



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, November 17, 2006

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PRESS RELEASE

**FORMER MEDICAL BILLER ACCUSED OF
STEALING PATIENTS' IDENTITIES**

NUMBER OF PATIENTS AFFECTED ALLEGED TO TOTAL OVER 400

United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly today announced the indictment of Linda Danyell Williams, a former insurance representative for a medical billing company in New Castle, Delaware.

According to the Indictment, from July 2005 to June 2006, Williams was employed by Hospital Billing & Collection Service, Ltd. ("HBCS"), a healthcare clearinghouse that provides billing services for not-for-profit hospitals nationwide, as an insurance representative. Between December 2005 and April 2006, Williams, of Elsmere, Delaware, is alleged to have conspired with Richard Yaw Adjei to steal the identities of over 400 patients of HBCS' clients. Williams accessed the identities of the patients through HBCS' computers, printed out the information, and supplied Adjei with the information, which included the patients' names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, addresses, hospital admission dates, doctors' names, and diagnosis codes. Adjei then used 163 of the stolen identities to file false and fraudulent tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service seeking refunds and to secure refund anticipation loans through three banks. Adjei, who pleaded guilty to charges relating to the identity theft conspiracy yesterday, admitted that the conspiracy netted hundreds of thousands of dollars. In return for providing the identity information, Adjei paid Williams a sum of money.

Specifically, the indictment handed down late yesterday charges Williams with conspiracy, wrongfully obtaining individually identifiable health information, computer fraud, and aggravated identity theft. If

convicted of all counts, Williams faces a maximum term of imprisonment of twenty years and a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of two years.

U.S. Attorney Connolly said of the case: “We are committed to combating identity theft and to protecting the private health information of patients. When a person goes to a doctor or is admitted to a hospital, he or she should be concentrating on their health - not worrying that their personal information will be compromised. We will use all the tools in our arsenal to bring such identity thieves to justice.”

The case was investigated by Special Agent Antonio LoPiccolo of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. Inspectors with the United States Postal Inspection Service assisted in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Beth Moskow-Schnoll is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

For additional information, please contact Theresa Jordan at 302-573-6277, ext. 117.

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