

**INTEGRITY AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AND  
EDWARD A. CLINE, D.P.M. AND EDWARD A. CLINE, D.P.M., P.C.**

2005 JUN 6 PM 11 09

RECEIVED  
HHS/OIG  
OFFICE OF COUNSEL  
TO THE IG

**I. PREAMBLE**

Edward A. Cline, D.P.M. (Dr. Cline) and Edward A. Cline, D.P.M., P.C. (ECDPC) hereby enter into this Integrity Agreement (Agreement) with the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promote compliance by Dr. Cline's and ECDPC's owners, officers, directors, associates, employees, contractors, and agents with the statutes, regulations, program requirements, and written directives of Medicare, Medicaid, and all other Federal health care programs (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b(f)) (Federal health care program requirements). This commitment to promote compliance applies to any entity that Dr. Cline and ECDPC owns or in which Dr. Cline and ECDPC has a control interest, as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-3(a)(3), and Dr. Cline's and ECDPC's and any such entity's Covered Persons as defined in Section II.C. Contemporaneously with this Agreement, Dr. Cline and ECDPC are entering into a Settlement Agreement with the United States, and this Agreement is incorporated by reference into the Settlement Agreement.

**II. TERM OF THE AGREEMENT**

A. The date on which the final signatory of this Agreement executes this Agreement shall be known as the Effective Date. The period of compliance obligations assumed by Dr. Cline and ECDPC under this Agreement shall be 5 years from the Effective Date of this Agreement. Each one-year period beginning with the one-year period following the Effective Date, shall be referred to as a "Reporting Period."

B. Sections VII, VIII, IX, X, and XI shall expire no later than 120 days from OIG's receipt of: (1) Dr. Cline and ECDPC's final Annual Report; or (2) any additional materials submitted by Dr. Cline and ECDPC pursuant to OIG's request, whichever is later.

C. The scope of this Agreement shall be governed by the following definitions:

1. "Covered Persons" includes:

a. all owners, officers, directors, associates, and employees of Dr. Cline and ECDPC; and

b. all contractors, agents, and other persons who provide patient care items or services or who perform billing or coding functions on behalf of Dr. Cline and ECDPC.

### **III. INTEGRITY OBLIGATIONS**

Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall establish and maintain a Compliance Program that includes the following elements:

#### **A. Compliance Contact**

Within 30 days after the Effective Date, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall designate a person to be responsible for compliance activities ("Compliance Contact"). Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall maintain a Compliance Contact for the term of this IA. The Compliance Contact shall be responsible for: (1) developing and implementing policies, procedures, and practices designed to ensure compliance with the requirements set forth in this Agreement and with Federal health care program requirements; (2) monitoring Dr. Cline and ECDPC's day-to-day compliance activities; and (3) meeting all reporting obligations created under this Agreement.

Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall report to OIG, in writing, any changes in the identity or job responsibilities of the Compliance Contact, or any actions or changes that would affect the Compliance Contact's ability to perform the duties necessary to meet the obligations in this Agreement, within 15 days after such change. The name, address, phone number, and a description of any other job responsibilities performed by the Compliance Contact shall be included in the Implementation Report.

#### **B. Posting of Notice**

Within the 90 days after the Effective Date, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall post in a prominent place accessible to all patients and Covered Persons a notice detailing their commitment to comply with all Federal health care program requirements in the conduct of their business.

This notice shall include the following information: (i) a means (e.g., telephone number or address) by which billing concerns and other issues may be reported anonymously; (ii) Dr. Cline and ECDPC's commitment to maintain the confidentiality of the report; and (iii) notification that reporting concerns and issues will not result in retribution or retaliation by Dr. Cline and ECDPC.

This notice shall also include the HHS OIG Fraud Hotline telephone number (1-800-HHS-TIPS) as a confidential means by which suspected fraud or abuse in the Federal health care programs may be reported.

A copy of this notice shall be included in the Implementation Report.

**C. Written Policies and Procedures**

Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall develop, implement, and distribute written Policies and Procedures to all Covered Persons. In addition, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall make the promotion of, and adherence to, the written Policies and Procedures an element in evaluating the performance of all employees. The written Policies and Procedures shall, at a minimum, set forth:

1. Dr. Cline and ECDPC's commitment to full compliance with all Federal health care program requirements, including their commitment to prepare and submit accurate claims consistent with such requirements;
2. the expectation that all of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's Covered Persons shall be expected to comply with all Federal health care program requirements and with Dr. Cline and ECDPC's own written Policies and Procedures as implemented pursuant to this Section III.C (including the requirements of this Agreement);

3. the responsibility and requirement that all Covered Persons report suspected violations of any Federal health care program requirements or of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's own Policies and Procedures to the Compliance Contact and Dr. Cline and ECDPC's commitment to maintain confidentiality and anonymity, as appropriate, and not to retaliate with respect to such disclosures;
4. the possible consequences to both Dr. Cline and ECDPC and Covered Persons of failure to comply with Federal health care program requirements or with Dr. Cline and ECDPC's written Policies and Procedures and the failure to report such noncompliance;
5. Dr. Cline and ECDPC's commitment to remain current with all Federal health care program requirements by obtaining and reviewing program memoranda, newsletters, and any other correspondence from the carrier related to Federal health care program requirements;
6. the proper procedures for the accurate preparation and submission of claims in accordance with Federal health care program requirements;
7. the proper documentation of services and billing information; and
8. an explanation of proper coding for podiatric services, including, but not limited to, the proper use of CPT code 99312 and a Modifier 25 billing code.

Within 90 days after the Effective Date, each Covered Person shall certify in writing that he or she has received, read, understood, and shall abide by Dr. Cline and ECDPC's written Policies and Procedures. New Covered Persons shall receive and review the written Policies and Procedures and shall complete the required certification within 30 days after becoming a Covered Person or within 90 days after the Effective Date, whichever is later.

At least annually (and more frequently if appropriate), Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall assess and update, as necessary, the Policies and

Procedures. Within 30 days after the effective date of any revisions, the relevant portions of any such revised Policies and Procedures shall be distributed to all Covered Persons. Appropriate and knowledgeable staff shall be available to explain the Policies and Procedures.

Copies of the written Policies and Procedures shall be included in the Implementation Report. Copies of any written Policies and Procedures that are subsequently revised shall be included in the next Annual Report along with a summary of any change or amendment to each Policy and Procedure required by this Section and the reason for each change.

**D. Training and Certification**

Within 90 days after the Effective Date and at least once each year thereafter, Dr. Cline and ECDPC and Covered Persons shall receive at least three hours of training from an individual or entity, other than Dr. Cline and ECDPC or another Covered Person. Persons providing the training shall be knowledgeable about the subject area, billing and coding for podiatric services and may be received from a variety of sources (e.g., CME classes, hospitals, associations, carriers).

New Covered Persons shall receive the training described above within 30 days after becoming a Covered Person or within 90 days after the Effective Date, whichever is later. The training for new Covered Persons may either be provided internally by a Covered Person who has completed the required annual training or externally by a qualified individual or entity. A new Covered Person shall work under the direct supervision of a Covered Person who has received such training, to the extent that the work relates to the delivery of patient care items or services and/or the preparation or submission of claims for reimbursement from any Federal health care program, until such time as the new Covered Person completes the training.

At a minimum, the initial, annual, and new employee training sessions shall include the following topics:

1. the requirements of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's Agreement;

2. an overview of the Dr. Cline and ECDPC's compliance program;
3. the accurate coding and submission of claims for services rendered and/or items provided to Federal health care program beneficiaries;
4. applicable reimbursement statutes, regulations, and program requirements and directives;
5. the written Policies and Procedures developed pursuant to Section III.C, above;
6. the policies, procedures, and other requirements applicable to the documentation of medical records;
7. the personal obligation of each individual involved in the coding and claims submission process to ensure that such claims are accurate;
8. the legal sanctions for the submission of improper claims or violations of the Federal health care program requirements; and
9. examples of proper and improper coding and claim submission practices.

