



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

July 25, 2008

EVENT: Indicted

Defendant: Hamid Taaid, M.D.

**FUGITIVE MIDLAND DOCTOR
CHARGED FOR FAILING TO REPORT TO PRISON**

Hamid Taaid, M.D., 48, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Bay City for failure to surrender for service of a 20-month prison sentence, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Hamid Taaid had been sentenced in U.S. District Court by Judge Thomas L. Ludington on March 25, 2008 to 20 months in federal prison for defrauding Medicare and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan of over \$70,000. Dr. Taaid was subsequently ordered to surrender to a correctional facility in Youngstown, Ohio no later than July 8, 2008. He failed to do so, and his whereabouts are unknown.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by John M. Cecil, Supervisory Senior Resident Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation - Bay City, and Thomas Spokaeski, Assistant Supervisory Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James A. Brunson.