ruling.

An investigation using a new type of software analysis revealed "systemic abuse," confirmed by an audit of the local pharmacy's Medicaid claims from 2004 and 2005, said Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks. Unacceptable practices included not documenting prescription deliveries and filing claims under doctor license numbers other than the doctor who prescribed the medication, said Rick Marchese, senior deputy county attorney.

But René Gignac, operations manager of the pharmacy at 192 Lyell Ave., said, "We are appealing this decision."

John T. Sullivan, the state's deputy Medicaid inspector general, was in Rochester for the press conference at the Monroe County office building and said the efforts by Monroe County and its partners — Salient Corp. and The Bonadio Group — will serve as a model for other counties. Monroe County is one of 19 counties in a pilot effort to investigate potential Medicaid irregularities and fraud. This is the largest case so far in that pilot effort, but Sullivan said the state recouped $551 million in Medicaid problems in the past year.

Administrative law judge John Terepka issued the censure against Saratoga Pharmacy at the end of December.

About Salient

Salient Corporation offers business and government a new solution for efficient management. Drawing on diverse data from multiple sources, our technology measures how business activity creates value, quality, financial efficiency, productivity, while its user interface eliminates barriers to the use of this knowledge for continuous process improvement.

Salient's technology platform is a super scalable in-memory OLAP system for activity based value scoring. Its user interface is a graphical toolbox for interactive, stream-of-thought data mining, visualization and root cause analysis. Overall, the technology enables non technical knowledge workers to evaluate process behaviors rapidly, eliminate waste and optimize outcomes continuously.

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