Each Covered Person shall annually certify, in writing or in electronic format if the training is computerized, that he or she has received the required training. The certification shall specify the date the training was received. The Compliance Contact shall retain the certifications, along with all training materials. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall annually review the training, and, where appropriate, update the training to reflect changes in Federal health care program requirements, any issues discovered during the IRO Claims Review, and any other relevant information.

Dr. Cline and ECDPC may provide the training required under this Agreement through appropriate computer-based training approaches. If Dr. Cline and ECDPC choose to provide computer-based training, they shall make available appropriately qualified and knowledgeable

staff or trainers to answer questions or provide additional information to the individuals receiving such training.

The training materials shall be provided in the Implementation Report, and to the extent the training is revised, shall also be included in the Annual Reports. The certifications shall be made available to OIG, upon request.

**E. Review Procedures**

1. General Description.

a. *Engagement of Independent Review Organization.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall engage an entity (or entities), such as an accounting, auditing, or consulting firm (hereinafter “Independent Review Organization” or “IRO”), to perform reviews to assist Dr. Cline and ECDPC in assessing and evaluating their billing and coding practices and certain other obligations pursuant to this Agreement and the Settlement Agreement.

Each IRO engaged by Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall have expertise in the billing, coding, reporting, and other requirements of podiatric care and in the general requirements of the Federal health care program(s) from which Dr. Cline and ECDPC seek reimbursement. Each IRO shall assess, along with Dr. Cline and ECDPC, whether it can perform the IRO review in a professionally independent and/or objective fashion, as appropriate to the nature of the engagement; taking into account any other business relationships or other engagements that may exist.

The IRO(s) review shall evaluate and analyze Dr. Cline and ECDPC’s coding, billing, and claims submission to the Federal health care programs and the reimbursement received (“Claims Review”). If Dr. Cline and ECDPC or an entity in which Dr. Cline and ECDPC has an ownership or control interest in (as defined in 42 U.S.C. §1320a-3(a)(3)) submits cost reports, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall engage an IRO to analyze whether Dr. Cline and ECDPC sought payment for certain unallowable costs (“Unallowable Cost Review”). The applicable requirements relating to the IRO are outlined in

Appendix A to this Agreement, which is incorporated by reference.

b. *Frequency of Claims Review.* The Claims Review shall be performed annually and shall cover each of the Reporting Periods. The IRO(s) shall perform all components of each annual Claims Review.

c. *Frequency of Unallowable Cost Review.* If applicable, the IRO shall perform the Unallowable Cost Review for the first Reporting Period. If not applicable, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall sign a certification, as required by Section III.E.4 below, stating that they do not currently and have not submitted a cost report since this Agreement was executed.

d. *Retention of Records.* The IRO and Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall retain and make available to OIG, upon request, all work papers, supporting documentation, correspondence, and draft reports (those exchanged between the IRO and Dr. Cline and ECDPC) related to the reviews.

2. Claims Review. The Claims Review shall include a Discovery Sample and, if necessary, a Full Sample. The applicable definitions, procedures, and reporting requirements are outlined in Appendix B to this Agreement, which is incorporated by reference.

a. *Discovery Sample.* The IRO shall randomly select and review a sample of 50 Medicare Paid Claims submitted by or on behalf of Dr. Cline and ECDPC (Discovery Sample).

The Paid Claims shall be reviewed based on the supporting documentation available at Dr. Cline and ECDPC's office or under Dr. Cline and ECDPC's control and applicable billing and coding regulations and guidance to determine whether the claim submitted was correctly coded, submitted, and reimbursed.

i. If the Error Rate (as defined in Appendix B) for the Discovery Sample is less than 5%, no additional sampling is required, nor is the Systems Review required. (Note: The guidelines listed above do not imply that this is an acceptable error rate.



Accordingly, Dr. Cline and ECDPC should, as appropriate, further analyze any errors identified in the Discovery Sample. Dr. Cline and ECDPC recognize that OIG or other HHS component, in its discretion and as authorized by statute, regulation, or other appropriate authority may also analyze or review Paid Claims included, or errors identified, in the Discovery Sample or any other segment of the universe.)

ii. If the Discovery Sample indicates that the Error Rate is 5% or greater, the IRO shall perform a Full Sample and a Systems Review, as described below.

b. *Full Sample.* If necessary, as determined by procedures set forth in Section III.E.2.a, the IRO shall perform an additional sample of Paid Claims using commonly accepted sampling methods and in accordance with Appendix B. The Full Sample shall be designed to: (i) estimate the actual Overpayment in the population with a 90% confidence level and with a maximum relative precision of 25% of the point estimate; and (ii) conform with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' statistical sampling for overpayment estimation guidelines. The Paid Claims shall be reviewed based on supporting documentation available at Dr. Cline and ECDPC's office or under Dr. Cline and ECDPC's control and applicable billing and coding regulations and guidance to determine whether the claim submitted was correctly coded, submitted, and reimbursed. For purposes of calculating the size of the Full Sample, the Discovery Sample may serve as the probe sample, if statistically appropriate. Additionally, Dr. Cline and ECDPC may use the Items sampled as part of the Discovery Sample, and the corresponding findings for those 50 Items, as part of its Full Sample, if: (i) statistically appropriate and (ii) Dr. Cline and ECDPC select the Full Sample Items using the seed number generated by the Discovery Sample. OIG, in its sole discretion, may refer the findings of the Full Sample (and any related workpapers) received from Dr. Cline and ECDPC to the appropriate Federal health care program payor, including the Medicare contractor (e.g., carrier, fiscal intermediary, or DMERC), for appropriate follow-up by that payor.

c. *Systems Review.* If Dr. Cline and ECDPC's Discovery Sample identifies an Error Rate of 5% or greater, Dr. Cline and ECDPC's IRO shall also conduct a Systems Review. Specifically, for each claim in the Discovery Sample and Full Sample that resulted in an Overpayment, the IRO shall perform a "walk through" of the system(s) and process(es) that generated the claim to identify any problems or weaknesses that may have resulted in the identified Overpayments. The IRO shall provide its observations and recommendations on suggested improvements to the system(s) and the process(es) that generated the claim.

d. *Repayment of Identified Overpayments.* In accordance with Section III.H.1 of this Agreement, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall repay within 30 days any Overpayment(s) identified in the Discovery Sample or the Full Sample (if applicable), regardless of the Error Rate, to the appropriate payor and in accordance with payor refund policies. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall make available to OIG any and all documentation and the associated documentation that reflects the refund of the Overpayment(s) to the payor.

3. Claims Review Report. The IRO shall prepare a report based upon the Claims Review performed (the "Claims Review Report"). Information to be included in the Claims Review Report is described in Appendix B.

4. Unallowable Cost Review.

a. Unless paragraph III.E.4.b, below, applies, the IRO shall conduct a review of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's compliance with the unallowable cost provisions of the Settlement Agreement. The IRO shall determine whether Dr. Cline and ECDPC have complied with their obligations not to charge to, or otherwise seek payment from, Federal or State payors for unallowable costs (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) and their obligation to identify to applicable Federal or State payors any unallowable costs included in payments previously sought from the United States, or any State Medicaid program. This unallowable cost analysis shall include, but not be limited to, payments sought in any cost reports, cost statements, information reports, or payment requests already

submitted by Dr. Cline and ECDPC or any affiliates. To the extent that such cost reports, cost statements, information reports, or payment requests, even if already settled, have been adjusted to account for the effect of the inclusion of the unallowable costs, the IRO shall determine if such adjustments were proper. In making this determination, the IRO may need to review cost reports and/or financial statements from the year in which the Settlement Agreement was executed, as well as from previous years.

b. If Dr. Cline and ECDPC execute and submit to the OIG in the first Annual Report a certification that neither Dr. Cline and ECDPC nor any entity in which Dr. Cline and ECDPC have any ownership or control interest has ever submitted any cost report or other submission to a Federal health care program seeking reimbursement based on costs, then no Unallowable Cost Review will be required under this Agreement.

