

## HHS OIG – *Updates and Key Priorities*

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**HCCA**  
Clinical Practice  
Compliance Conference  
October 8, 2018

**Ruth Ann Dorrill, MPA**  
Regional Inspector General

Office of Evaluation and Inspections  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services

## HHS OIG – *HCCA Session Topics*

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- I. HHS OIG Organization  
Mission, people, and framework
- II. Key Priorities
  - OIG Work Plan
  - Focus Area Examples: adverse events, nursing homes, opioids
- III. HHS and OIG Looking Forward – *2018-2020*:
  - HHS Top Management and Performance Challenges
  - Compliance Tools and Resources

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## HHS Office of Inspector General

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What's New Latest Enforcement Actions

## HHS Inspector General – Daniel Levinson

- USC Phi Beta Kappa, Georgetown Law
- General Counsel of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – 1982
- Appointed by Pres. Reagan to Chair U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board - 1986
- Appointed by Pres. George W. Bush to IG of the U.S. GSA - 2001
- Appointed by Pres. George W. Bush to IG of HHS - 2005

## HHS Office of Inspector General



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- **Mission:** protect the integrity of HHS programs and the health and welfare of beneficiaries “**Prevent – Detect – Enforce**”
- **Components**
  - Office of Counsel to the IG
  - Office of Investigations
  - Office of Audit Services
  - Office of Evaluation and Inspections
- **Scope**
  - Largest OIG at 1600
  - **\$1.3** Trillion, **1/4** of U.S. budget, **300** programs

## OIG Daily Work

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- **Authority and Access**  
Direct access to all records pertaining to Federally-paid programs
- **Partnerships**  
OIG partners in Congress, DOJ, U.S. Attorney’s Office, DEA, Medicaid Fraud Control Units, and local law enforcement
- **Data Analytics**  
Enhanced screening to ID poor billers, predictive models, anomaly detection, social network analysis
- **Hot Line – 800-HHS-TIPS**  
1000s of actionable tips each year, option for anonymous reporting

## Wilber J. Cohen Federal Building

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## Wilber J. Cohen – “Mr. Medicare”

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1913 – 1987

### Social Reformer

- Social Security Act – 1935
- Medicare – 1965

### Secretary of HEW

- End of LBJ administration – 1968
- 249 days – 1968

### Later Evaluations

- Social Security – 1972
- *New Deal “50 years later”* – 1986

## Fraud — *whack-a-mole dilemma*

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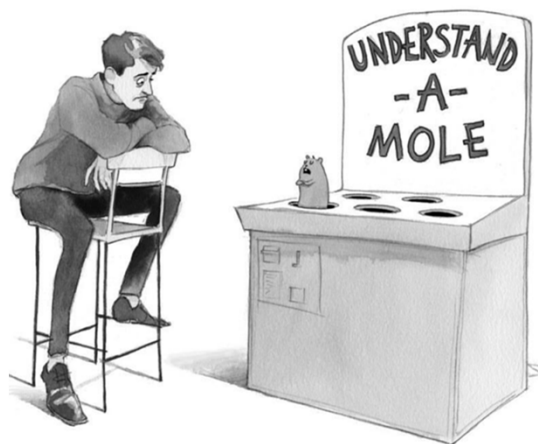
“Solving fraud has no definitive end. When one problem is solved, fraud goes somewhere else. OIG is developing new approaches to identify unknown, undetected and emerging patterns...

The whack-a-mole approach ... how do we get ahead of that? How do we counter both existing and new fraud, waste and abuse?”

— Caryl Brzymialkiewicz  
*OIG Chief Data Officer*

The New Yorker - *October 2, 2017*

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## Medicare Fraud Strike Force

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- Geographic “hot spots” and high dollars  
Focus in areas and providers most likely to generate fraud, even at opportunity cost to full coverage
- Data analytics married with field work  
Recent work has focused on joining quantitative with qualitative more effectively build a case
- Takedowns  
Focused law enforcement effort conducted in a single day

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## OIG Focus Example: *Opioid Misuse*

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## Opioid – use and misuse, growing impact

- Narcotics to manage pain from surgery, illness or injury
  - Estimated 100M living in chronic pain
  - 1 in 3 Medicare patients
- HHS pays for most prescription opioids
  - Medicare Part D – 40M beneficiaries (\$8B)
  - Medicaid – 72M beneficiaries (\$14B)
- System is broken
  - IOM estimates only 10 percent receive treatment
  - Half of opioid deaths from prescriptions

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## OIG Work –opioid use and misuse

*22,000 Medicare Part D patients  
got high amounts*

- 4+ prescribers
- 4+ pharmacies

*Example patient:  
2,800 pills  
73 scripts  
11 providers  
20 pharmacies  
... in 1 year*

Exhibit 1

**1 in 3**

Part D beneficiaries received  
at least 1 prescription opioid



Source: OIG analysis of Medicare Part D data, 2017.

## “Takedown” – July 2010-July 2018

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Stage 1  
Focused investigation,  
data analytics, and  
partnership

Stage 2  
One-day strike force effort  
to fell healthcare criminals  
across the nation

## Takedown target day

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## OIG – June 16, 2018 takedown

- Focused largely on **opioids**
  - 58 jurisdictional districts
  - 600 defendants
  - 165 medical professionals
  - 32 physicians
  - 67 physicians issued exclusions
  - 402 nurses issued exclusions
- } \$2.1 billion

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## OIG Focus Example: *Nursing Homes*



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## OIG Work: Quality of Care in Nursing Homes

### OIG Area 1: Resident Harm

- Adverse Events = 33% harmed
- Abuse and Neglect = lack of reporting

### OIG Area 2: Emergency Preparedness

- Homes met requirements, but were unprepared
- New requirements since 2017

### OIG Area 3: State Agency Oversight

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## HHS – Top Management Challenges



*12<sup>th</sup> Secretary of HHS Alex Azar*

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## HHS – Top Management Challenges 2018

- Delivering System Reform and Cost Reduction
  - Value-based purchasing, incentives/penalties
  - High cost areas – pharma, preventive, end of life care
- Maximizing health IT capability
  - CMS and OCR: interoperability, telehealth
  - NIH: Precision Medicine Initiative
- Quality, Safety and Access for Vulnerable Populations
  - Maintaining quality and access – Medicaid, IHS
  - Huge influx to Medicare and long-term care

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## HHS Shift in Management – 4 observations

- Observation 1:  
“Ruthless prioritization”
- Observation 2:  
Communication with providers
- Observation 3:  
Business-caliber accountability
- Observation 4:  
Maximizing data analytics



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## OIG – Compliance Tools and Resources

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- Toolkits
  - Measuring Compliance Program Effectiveness
  - Adverse Events Trigger Tools
  - Identifying Patients at Risk of Opioid Abuse
- Provider Compliance Resources and Training
  - Videos and Audio Podcast
  - Compliance Program Guidance and Presentations
- Website Documents
  - “Living” Work Plan – *planned and completed studies*
  - Unimplemented Recommendations

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## Contact and Reading Links

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- Ruth Ann Dorrill  
[ruth.dorrill@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:ruth.dorrill@oig.hhs.gov), 214-767-2325
- Suggested Reading
  - Health Affairs  
*Federal Healthcare News, Research, and Data*  
[www.healthaffairs.org](http://www.healthaffairs.org)
  - Modern Healthcare  
*Healthcare Business News, Research, and Data*  
[www.modernhealthcare.com](http://www.modernhealthcare.com)
  - The Incidental Economist, *Austin Frakt and Aaron Carroll*  
<http://theincidentaleconomist.com/>

