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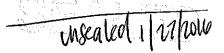
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2014 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

♥.

FERMIN IGLESIAS (1), CARLOS ARGUELLO (2), MIGUEL MORALES (3),

PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, INC. (4), MEDEX SOLUTIONS, INC. (5),

PRIME HOLDINGS INT., INC. (6),

MERIDIAN MEDICAL RESOURCES, INC., d.b.a. Meridian Rehab Care (7),

Defendants.

Case No.

16 CR 0 13 1 BAS

$\underline{\mathtt{I}}\ \underline{\mathtt{N}}\ \underline{\mathtt{D}}\ \underline{\underline{\mathtt{I}}}\ \underline{\mathtt{C}}\ \underline{\mathtt{T}}\ \underline{\mathtt{M}}\ \underline{\mathtt{E}}\ \underline{\mathtt{N}}\ \underline{\mathtt{T}}$

Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 371 Conspiracy to Commit Honest
Services Mail and Wire Fraud,
Mail and Wire Fraud, and Travel
Act; Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 1341
and 1346 - Honest Services Mail
Fraud; Title 18, U.S.C.,
Sec. 2 - Aiding and Abetting;
Title 18, U.S.C.,
Sec. 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28,
U.S.C., Sec. 2461(c) - Criminal
Forfeiture

The Grand Jury charges, at all times relevant:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

THE DEFENDANTS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

1. Defendants FERMIN IGLESIAS and CARLOS ARGUELLO recruited and referred workers compensation applicants ("applicants") for legal and medical services in the Southern District of California and elsewhere. In order to effectuate this recruitment and referral scheme, both IGLESIAS and ARGUELLO controlled and operated multiple entities, including, defendants PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, INC., MEDEX SOLUTIONS,

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- INC., MERIDIAN MEDICAL RESOURCES, INC., d.b.a. Meridian Rehab Care, and PRIME HOLDINGS INT., INC.
- 2. Defendant MIGUEL MORALES ("MORALES") was an administrator for several of defendant IGLESIAS's entities, including defendants PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, MEDEX and PRIME HOLDINGS, and Advanced Radiology.
- 3. Defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, INC. ("PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING") was a California Corporation formed in December 2009, which oversaw the scheduling of applicants recruited by defendant ARGUELLO and others, and their assignment to a primary treating physician, which included chiropractors. Defendants IGLESIAS and ARGUELLO decided which physicians were eligible to receive applicants from defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING.
- 4. Defendant MEDEX SOLUTIONS, INC. ("MEDEX") was a California corporation, formed in June 2011. Defendant PRIME HOLDINGS INT., INC. ("PRIME HOLDINGS") was a California corporation, formed in May 2011. Defendant IGLESIAS was listed as the chief executive officer, chief financial officer and secretary of defendants MEDEX SOLUTIONS and PRIME HOLDINGS, both of which oversaw the scheduling of applicants for ancillary services, such as magnetic resonance imaging ("MRIs"), as referred by primary treating physicians chosen by defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING.
- 5. Defendant MERIDIAN MEDICAL RESOURCES, INC., d.b.a. Meridian Rehab Care ("MERIDIAN"), was a California corporation, formed in July 2010, which listed IGLESIAS as the chief executive officer and secretary of defendant MERIDIAN, which provided durable medical equipment ("DME") to applicants referred by primary treating physicians, including chiropractors.

- 6. Dr. Steven Rigler (charged elsewhere) was a chiropractor licensed to practice in California, who operated three clinics specializing in chiropractic medicine in the Southern District of California.
- 7. Julian Garcia (charged elsewhere) assisted defendants IGLESIAS and ARGUELLO by coordinating and overseeing the referral of applicants for ancillary procedures and DME. From at least 2012 through 2014, Julian Garcia managed applicants assigned to Dr. Rigler by defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING in order to ensure that those applicants for whom ancillary procedures and DME were recommended and/or prescribed, were referred to specific providers as directed by defendants IGLESIAS and ARGUELLO.
- 8. Physicians, including medical doctors and chiropractors, owed a fiduciary—duty to their patients, requiring physicians to act in their patients' best interests, and not for their own professional, pecuniary, or personal gain. Physicians owed a duty of honest services to their patients for decisions made relating to the care of those patients, including the informed choice as to whether to undergo ancillary procedures and receive DME and, if so, an informed choice as to the providers of such ancillary procedures and DME.

CALIFORNIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM

9. The California Workers' Compensation System ("CWCS") required that employers in California provide workers' compensation benefits to their employees for qualifying injuries sustained in the course of their employment. Under the CWCS, all claims for payments for services or benefits provided to the injured employee, including medical and legal fees, were billed directly to, and paid by, the insurer. Most unpaid claims for payment were permitted to be filed as

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liens against the employee's workers' compensation claim, which accrue interest until paid in an amount ordered by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board or an amount negotiated between the insurer and the service or benefits provider. The CWCS was regulated by the California Labor Code, the California Insurance Code, and the California Code of Regulations, and was administered by the California Department of Industrial Relations.

- 10. CWCS benefits were administered by the employer, an insurer or a third party administrator. The CWCS required claims administrators to authorize and pay for medical care that was "reasonably required to cure or relieve the injured worker from the effects of his or her injury," and includes medical, surgical, chiropractic, acupuncture, and hospital treatment.
- California law, including but not limited to the California Business and Professions Code, the California Insurance Code, and the prohibited offering, delivering, California Labor Code, the soliciting, or receiving of anything of value in return for referring The California Labor Code a patient for ancillary procedures. specifically prohibited cross-referrals if one referral was dependent on the other referral occurring. Moreover, the California Labor Code voided as a matter of law any claim submitted to an insurer which had been secured in violation of the ban on bribes or kickbacks, whether in the form of monetary payment or a cross-referral scheme.

Count 1

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT HONEST SERVICES MAIL AND WIRE FRAUD,

MAIL FRAUD, WIRE FRAUD AND VIOLATE THE TRAVEL ACT, 18 USC § 371

12. Paragraphs 1 through 11 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference.

- Beginning on a date unknown and continuing through at least 1 May 2015, within the Southern District of California and elsewhere, IGLESIAS, CARLOS ARGUELLO, MIGUEL MORALES, defendants FERMIN PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, INC., MEDEX SOLUTIONS, INC., PRIME HOLDINGS INT., INC., and MERIDIAN MEDICAL RESOURCES, INC., d.b.a. Meridian 5 Rehab Care, and others knowingly and intentionally conspired with each 6 7 other to:
 - a. commit Honest Services Mail and Wire Fraud, that is, knowingly and with the intent to defraud, devise and participate in a material scheme to defraud and to deprive patients of the intangible right to Dr. Steven Rigler's honest services, and cause mailings or use of the interstate wires in furtherance of the scheme, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341, 1343 and 1346;

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- b. commit Mail Fraud, that is, knowingly and with the intent to defraud, devise a material scheme to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises, and omissions and concealments of material facts, and cause mailings in furtherance of the scheme, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341;
- c. commit Wire Fraud, that is, knowingly and with the intent to defraud, devise a material scheme to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises, and omissions and concealments of material facts, and cause use of the wires in furtherance of the scheme, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; and
- d. use and cause to be used facilities in interstate commerce with intent to promote, manage, establish, carry on, distribute the proceeds of, and facilitate the promotion, management, establishment,

carrying on, and distribution of the proceeds of an unlawful activity, that is, bribery in violation of California Labor Code Sections 139.3, 139.32, and 3215, California Business and Professions Code Section 650, Section California Insurance Code and 750 and, thereafter, to promote and attempt to perform acts to promote, manage, establish, carry on, distribute the proceeds of, and facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, carrying on, and distribution of the proceeds of such unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1952(a)(1)(A) and (a)(3)(A).

FRAUDULENT PURPOSE

14. It was a purpose of the conspiracy to fraudulently obtain money from CWCS insurers by submitting claims for ancillary procedures and DME that were secured through a pattern of bribes and kickbacks in the form of an illegal cross-referral scheme to Dr. Rigler, and to those acting with him and on his behalf, in exchange for the referral of patients to particular providers of ancillary procedures and DME, in violation of Dr. Rigler's fiduciary duty to his patients, and concealing from patients and insurers these bribes and kickbacks.

MANNER AND MEANS

- 15. The conspirators used the following manner and means in furtherance of the conspiracy:
- a. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, and PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, knowing that the payment of bribes and kickbacks in the form of a cross-referral scheme was unlawful, offered to refer applicants wanting medical care to Dr. Rigler, in exchange for his agreement to refer such applicants for ancillary procedures and DME to certain co-conspirators.