5. Unallowable Cost Review Report. If applicable, the IRO shall prepare a report based upon the Unallowable Cost Review performed. The Unallowable Cost Review Report shall include the IRO's findings and supporting rationale regarding the Unallowable Costs Review and whether Dr. Cline and ECDPC have complied with their obligation not to charge to, or otherwise seek payment from, Federal or State payors for unallowable costs (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) and their obligation to identify to applicable Federal or State payors any unallowable costs included in payments previously sought from such payor.

6. Validation Review. In the event OIG has reason to believe that: (a) Dr. Cline and ECDPC's Claims Review fails to conform to the requirements of this Agreement; or (b) the IRO's findings or Claims Review results are inaccurate, OIG may, at its sole discretion, conduct its own review to determine whether the Claims Review complied with the requirements of the Agreement and/or the findings or Claims Review results are inaccurate ("Validation Review"). Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall pay for the reasonable cost of any such review performed by OIG or any of its designated agents so long as it is initiated within one year after Dr. Cline and ECDPC's final submission (as described in Section II) is received by OIG.

Prior to initiating a Validation Review, OIG shall notify Dr. Cline and ECDPC of its intent to do so and provide a written explanation of why OIG believes such a review is necessary. To resolve any concerns raised by OIG, Dr. Cline and ECDPC may request a meeting with OIG to: (a) discuss the results of any Claims Review submissions or findings; (b) present any additional or relevant information to clarify the results of the Claims Review to correct the inaccuracy of the Claims Review; and/or (c) propose alternatives to the proposed Validation Review. Dr. Cline and ECDPC agree to provide any additional information requested by OIG under this Section in an expedited manner. OIG will attempt in good faith to resolve any Claims Review issues with Dr. Cline and ECDPC prior to conducting a Validation Review. However, the final determination as to whether or not to proceed with a Validation Review shall be made at the sole discretion of OIG.

7. Independence/Objectivity Certification. The IRO shall include in its report(s) to Dr. Cline and ECDPC a certification or sworn affidavit that it has evaluated its professional independence and/or objectivity, as appropriate to the nature of the engagement, with regard to the Claims Review and that it has concluded that it is, in fact, independent and/or objective.

**F. Ineligible Persons**

1. Definitions. For purposes of this Agreement:

a. An “Ineligible Person” shall include an individual or entity who: (i) is currently excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise ineligible to participate in the Federal health care programs or in Federal procurement or nonprocurement programs; or (ii) has been convicted of a criminal offense that falls within the ambit of 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7(a), but has not yet been excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise declared ineligible.

b. “Exclusion Lists” include: (i) the HHS/OIG List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (available through the Internet at <http://oig.hhs.gov>); and (ii) the General Services Administration’s List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs (available through the Internet at <http://www.epls.arnet.gov>)

2. Screening Requirements. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall ensure that all prospective and current owners, officers, directors, associates, employees, contractors, and agents of Dr. Cline and ECDPC are not Ineligible Persons. To ensure that such individuals and entities are not Ineligible Persons, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall require such individuals and entities to disclose immediately any debarment, exclusion, suspension, or other event that makes such individual or entity an Ineligible Person. Prior to engaging the services of such individuals and entities, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall screen such individuals and entities against the Exclusion Lists. In addition, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall:

- a. Within 90 days after the Effective Date, review their list of individuals and entities identified in Section III.F.2 against the Exclusion Lists; and
- b. Review their list of individuals and entities identified in Section III.F.2 against the Exclusion Lists annually.

Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall maintain documentation demonstrating that: (1) they have checked the Exclusion Lists (e.g., print screens from search results) and determined that such individuals or entities are not Ineligible Persons; and (2) have required individuals and entities to disclose if they are an Ineligible Person (e.g., employment applications).

Nothing in this Section affects the responsibility of (or liability for) Dr. Cline and ECDPC to refrain from billing Federal health care programs for services of the Ineligible Person.

3. Removal Requirement. If Dr. Cline and ECDPC have notice that any individual or entity in one of the positions identified in Section III.F.2 has become an Ineligible Person, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall remove such individual or entity from responsibility for, or involvement with, Dr. Cline and ECDPC's business operations related to the Federal health care programs and shall remove such individual or entity from any position for which the individual's or entity's compensation or the items or services rendered, ordered, or prescribed by the individual or entity are paid in whole or part, directly or indirectly, by Federal health care programs or otherwise

with Federal funds at least until such time as the individual or entity is reinstated into participation in the Federal health care programs.

4. Pending Charges and Proposed Exclusions. If Dr. Cline and ECDPC have notice that an individual identified in Section III.F.2 is charged with a criminal offense that falls within the ambit of 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7(a), or an individual or entity identified in Section III.F.2 is proposed for exclusion during his, her or its employment, involvement or contract term, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall take all appropriate actions to ensure that the responsibilities of that individual or entity has not and shall not adversely affect the quality of care rendered to any beneficiary, patient, or resident, or the accuracy of any claims submitted to any Federal health care program.

**G. Notification of Government Investigation or Legal Proceedings**

Within 30 days after discovery, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall notify OIG, in writing, of any ongoing investigation or legal proceeding known to Dr. Cline and ECDPC conducted or brought by a governmental entity or its agents involving an allegation that Dr. Cline and ECDPC have committed a crime or have engaged in fraudulent activities. This notification shall include a description of the allegation, the identity of the investigating or prosecuting agency, and the status of such investigation or legal proceeding. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall also provide written notice to OIG within 30 days after the resolution of the matter, and shall provide OIG with a description of the findings and/or results of the proceedings, if any.

**H. Reporting**

1. Overpayments

a. *Definition of Overpayments.* For purposes of this Agreement, an “Overpayment” shall mean the amount of money Dr. Cline and ECDPC have received in excess of the amount due and payable under any Federal health care program requirements.

b. *Reporting of Overpayments.* If, at any time, Dr. Cline and ECDPC identify or learn of any Overpayment, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall notify the payor (e.g., Medicare fiscal

intermediary or carrier) within 30 days after identification of the Overpayment and take remedial steps within 60 days after identification (or such additional time as may be agreed to by the payor) to correct the problem, including preventing the underlying problem and the Overpayment from recurring. Also, within 30 days after identification of the Overpayment, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall repay the Overpayment to the appropriate payor to the extent such Overpayment has been quantified. If not yet quantified within 30 days after identification, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall notify the payor at that time of its efforts to quantify the Overpayment amount along with a schedule of when such work is expected to be completed. Notification and repayment to the payor shall be done in accordance with the payor's policies, and for Medicare contractors shall include the information contained on the Overpayment Refund Form, provided as Attachment 1 to Appendix B to this Agreement. Notwithstanding the above, notification and repayment of any Overpayment amount that routinely is reconciled or adjusted pursuant to policies and procedures established by the payor should be handled in accordance with such policies and procedures.

## 2. Reportable Events.

a. *Definition of Reportable Event.* For purposes of this Agreement, a "Reportable Event" means anything that involves:

- i. a substantial Overpayment; or
- ii. a matter that a reasonable person would consider a probable violation of criminal, civil, or administrative laws applicable to any Federal health care program for which penalties or exclusion may be authorized.

A Reportable Event may be the result of an isolated event or a series of occurrences.

b. *Reporting of Reportable Event.* If Dr. Cline and ECDPC determine (after a reasonable opportunity to conduct an appropriate review or investigation of the allegations) through any means that there is a Reportable Event, Dr. Cline and

ECDPC shall notify OIG, in writing, within 30 days after making the determination that the Reportable Event exists. The report to OIG shall include the following information:

i. If the Reportable Event results in an Overpayment, the report to OIG shall be made at the same time as the notification to the payor required in Section III.H.1, and shall include all of the information on the Overpayment Refund Form, as well as:

(A) the payor's name, address, and contact person to whom the Overpayment was sent; and

(B) the date of the check and identification number (or electronic transaction number) by which the Overpayment was repaid/refunded;

ii. a complete description of the Reportable Event, including the relevant facts, persons involved, and legal and Federal health care program authorities implicated;

iii. a description of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's actions taken to correct the Reportable Event; and

iv. any further steps Dr. Cline and ECDPC plan to take to address the Reportable Event and prevent it from recurring.

