

# HHS-OIG

*Office of Investigations*



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## HHS-OIG OI Introduction

***Approximately 500 Special Agents***  
***10 Regions service all 50 States VI/PR***

- Criminal
- Civil
- Administrative



***Responsible for the integrity of all HHS programs and the Safety and Protection of designated officials.***



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# OIG Hotline

- OIG Hotline Video



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# Investigations

Office of Investigations Regional Map



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# Strike Force



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# COVID Fraud Concerns



Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facilities

Identity Theft

Telemedicine

Fake Testing Kits/Cures/PPE

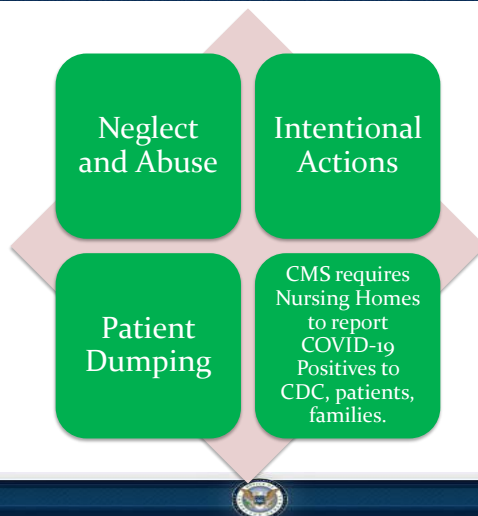
Add on Testing\*



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# Long Term Care Facilities



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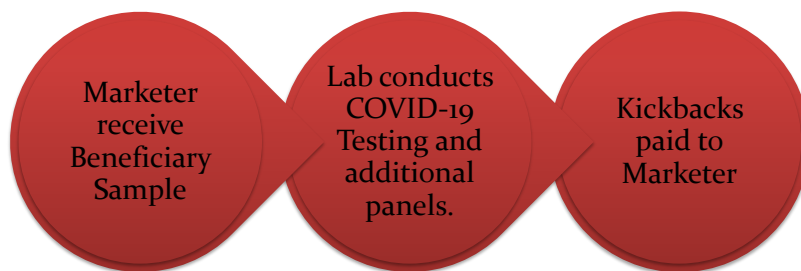
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# Billing Scam



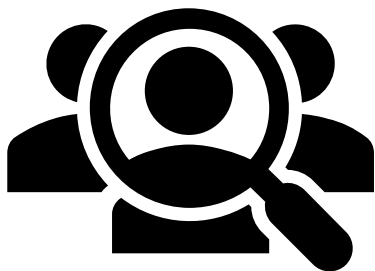
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## Identity Theft



- Beneficiary receives a phone call/text offering a free COVID-19 test.
- Telemarketer obtains PII of beneficiary.
- No test is ever sent to the beneficiary.
- PII could be used for a variety of illegal means.

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## Telemedicine Scams

### Relaxed Regulatory Environment

- CMS
- DEA
- FDA

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Inflate the length of telemed visits and or bill for unnecessary services.

-TurnKey Companies

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# Fake Tests

Variety of ads claiming to treat or cure COVID;

Products claiming FDA Approval;



# PPE

- Price Gouging
- Hording
- Non-Approved Gear





## Wire Fraud PPE



ICE-HSI/VA-OIG ARRESTED  
SUBJECT IN GA



CLAIMED TO HAVE 125  
MILLION RESPIRATOR  
MASKS (N95)



ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED  
TO OBTAIN 750 MILLION  
FOR PPE HE DIDN'T HAVE



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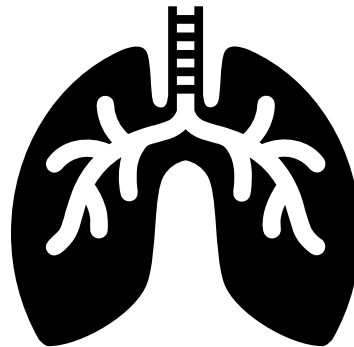
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## CPT 87635

- Relatively low Medicare reimbursement rate for COVID-19 tests.
- Approximately \$30-\$100 a test.
- CMS does not require doctors order for certain COVID related tests



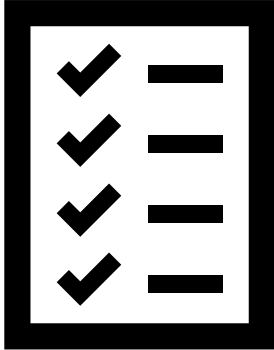
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# Financial Impact



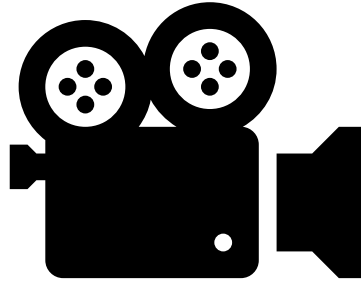
## Fee for Service

- Over 500,000 Medicare Beneficiaries tested for COVID-19.
- Over \$30 million in claims paid.

