



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**ST. VINCENT'S MIDTOWN HOSPITAL AND OPERATOR OF CLINIC
SETTLE CIVIL CHARGES FOR SUBMITTING FALSE CLAIMS
TO MEDICARE FOR WORK PERFORMED BY
UNLICENSED FOREIGN DOCTORS**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that ST. VINCENT'S MIDTOWN HOSPITAL ("SVMH") and DR. RAMON TALLAJ have agreed to resolve civil charges that the defendants submitted false claims to Medicare based on work performed by unlicensed foreign doctors at the clinic run by SVMH and DR. TALLAJ and located at 571 Academy Street, New York, N.Y. (the "Academy Street Clinic"). The settlement agreement was filed simultaneously with the Complaint on October 17, 2008. United States District Court Judge SIDNEY H. STEIN approved the settlement late Friday in Manhattan federal court.

The Complaint filed by the United States alleges that: During 1999 through 2004, SVMH hired approximately nine "Medical Clinical Trainees" to work at the Academy Street Clinic run by DR. TALLAJ. These Medical Clinical Trainees were foreign doctors who did not have licenses to practice medicine in the State of New York for most if not all of the time that each worked at the Academy Street Clinic. The Medical Clinical Trainees nevertheless held themselves out to be licensed doctors and provided medical care to patients at the Academy Street Clinic without the supervision of a licensed doctor for longer than the six-month time restriction purportedly implemented by SVMH. SVMH and DR. TALLAJ submitted false claims requesting Medicare payments for work performed by these unlicensed foreign doctors, and the U.S. provided payments as a result of these false claims.

The settlement of the Complaint requires SVMH to pay the United States \$210,000. Defendants any liability in settling the lawsuit.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the Department of Health and Human Services for its work on the investigation into this matter.

Assistant United States Attorney LAWRENCE H. FOGELMAN is in charge of the case.

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