## **I. Third Party Billing**

Future Contract with Third Party Biller. If, at any time during the term of this Agreement, Dr. Cline and ECDPC contract with a third party billing company to submit claims to the Federal health care programs, at least 30 days prior to executing the contract, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall submit a certification indicating whether they have an ownership or control interest (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a – 3(a)(3)) in the third party billing company and whether they are employed by or acts as a consultant to the third party billing company.



Within 30 days after Dr. Cline and ECDPC contracts with the third party billing company, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall obtain a certification from the third party billing company that the company: (i) is presently in compliance with all Federal health care program requirements as they relate to the submission of claims to Federal health care programs; (ii) has a policy of not employing any person who is excluded, debarred, suspended or otherwise ineligible to participate in Medicare or other Federal health care programs to perform any duties related directly or indirectly to the preparation or submission of claims to Federal health care programs; and (iii) provides the required training in accordance with Section III.D of the Agreement for those employees involved in the preparation and submission of claims to Federal health care programs.

If Dr. Cline and ECDPC contract with a new third party billing company during the term of this Agreement, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall, within 30 days of entering into such contract, obtain and send to OIG the certification described in this Section III.I.2.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS UNITS OR LOCATIONS**

In the event that, after the Effective Date, Dr. Cline and ECDPC change locations or sell, close, purchase, or establish a new business unit or location related to the furnishing of items or services that may be reimbursed by Federal health care programs, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall notify OIG of this fact as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the date of change of location, sale, closure, purchase, or establishment. This notification shall include the address of the new business unit or location, phone number, fax number, Medicare Provider number, provider identification number, and/or supplier number, and the corresponding contractor's name and address that issued each number. Each new business unit or location and all Covered Persons at each new business unit or location shall be subject to the applicable requirements in this Agreement.

Prior to Dr. Cline and ECDPC becoming an employee or contractor with another party related to the furnishing of items or services that may be reimbursed by Federal health care programs, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall notify that party of this Agreement. This notification shall include a copy of the Agreement, a statement indicating the remaining term of the Agreement, and a summary of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's obligations under the Agreement. In addition, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall notify OIG of such relationship in their next Annual Report.

**V. REPORTS**

**A. Implementation Report**

Within 120 days after the Effective Date, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall submit a written report to OIG summarizing the status of its implementation of the requirements of this Agreement (Implementation Report). The Implementation Report shall, at a minimum, include:

1. the Compliance Contact's name, address, and phone number, a description of any other job responsibilities performed by the Compliance Contact, and the date the Compliance Contact was appointed;
2. a copy of the notice Dr. Cline and ECDPC posted in their office as required by Section III.B, a description of where the notice is posted, and the date the notice was posted;
3. a copy of the written Policies and Procedures required by Section III.C of this Agreement and the date these Policies and Procedures were implemented and distributed;
4. a copy of all training materials used for the training session(s) required by Section III.D, a description of the training, including a summary of the topics covered, the length of each session, and a schedule of when the training session(s) were held;
5. the name and qualifications of the IRO(s), a summary/description of all engagements between Dr. Cline and ECDPC and the IRO, including, but not limited to, any outside financial audits, compliance program engagements, or reimbursement consulting, and the proposed start and completion dates of the first annual Claims Review.
6. a copy of the IRO's engagement letter, including the length of the engagement;
7. a certification from the IRO regarding its professional independence and/or objectivity with respect to Dr. Cline and ECDPC;

8. a description of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's process to screen Covered Persons to determine if they are ineligible;
9. a summary of personnel actions (other than hiring) taken pursuant to Section III.F, the name, title and responsibilities of any person who is determined to be an Ineligible Person under Section III.F, and the actions taken in response to the obligations set forth in Section III.F;
10. a list of all Dr. Cline and ECDPC's locations (including locations and mailing addresses), the corresponding name under which each location is doing business, the corresponding phone numbers and fax numbers, each location's Medicare Provider number(s), provider identification number(s), and/or supplier number(s), and the name and address of each contractor to which Dr. Cline and ECDPC currently submit claims;
11. if Dr. Cline and ECDPC became an employee or contractor with another party related to the furnishing of items or services that may be reimbursed by Federal health care programs, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall inform OIG of the name, location, relationship, and their responsibilities with respect Dr. Cline and ECDPC's employment or contract;
12. a certification by the Compliance Contact that:
  - a. the written Policies and Procedures required by Section III.C of this Agreement have been developed, are being implemented, and have been distributed to all Covered Persons; and that all Covered Persons have executed the written Policies and Procedures certification in accordance with the timeframe required by Section III.C of this Agreement;
  - b. all Covered Persons have completed the applicable training required by Section III.D of this Agreement; and that all Covered Persons have executed the applicable training certification(s) in accordance with the timeframe required by Section III.D of this Agreement;
  - c. all owners, officers, directors, associates, employees, contractors, and agents that were hired or engaged since the

execution of the Agreement were screened against the Exclusion Lists and asked to disclose if they are excluded, debarred, suspended, or are otherwise considered an Ineligible Person, prior to entering into their relationship with Dr. Cline and ECDPC, as required by Section III.F of this Agreement; and

d. all current owners, officers, directors, associates, employees, contractors, and agents of Dr. Cline and ECDPC were screened against the Exclusion Lists within 90 days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as required by Section III.F of this Agreement and the date(s) of the screening.

13. a certification signed by Dr. Cline and ECDPC certifying (a) to the best of their knowledge, except as otherwise described in the Implementation Report, Dr. Cline and ECDPC are in compliance with all of the requirements of this Agreement and (b) Dr. Cline and ECDPC have reviewed the Implementation Report and have made a reasonable inquiry regarding its content and believe that the information is accurate and truthful.

## **B. Annual Reports**

Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall submit to OIG Annual Reports with respect to the status of, and findings regarding, Dr. Cline and ECDPC's compliance activities for each of the 5 Reporting Periods (Annual Report).

Each Annual Report shall, at a minimum, include:

1. any change in the name, address, phone number, or job responsibilities of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's Compliance Contact;
2. any changes to the posted notice and the reason for such changes;
3. a copy of any new compliance-related Policies and Procedures;
4. a summary of any changes or amendments to the written Policies and Procedures required by Section III.C and the reason(s) for such changes (e.g., change in contractor policies);
5. a copy of all training materials used for the training session(s) required by Section III.D (to the extent they have not already been

provided as part of the Implementation Report); a description of the training, including a summary of the topics covered; the length of each session; and a schedule of when the training session(s) was held;

6. a complete copy of all reports prepared pursuant to the IRO's Claims Review, required by Section III.E (and, if applicable for the first Annual Report, a copy of the certification described in section III.E.4.b);

7. if applicable, a certification by Dr. Cline and ECDPC stating that they do not currently and have not submitted any cost reports to any Federal health care programs since this Agreement was executed;

8. Dr. Cline and ECDPC's response and corrective action plan(s) related to any issues raised or recommendations made by the IRO, as a result of the Review(s) performed pursuant to Section III.E;

9. a summary/description of all engagements between Dr. Cline and ECDPC and the IRO, including, but not limited to, any outside financial audits, compliance program engagements, or reimbursement consulting, if different from what was submitted as part of the Implementation Report;

10. a certification from the IRO regarding its professional independence and/or objectivity to Dr. Cline and ECDPC;

11. a description of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's process to screen Covered Persons to determine if they are ineligible (to the extent it has changed from the Implementation Report);

12. a summary of personnel actions/other than hiring taken pursuant to Section III.F; the name, titles and responsibilities of any person who is determined to be an Ineligible Person under Section III.F; and Dr. Cline and ECDPC's actions taken in response to the obligations set forth in Section III.F;