# Opioids







Video Dr. Kostenko

# Dr. Kostenko Aftermath



Dr. Kostenko was federally indicted on 22 counts for knowingly and intentionally distributed oxycodone, not for legitimate medical purpose. 2 counts relating to the distribution of oxycodone which allegedly resulted in the deaths of two patients.



Admitted that on 1 specific day he saw approximately 271 patients at his residence, collected over \$20,000 cash and wrote over 370 oxycodone prescriptions totaling 22,255 pain pills.



# Sentencing/Exclusion



20 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON



HHS-OIG EXCLUSION FOR 25 YEARS



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# ARPO

Partnership with DOJ, FBI and DEA



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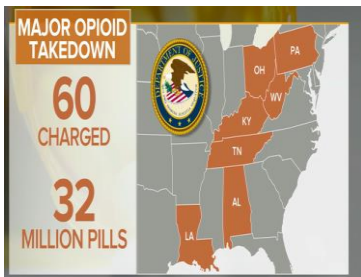
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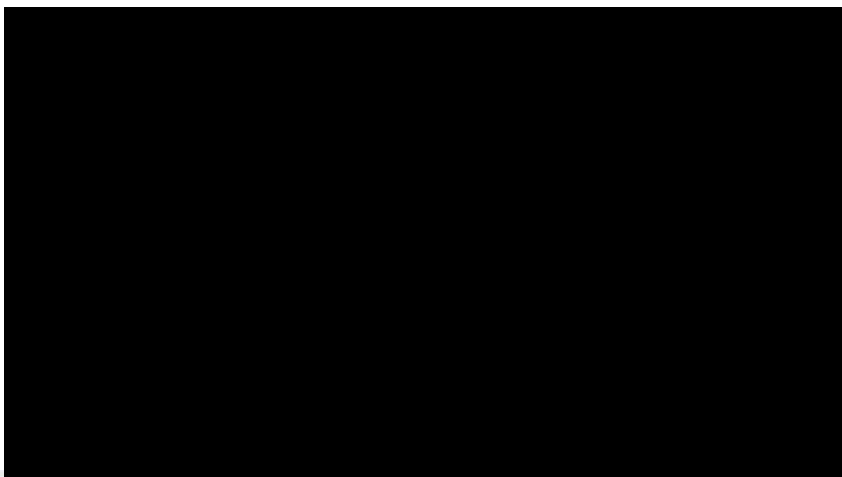
# ARPO Operation # 1



- Charges involve over 350,000 prescriptions for controlled substances.
- Focused on licensed medical providers- Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists.



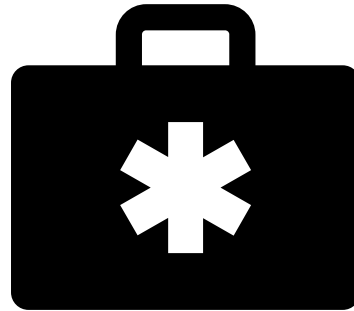
# ARPO HHS OIG Video



## ARPO Round 2

- Fall 2019
- 13 Additional Arrests- 11 Doctors

*“Medical professionals who violate their solemn oaths and peddle opioids for profit should know that we will find you and ensure that the justice system treats you like the drug dealer you are.” - AAG Benczkowski*



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## ARPO Operation Totals

- ❖ 11 Federal Districts
- ❖ 73 Defendants
- ❖ 40 Million Pills



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## Data Brief Concerns About Opioid Use in Medicare Part D in the Appalachian Region



What was found:



36% of Part D beneficiaries in five States in the Appalachian region received a prescription opioid in 2017; these States are Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia.



Almost 49,000 beneficiaries in these States received high amounts of opioids, far exceeding levels CDC says to avoid.



Nearly 6,000 beneficiaries in these States are at serious risk of opioid misuse or overdose.



<https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-18-00224.asp>



## Data Results After Takedowns

Opioid pills dispensed to beneficiaries linked to ARPO takedown prescribers decreased 53 percent between January and December 2019



43% of ARPO takedown beneficiaries stopped receiving opioids following the takedowns.



Payment for opioids decreased 60% for beneficiaries linked to ARPO takedown prescribers between January and December 2019.



The number of beneficiaries with extreme or high levels of opioids decreased 90% after the ARPO takedowns

## Possible Areas of Concerns

- Cash Only;
- Requires additional medical procedures to get prescriptions.
- Prescriptions filled only at certain pharmacies.
- Large numbers of out of state patients
- Prescription claims without corresponding office visits.
- Family members all on same prescriptions
- Large groups coming together in 1 vehicle.
- Packed waiting rooms/ significant number of people waiting outside clinics.



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## Questions?



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Thank You!



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