13. a summary describing any ongoing investigation or legal proceeding required to have been reported pursuant to Section III.G. The summary shall include a description of the allegation, the identity of the investigating or prosecuting agency, and the status of such investigation or legal proceeding;

14. a summary of Reportable Events (as defined in Section III.H) identified during the Reporting Period and the status of any corrective and preventative action relating to all such Reportable Events;
15. a report of the aggregate Overpayments that have been returned to the Federal health care programs. Overpayment amounts shall be broken down into the following categories: Medicare, Medicaid, and other Federal health care programs;
16. a copy of the certification from the third party billing company required by Section III.I of the Agreement, if applicable;
17. a description of all changes to the most recently provided list of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's locations (including addresses) as required by Section IV. Include the corresponding phone numbers, fax numbers, each location's Medicare Provider Number(s), provider identification number(s), and/or supplier number(s), and the name and address of the contractor that issued each number;
18. if Dr. Cline and ECDPC become an employee or contractor with another party related to the furnishing of items or services that may be reimbursed by Federal health care programs, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall inform OIG of the name, location, relationship, and their responsibilities with respect Dr. Cline and ECDPC's employment or contract;
19. A certification, where appropriate, by the Compliance Contact that certifies that:
  - a. the written Policies and Procedures have been reviewed during the Reporting Period, as required by Section III.B of this Agreement, and that all Covered Persons have executed the written Policies and Procedures certification in accordance with the timeframe required by Section III.C of this Agreement;
  - b. all Covered Persons have completed the applicable training required by Section III.D of this Agreement and that all Covered Persons have executed the applicable training

certification(s) in accordance with the timeframe required by Section III.D of this Agreement;

c. all owners, officers, directors, associates, employees, contractors, and agents that were hired, engaged or otherwise involved with Dr. Cline and ECDPC during the Reporting Period have been screened against the Exclusion Lists and asked to disclose if they are excluded, debarred, suspended, or are otherwise considered an Ineligible Person, prior to entering into their relationship with Dr. Cline and ECDPC, as required by Section III.F of this Agreement;

d. all owners, officers, directors, associates, employees, contractors, and agents (employed, engaged or otherwise involved with Dr. Cline and ECDPC for the entire Reporting Period) were screened against the Exclusion Lists during the Reporting Period, in accordance with Section III.F of this Agreement and the date(s) they were screened;

e. Dr. Cline and ECDPC have complied with their obligations under the Settlement Agreement: (i) not to resubmit to any Federal health care program payors any previously denied claims related to the Covered Conduct addressed in the Settlement Agreement, and not to appeal any such denials of claims; (ii) not to charge to or otherwise seek payment from Federal or State payors for unallowable costs (as defined in the Settlement Agreement); and (iii) to identify and adjust any past charges or claims for unallowable costs.

20. a certification signed by Dr. Cline and ECDPC certifying that (a) to the best of their knowledge, except as otherwise described in the applicable Report, Dr. Cline and ECDPC are in compliance with all of the requirements of this Agreement and (b) Dr. Cline and ECDPC have reviewed the Annual Report and have made a reasonable inquiry regarding its content and believe that the information is accurate and truthful.

The first Annual Report shall be received by OIG no later than 60 days after the end of the first Reporting Period. Subsequent Annual Reports shall be received by OIG no later than the anniversary date of the due date of the first Annual Report.

**C. Designation of Information**

Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall clearly identify any portions of their submissions that they believe are trade secrets, or information that is commercial or financial and privileged or confidential, and therefore potentially exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall refrain from identifying any information as exempt from disclosure if that information does not meet the criteria for exemption from disclosure under FOIA.

**VI. NOTIFICATIONS AND SUBMISSION OF REPORTS**

Unless otherwise stated in writing after the Effective Date, all notifications and Reports required under this Agreement shall be submitted to the following entities:

OIG:

Administrative and Civil Remedies Branch  
Office of Counsel to the Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Cohen Building, Room 5527  
330 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201  
Telephone: (202) 619-2078  
Facsimile: (202) 205-0604

Dr. Cline and ECDPC:

Edward A. Cline, D.P.M.  
Edward A. Cline, D.P.M., P.C. (ECDPC)  
109 Virginia Street, Suite 278  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
Telephone: (573) 221-3266  
Facsimile: (573) 221-8066

Unless otherwise specified, all notifications and Reports required by this Agreement shall be made by certified mail, overnight mail, hand delivery, or other means, provided that there is proof that such notification was received. For purposes of this requirement, internal facsimile confirmation sheets do not constitute proof of receipt.



## **VII. OIG INSPECTION, AUDIT, AND REVIEW RIGHTS**

In addition to any other rights OIG may have by statute, regulation, or contract, OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) may examine or request copies of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's books, records, and other documents and supporting materials and/or conduct on-site reviews of any of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's locations for the purpose of verifying and evaluating: (a) Dr. Cline and ECDPC's compliance with the terms of this CIA; and (b) Dr. Cline and ECDPC's compliance with the requirements of the Federal health care programs in which they participate. The documentation described above shall be made available by Dr. Cline and ECDPC to OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) at all reasonable times for inspection, audit, or reproduction. Furthermore, for purposes of this provision, OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) may interview any of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's employees, contractors, or agents who consent to be interviewed at the individual's place of business during normal business hours or at such other place and time as may be mutually agreed upon between the individual and OIG. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall assist OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) in contacting and arranging interviews with such individuals upon OIG's request. Dr. Cline and ECDPC's employees may elect to be interviewed with or without a representative of Dr. Cline and ECDPC present.

## **VIII. DOCUMENT AND RECORD RETENTION**

Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall maintain for inspection all documents and records relating to reimbursement from the Federal health care programs, or to compliance with this Agreement, for six years from the Effective Date (or longer if otherwise required by law).

## **IX. DISCLOSURES**

Consistent with HHS's FOIA procedures, set forth in 45 C.F.R. Part 5, OIG shall make a reasonable effort to notify Dr. Cline and ECDPC prior to any release by OIG of information submitted by Dr. Cline and ECDPC pursuant to its obligations under this Agreement and identified upon submission by Dr. Cline and ECDPC as trade secrets, or information that is commercial or financial and privileged or confidential, under the FOIA rules. With respect to such releases, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall have the rights set forth at 45 C.F.R. § 5.65(d).

**X. BREACH AND DEFAULT PROVISIONS**

Dr. Cline and ECDPC are expected to fully and timely comply with all of their Agreement obligations.

**A. Stipulated Penalties for Failure to Comply with Certain Obligations**

As a contractual remedy, Dr. Cline and ECDPC and OIG hereby agree that failure to comply with certain obligations set forth in this Agreement (unless a timely written request for an extension has been requested and approved in accordance with Section B below) may lead to the imposition of the following monetary penalties (hereinafter referred to as “Stipulated Penalties”) in accordance with the following provisions.

1. A Stipulated Penalty of \$750 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day Dr. Cline and ECDPC fail to:

- a. have a Compliance Contact in accordance with the requirements of Section III.A;
- b. establish and/or post a notice in accordance with the requirements of Section III.B;
- c. establish, implement, maintain, distribute and/or update the written Policies and Procedures in accordance with the requirements of Section III.C;
- d. establish and implement a training program in accordance with the requirements of Section III.D.
- e. obtain a certification from the third party biller, send the third party biller certification to OIG in accordance with the requirements of Section III.I, or notify OIG within 30 days prior to Dr. Cline and ECDPC obtaining an ownership or control interest (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-3(a)(3)) in, or becoming employed by, or becoming a consultant to, any third party billing company;

- f. engage an IRO in accordance with the requirements of Section III.E.1.a and Appendix A;
- g. submit the IRO's annual Claims Review Report in accordance with the requirements of Section III.E and Appendix B;
- h. obtain and/or maintain the following documentation: Policies and Procedures certifications in accordance with the requirements of Section III.C, training certification(s) in accordance with the requirements of Section III.D, and/or documentation of screening and disclosure requirements in accordance with the requirements of Section III.F.2.
- i. screen current or prospective owners, officers, directors, associates, employees, contractors or agents in accordance with the requirements of Section III.F; or require owners, officers, directors, associates, employees, contractors or agents to disclose if they are debarred, excluded, suspended or are otherwise considered an Ineligible Person in accordance with the requirements of Section III.F; or
- j. notify OIG of a Government investigation or legal proceeding, in accordance with the requirements of Section III.G.

2. A Stipulated Penalty of \$1,000 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day Dr. Cline and ECDPC fail to submit the Implementation Report or the Annual Reports to OIG in accordance with the requirements of Section V by the deadlines for submission.

3. A Stipulated Penalty of \$750 for each day Dr. Cline and ECDPC fail to grant access to the information or documentation as required in Section VII. (This Stipulated Penalty shall begin to accrue on the date Dr. Cline and ECDPC fail to grant access.)

4. A Stipulated Penalty of \$5,000 for each false certification submitted by or on behalf of Dr. Cline and ECDPC as part of their Implementation Report, Annual Reports, additional documentation to a Report (as requested by OIG), or as otherwise required by this Agreement.

5. A Stipulated Penalty of \$750 for each day Dr. Cline and ECDPC fail to comply fully and adequately with any obligation of this Agreement. OIG shall provide notice (Notice) to Dr. Cline and ECDPC stating the specific grounds for its determination that Dr. Cline and ECDPC have failed to comply fully and adequately with the Agreement obligation(s) at issue and steps the Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall take to comply with the Agreement. (This Stipulated Penalty shall begin to accrue 10 days after the date Dr. Cline and ECDPC receive this Notice from OIG of the failure to comply.) A Stipulated Penalty as described in this Subsection shall not be demanded for any violation for which OIG has sought a Stipulated Penalty under Subsections 1-4 of this Section.

**B. Timely Written Requests for Extensions**

Dr. Cline and ECDPC may, in advance of the due date, submit a timely written request for an extension of time to perform any act or file any notification or Report required by this Agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, if OIG grants the timely written request with respect to an act, notification, or Report, Stipulated Penalties for failure to perform the act or file the notification or Report shall not begin to accrue until one day after Dr. Cline and ECDPC fail to meet the revised deadline set by OIG. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, if OIG denies such a timely written request, Stipulated Penalties for failure to perform the act or file the notification or Report shall not begin to accrue until three business days after Dr. Cline and ECDPC receive OIG's written denial of such request or the original due date, whichever is later. A "timely written request" is defined as a request in writing received by OIG at least five business days prior to the date by which any act is due to be performed or any notification or report is due to be filed.

**C. Payment of Stipulated Penalties.**

1. Demand Letter. Upon a finding that Dr. Cline and ECDPC have failed to comply with any of the obligations described in Section X.A and after determining that Stipulated Penalties are appropriate, OIG shall notify Dr. Cline and ECDPC of: (a) Dr. Cline and ECDPC's failure to comply; and (b) OIG's exercise of its

contractual right to demand payment of the Stipulated Penalties (this notification is referred to as the “Demand Letter”).

2. Response to Demand Letter. Within 10 days of the receipt of the Demand Letter, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall either: (a) cure the breach to OIG’s satisfaction and pay the applicable Stipulated Penalties; or (b) send in writing to OIG a request for a hearing before an HHS administrative law judge (ALJ) to dispute OIG’s determination of noncompliance, pursuant to the agreed upon provisions set forth below in Section X.E. In the event Dr. Cline and ECDPC elect to request an ALJ hearing, the Stipulated Penalties shall continue to accrue until Dr. Cline and ECDPC cure, to OIG’s satisfaction, the alleged breach in dispute. Failure to respond to the Demand Letter in one of these two manners within the allowed time period shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement and shall be grounds for exclusion under Section X.D.

3. Form of Payment. Payment of the Stipulated Penalties shall be made by certified or cashier’s check, payable to: “Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services,” and submitted to OIG at the address set forth in Section VI.

4. Independence from Material Breach Determination. Except as set forth in Section X.D.1.c, these provisions for payment of Stipulated Penalties shall not affect or otherwise set a standard for OIG’s decision that Dr. Cline and ECDPC have materially breached this Agreement, which decision shall be made at OIG’s discretion and shall be governed by the provisions in Section X.D, below.

**D. Exclusion for Material Breach of this Agreement**

1. Definition of Material Breach. A material breach of this Agreement means:

a. a failure by Dr. Cline and ECDPC to report a Reportable Event, take corrective action and make the appropriate refunds, as required in Section III.H;

b. a repeated or flagrant violation of the obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, the obligations addressed in Section X.A;

c. a failure to respond to a Demand Letter concerning the payment of Stipulated Penalties in accordance with Section X.C; or

d. a failure to engage and use an IRO in accordance with Section III.E.

2. Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude. The parties agree that a material breach of this Agreement by Dr. Cline and ECDPC constitutes an independent basis for Dr. Cline and ECDPC's exclusion from participation in the Federal health care programs. Upon a determination by OIG that Dr. Cline and ECDPC have materially breached this Agreement and that exclusion is the appropriate remedy, OIG shall notify Dr. Cline and ECDPC of: (a) Dr. Cline and ECDPC's material breach; and (b) OIG's intent to exercise its contractual right to impose exclusion (this notification is hereinafter referred to as the "Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude").

3. Opportunity to Cure. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall have 30 days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude to demonstrate to OIG's satisfaction that:

a. Dr. Cline and ECDPC are in compliance with the obligations of the Agreement cited by OIG as being the basis for the material breach;

b. the alleged material breach has been cured; or

c. the alleged material breach cannot be cured within the 30-day period, but that: (i) Dr. Cline and ECDPC have begun to take action to cure the material breach; (ii) Dr. Cline and ECDPC are pursuing such action with due diligence; and (iii) Dr. Cline and ECDPC have provided to OIG a reasonable timetable for curing the material breach.

4. Exclusion Letter. If at the conclusion of the 30-day period, Dr. Cline and ECDPC fail to satisfy the requirements of Section X.D.3, OIG may exclude Dr. Cline and ECDPC from participation in the Federal health care programs. OIG shall notify Dr. Cline and ECDPC in writing of its determination to exclude Dr. Cline and ECDPC (this letter shall be referred to hereinafter as the "Exclusion

Letter”). Subject to the Dispute Resolution provisions in Section X.E, below, the exclusion shall go into effect 30 days after the date of Dr. Cline and ECDPC’s receipt of the Exclusion Letter. The exclusion shall have national effect and shall also apply to all other Federal procurement and non-procurement programs. Reinstatement to program participation is not automatic. After the end of the period of exclusion, Dr. Cline and ECDPC may apply for reinstatement, by submitting a written request for reinstatement in accordance with the provisions at 42 C.F.R. §§ 1001.3001-.3004.

**E. Dispute Resolution**

1. Review Rights. Upon OIG’s delivery to Dr. Cline and ECDPC of its Demand Letter or of its Exclusion Letter, and as an agreed-upon contractual remedy for the resolution of disputes arising under this Agreement, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall be afforded certain review rights comparable to the ones that are provided in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7(f) and 42 C.F.R. Part 1005 as if they applied to the Stipulated Penalties or exclusion sought pursuant to this Agreement. Specifically, OIG’s determination to demand payment of Stipulated Penalties or to seek exclusion shall be subject to review by an HHS ALJ and, in the event of an appeal, the HHS Departmental Appeals Board (DAB), in a manner consistent with the provisions in 42 C.F.R. § 1005.2-1005.21. Notwithstanding the language in 42 C.F.R. § 1005.2(c), the request for a hearing involving Stipulated Penalties shall be made within 10 days after the receipt of the Demand Letter and the request for a hearing involving exclusion shall be made within 25 days after receipt of the Exclusion Letter.

2. Stipulated Penalties Review. Notwithstanding any provision of Title 42 of the United States Code or Chapter 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the only issues in a proceeding for Stipulated Penalties under this Agreement shall be: (a) whether Dr. Cline and ECDPC were in full and timely compliance with the obligations of this Agreement for which OIG demands payment; and (b) the period of noncompliance. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall have the burden of proving its full and timely compliance and the steps taken to cure the noncompliance, if any. OIG shall not have the right to appeal to the DAB an adverse ALJ decision related to Stipulated Penalties. If the ALJ agrees with OIG with regard to a finding of a breach of this Agreement and orders Dr. Cline and ECDPC to pay Stipulated Penalties, such Stipulated Penalties shall become due and payable 20

days after the ALJ issues such a decision unless Dr. Cline and ECDPC request review of the ALJ decision by the DAB. If the ALJ decision is properly appealed to the DAB and the DAB upholds the determination of OIG, the Stipulated Penalties shall become due and payable 20 days after the DAB issues its decision.

3. Exclusion Review. Notwithstanding any provision of Title 42 of the United States Code or Chapter 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the only issues in a proceeding for exclusion based on a material breach of this Agreement shall be:

a. whether Dr. Cline and ECDPC were in material breach of this Agreement;

b. whether such breach was continuing on the date of the Exclusion Letter; and

c. whether the alleged material breach could not have been cured within the 30 day period, but that: i. Dr. Cline and ECDPC have begun to take action to cure the material breach within that period; ii. Dr. Cline and ECDPC have pursued and are pursuing such action with due diligence; and iii. Dr. Cline and ECDPC provided to OIG within that period a reasonable timetable for curing the material breach and Dr. Cline and ECDPC have followed the timetable.

For purposes of the exclusion herein, exclusion shall take effect only after an ALJ decision favorable to OIG, or, if the ALJ rules for Dr. Cline and ECDPC, only after a DAB decision in favor of OIG. Dr. Cline and ECDPC's election of its contractual right to appeal to the DAB shall not abrogate OIG's authority to exclude Dr. Cline and ECDPC upon the issuance of an ALJ's decision in favor of OIG. If the ALJ sustains the determination of OIG and determines that exclusion is authorized, such exclusion shall take effect 20 days after the ALJ issues such a decision, notwithstanding that Dr. Cline and ECDPC may request review of the ALJ decision by the DAB. If the DAB finds in favor of OIG after an ALJ decision adverse to OIG, the exclusion shall take effect 20 days after the DAB decision. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall waive their right to any notice of such an exclusion if a decision upholding the exclusion is rendered by the ALJ or DAB. If the DAB finds in favor of Dr. Cline and ECDPC,



Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall be reinstated effective on the date of the original exclusion.

4. Finality of Decision. The review by an ALJ or DAB provided for above shall not be considered to be an appeal right arising under any statutes or regulations. Consequently, the parties to this Agreement agree that the DAB's decision (or the ALJ's decision if not appealed) shall be considered final for all purposes under this Agreement.

## **XI. EFFECTIVE AND BINDING AGREEMENT**

Consistent with the provisions in the Settlement Agreement pursuant to which this Agreement is entered, and into which this Agreement is incorporated, Dr. Cline and ECDPC and OIG agree as follows:

A. This Agreement shall be binding on the successors, assigns, and transferees of Dr. Cline and ECDPC;

B. This Agreement shall become final and binding on the date the final signature is obtained on the Agreement;

C. Any modifications to this Agreement shall be made with the prior written consent of the parties to this Agreement;

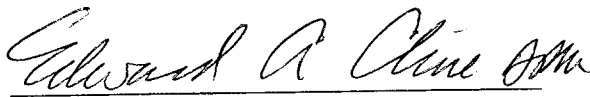
D. OIG may agree to a suspension of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's obligations under this Agreement in the event of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's cessation of participation in Federal health care programs. If Dr. Cline and ECDPC withdraw from participation in Federal health care programs and are relieved of their Agreement obligations by OIG, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall notify OIG 30 days in advance of Dr. Cline and ECDPC's intent to reapply as a participating provider or supplier with any Federal health care program. Upon receipt of such notification, OIG shall evaluate whether the Agreement shall be reactivated or modified.

E. All requirements and remedies set forth in this Agreement are in addition to, and do not effect, (1) [Provider]'s responsibility to follow all applicable Federal health care program requirements or (2) the Government's right to impose appropriate remedies for failure to follow applicable program requirements.

F. The undersigned Dr. Cline and ECDPC signatories represent and warrant that they are authorized to execute this Agreement. The undersigned OIG signatory represents that he is signing this Agreement in his official capacity and that he is authorized to execute this Agreement.

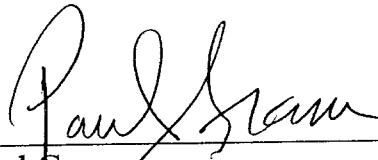
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto affix their signatures:

**Dr. Cline and ECDPC**



Edward A. Cline, DPM, individually  
and in his capacity as owner of  
Edward Cline, DPM, PC (ECDPC)

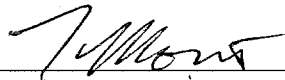
5/17/05  
Date



Paul Grana  
Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin  
Counsel for Dr. Cline and ECDPC

5-26-05  
Date

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**



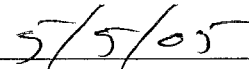
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lewis Morris

Chief Counsel to the Inspector General

Office of Counsel to the Inspector General

Office of Inspector General

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **APPENDIX A INDEPENDENT REVIEW ORGANIZATION**

This Appendix contains the requirements relating to the Independent Review Organization (IRO) required by Section III.E of the IA.

### **A. IRO Engagement.**

Edward A. Cline, DPM (Dr. Cline) and Edward Cline, DPM, PC (ECDPC) shall engage an IRO that possesses the qualifications set forth in Paragraph B, below, to perform the responsibilities in Paragraph C, below. The IRO shall conduct the review in a professionally independent and/or objective fashion, as set forth in Paragraph D. Within 30 days after OIG receives written notice of the identity of the selected IRO, OIG will notify Dr. Cline and ECDPC if the IRO is unacceptable. Absent notification from OIG that the IRO is unacceptable, Dr. Cline and ECDPC may continue to engage the IRO.

If Dr. Cline and ECDPC engage a new IRO during the term of the CIA, this IRO shall also meet the requirements of this Appendix. If a new IRO is engaged, Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall submit the information identified in Section V.A.5 to OIG within 30 days of engagement of the IRO. Within 30 days after OIG receives written notice of the identity of the selected IRO, OIG will notify Dr. Cline and ECDPC if the IRO is unacceptable. Absent notification from OIG that the IRO is unacceptable, Dr. Cline and ECDPC may continue to engage the IRO.

### **B. IRO Qualifications.**

The IRO shall:

1. assign individuals to conduct the Claims Review engagement who have expertise in the billing, coding, reporting, and other requirements of podiatric services and in the general requirements of the Federal health care program(s) from which Dr. Cline and ECDPC seek reimbursement;
2. assign individuals to design and select the Claims Review sample who are knowledgeable about the appropriate statistical sampling techniques;
3. assign individuals to conduct the coding review portions of the Claims Review who have a nationally recognized coding certification (*e.g.*, CCA, CCS, CCS-P, CPC, RRA, etc.) and who have maintained this certification (*e.g.*, completed applicable continuing education requirements); and
4. have sufficient staff and resources to conduct the reviews required by the CIA on a timely basis.

### **C. IRO Responsibilities.**

The IRO shall:

1. perform each Claim Review in accordance with the specific requirements of the CIA;
2. follow all applicable Medicare, Medicaid, or other Federal health care program rules and reimbursement guidelines in making assessments in the Claims Review;
3. if in doubt of the application of a particular Medicare, Medicaid, or other Federal health care policy or regulation, request clarification from the appropriate authority (e.g., fiscal intermediary or carrier);
4. respond to all OIG inquiries in a prompt, objective, and factual manner; and
5. prepare timely, clear, well-written reports that include all the information required by Appendix B.

D. IRO Independence/Objectivity.

The IRO must perform the Claims Review in a professionally independent and/or objective fashion, as appropriate to the nature of the engagement, taking into account any other business relationships or engagements that may exist between the IRO and Dr. Cline and ECDPC.

E. IRO Removal/Termination.

1. *Provider.* If Dr. Cline and ECDPC terminate their IRO during the course of the engagement, Dr. Cline and ECDPC must submit a notice explaining its reasons to OIG no later than 30 days after termination. Dr. Cline and ECDPC must engage a new IRO in accordance with Paragraph A of this Appendix.

2. *OIG Removal of IRO.* In the event OIG has reason to believe that the IRO does not possess the qualifications described in Paragraph B, is not independent and/or objective as set forth in Paragraph D, or has failed to carry out its responsibilities as described in Paragraph C, OIG may, at its sole discretion, require Dr. Cline and ECDPC to engage a new IRO in accordance with Paragraph A of this Appendix.

Prior to requiring Dr. Cline and ECDPC to engage a new IRO, OIG shall notify Dr. Cline and ECDPC of its intent to do so and provide a written explanation of why OIG believes such a step is necessary. To resolve any concerns raised by OIG, Dr. Cline and ECDPC may request a meeting with OIG to discuss any aspect of the IRO's qualifications, independence or performance of its responsibilities and to present additional information regarding these matters. Dr. Cline and ECDPC shall provide any additional information as may be requested by OIG under this Paragraph in an expedited manner. OIG will attempt in good faith to resolve any differences regarding the IRO with Dr. Cline and ECDPC prior to requiring Dr. Cline and ECDPC to terminate the IRO. However, the final determination as to whether or not to require Dr. Cline and ECDPC to engage a new IRO shall be made at the sole discretion of OIG.

## APPENDIX B CLAIMS REVIEW

### A. Claims Review.

1. *Definitions.* For the purposes of the Claims Review, the following definitions shall be used:

- a. Overpayment: The amount of money Edward A. Cline, DPM (Dr. Cline) and Edward Cline, DPM, PC (ECDPC) have received in excess of the amount due and payable under any Federal health care program requirements.
- b. Item: Any discrete unit that can be sampled (e.g., code, line item, beneficiary, patient encounter, etc.).
- c. Paid Claim: A code or line item submitted by Dr. Cline and ECDPC and for which Dr. Cline and ECDPC have received reimbursement from the Medicare program.
- d. Population: For the first Reporting Period, the Population shall be defined as all Items for which a code or line item has been submitted by or on behalf of Dr. Cline and ECDPC and for which Dr. Cline and ECDPC have received reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid, or other Federal health care programs (i.e., Paid Claim) during the 12-month period covered by the first Claims Review.

For the remaining Reporting Periods, the Population shall be defined as all Items for which Dr. Cline and ECDPC have received reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid, or other Federal health care programs (i.e., Paid Claim) during the 12-month period covered by the Claims Review.

To be included in the Population, an Item must have resulted in at least one Paid Claim.

- e. Error Rate: The Error Rate shall be the percentage of net Overpayments identified in the sample. The net Overpayments shall be calculated by subtracting all underpayments identified in the sample from all gross Overpayments identified in the sample. (Note: Any potential cost settlements or other supplemental payments should not be included in the net Overpayment calculation. Rather, only underpayments identified as part of the Discovery Sample shall be included as part of the net Overpayment calculation.)

The Error Rate is calculated by dividing the net Overpayment identified in the sample by the total dollar amount associated with the Items in the sample.

2. *Other Requirements.*

a. Paid Claims without Supporting Documentation. For the purpose of appraising Items included in the Claims Review, any Paid Claim for which Dr. Cline and ECDPC cannot produce documentation sufficient to support the Paid Claim shall be considered an error and the total reimbursement received by Dr. Cline and ECDPC for such Paid Claim shall be deemed an Overpayment. Replacement sampling for Paid Claims with missing documentation is not permitted.

b. Replacement Sampling. Considering the Population shall consist only of Paid Claims and that Items with missing documentation cannot be replaced, there is no need to utilize alternate or replacement sampling units.

c. Use of First Samples Drawn. For the purposes of all samples (Discovery Sample(s) and Full Sample(s)) discussed in this Appendix, the Paid Claims associated with the Items selected in each first sample (or first sample for each strata, if applicable) shall be used (*i.e.*, it is not permissible to generate more than one list of random samples and then select one for use with the Discovery Sample or Full Sample).

B. Claims Review Report. The following information shall be included in the Claims Review Report for each Discovery Sample and Full Sample (if applicable).

1. *Claims Review Methodology.*

a. Sampling Unit. A description of the Item as that term is utilized for the Claims Review.

b. Claims Review Population. A description of the Population subject to the Claims Review.

c. Claims Review Objective. A clear statement of the objective intended to be achieved by the Claims Review.

d. Sampling Frame. A description of the sampling frame, which is the totality of Items from which the Discovery Sample and, if any, Full Sample has been selected and an explanation of the methodology used to identify the sampling frame. In most circumstances, the sampling frame will be identical to the Population.

e. Source of Data. A description of the specific documentation relied upon by the IRO when performing the Claims Review (e.g., medical records, physician orders, certificates of medical necessity, requisition forms, local medical review policies (including title and policy number), CMS program memoranda (including title and issuance number), Medicare carrier or intermediary manual or bulletins (including issue and date), other policies, regulations, or directives).

f. Review Protocol. A narrative description of how the Claims Review was conducted and what was evaluated.

## 2. *Statistical Sampling Documentation.*

a. The number of Items appraised in the Discovery Sample and, if applicable, in the Full Sample.

b. A copy of the printout of the random numbers generated by the “Random Numbers” function of the statistical sampling software used by the IRO.

c. A copy of the statistical software printout(s) estimating how many Items are to be included in the Full Sample, if applicable.

d. A description or identification of the statistical sampling software package used to select the sample and determine the Full Sample size, if applicable.

## 3. *Claims Review Findings.*

### a. Narrative Results.

i. A description of Dr. Cline and ECDPC’s billing and coding system(s), including the identification, by position description, of the personnel involved in coding and billing.



ii. A narrative explanation of the IRO's findings and supporting rationale (including reasons for errors, patterns noted, etc.) regarding the Claims Review, including the results of the Discovery Sample, and the results of the Full Sample (if any).

b. Quantitative Results.

i. Total number and percentage of instances in which the IRO determined that the Paid Claims submitted by Dr. Cline and ECDPC (Claim Submitted) differed from what should have been the correct claim (Correct Claim), regardless of the effect on the payment.

ii. Total number and percentage of instances in which the Claim Submitted differed from the Correct Claim and in which such difference resulted in an Overpayment to Dr. Cline and ECDPC.

iii. Total dollar amount of all Overpayments in the sample.

iv. Total dollar amount of paid Items included in the sample and the net Overpayment associated with the sample.

v. Error Rate in the sample.

vi. A spreadsheet of the Claims Review results that includes the following information for each Paid Claim appraised: Federal health care program billed, beneficiary health insurance claim number, date of service, procedure code submitted, procedure code reimbursed, allowed amount reimbursed by payor, correct procedure code (as determined by the IRO), correct allowed amount (as determined by the IRO), dollar difference between allowed amount reimbursed by payor and the correct allowed amount. (See Attachment 1 to this Appendix.)

4. *Systems Review.* Observations, findings, and recommendations on possible improvements to the system(s) and process(es) that generated the Overpayment(s).

5. *Credentials.* The names and credentials of the individuals who: (1) designed the statistical sampling procedures and the review methodology utilized for the Claims Review; and (2) performed the Claims Review.

**Claim Review Results**

Federal Health Care Program Billed	Bene HIC #	Date of Service	Procedure Code Submitted	Procedure Code Reimbursed	Allowed Amount Reimbursed	Correct Procedure Code (IRO determined)	Correct Allowed Amt Reimbursed (IRO determined)	Dollar Difference between Amt Reimbursed and Correct Allowed Amt