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- b. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, knowing that the payment of bribes and kickbacks in the form of a cross-referral scheme was unlawful, assigned a "value" to certain ancillary procedures and DME, such as \$30-\$50 per MRI referral, and informed Dr. Rigler of those values.
- c. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, and MORALES set a quota for the "value" of ancillary services and DME Dr. Rigler was expected to prescribe for each applicant sent to him by PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING.
- d. When Dr. Rigler fell behind in meeting the quota for ancillary procedures and DME, defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, and PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING ceased to assign applicants to Dr. Rigler until he agreed to make up for the shortfall in some manner.
- e. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, and MORALES only gave Dr. Rigler "credit" towards meeting his quota if Dr. Rigler used defendants MEDEX or PRIME HOLDINGS to schedule MRIs and other ancillary services; that is, Dr. Rigler was not given credit for MRIs and other ancillary procedures scheduled by Dr. Rigler and his staff directly.
- f. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, MEDEX, and PRIME HOLDINGS received kickbacks and bribes from providers of diagnostic imaging services, including Dr. Ronald Grusd (charged elsewhere) and Company A.
- g. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, and MORALES only gave Dr. Steven Rigler "credit" towards meeting his quota for DME prescriptions if such were fulfilled by defendant MERIDIAN.
- h. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, MEDEX, PRIME HOLDINGS, MERIDIAN, and others obscured the true nature of their financial relationships in order to conceal their

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27 28 corrupt cross-referral scheme designed for the referral of applicants to specific providers of ancillary procedures and DME.

- Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, MEDEX, PRIME HOLDINGS, and MERIDIAN discussed telephone calls, text messages, emails, and in-person meetings the applicants who had been corruptly assigned to Dr. Rigler to meet quotas of referrals for ancillary procedures and DME from specific providers.
- i. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, MEDEX, PRIME HOLDINGS, and MERIDIAN utilized interstate facilities, including cellular telephones and email, in order to coordinate and promote the corrupt cross-referral scheme designed to ensure an average quota of referrals for ancillary procedures and DME to specific providers by Dr. Rigler.
- Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, and MERIDIAN used the mails and wires to send bills to insurers for DME provided to applicants they had procured by the corrupt cross-referral scheme entered into with Dr. Rigler.
- 1. Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, PROVIDENCE PRIME HOLDINGS, and MERIDIAN intended other SCHEDULING, MEDEX, providers, including Dr. Grusd and Company A, to use the mails and wires to bill insurers for ancillary procedures provided to applicants assigned to Dr. Rigler as part of the corrupt cross-referral scheme.
- Defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, MEDEX, PRIME HOLDINGS, and MERIDIAN, and co-conspirators Dr. Grusd and Company A, concealed from insurers and patients the material fact that referrals were made because of bribes and kickbacks specifically prohibited by California law.

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Using the manners and means described above, defendants 16. ARGUELLO, MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, MEDEX, IGLESIAS, HOLDINGS, and MERIDIAN submitted and caused to be submitted millions of dollars in claims for ancillary procedures and DME procured through the payment of bribes and kickbacks in the form of the corrupt crossreferral scheme.

OVERT ACTS

- In furtherance of the conspiracy and in order to effect the objects thereof, the defendants and other co-conspirators caused the following overt acts in the Southern District of California and elsewhere:
- Prior to August 2013, defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO and PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING referred applicants to Dr. Rigler's clinics for treatment.
- On or about September 4, 2013, defendants IGLESIAS and Julian Garcia (charged elsewhere) emailed to PRIME HOLDINGS spreadsheets documenting MRI referrals by Dr. Rigler's clinics from January through August 2013 for applicants who had been referred to Dr. Rigler by defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING.
- 2013, defendants IGLESIAS, In $\circ r$ about September ARGUELLO, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING and Julian Garcia (charged elsewhere) met with Dr. Rigler and told him that applicants would only be referred to his clinics if Dr. Rigler, in turn, referred those applicants for a certain amount of ancillary procedures and DME from providers designated by defendants IGLESIAS and ARGUELLO.
- September 2013, defendants about IGLESIAS, d. In orARGUELLO, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING and Julian Garcia (charged elsewhere) told Dr. Rigler that a company operated by Dr. Grusd and Company A

were the two entities that would provide MRI services for Dr. Rigler's applicants, and explained that Dr. Rigler would have to schedule MRIs through defendant MEDEX in order to receive corrupt payments from the conspirators.

- e. On or about September 6, 2013, defendant IGLESIAS emailed Julian Garcia (charged elsewhere) and Dr. Rigler with spreadsheets documenting DME and nerve conduction velocity ("NCV") testing referrals by Dr. Rigler's clinics from January through August 2013 for applicants that had been referred to Dr. Rigler by defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING.
- f. In or about the Spring of 2014, defendants IGLESIAS and ARGUELLO informed Dr. Rigler that MRIs would only be completed by Company A because Dr. Grusd (charged elsewhere) had fallen behind in paying bribes and kickbacks for MRIs referred to his companies by defendant MEDEX.
- g. In or about October 2014, defendant IGLESIAS instructed Dr. Rigler that he was expected to generate \$600 per patient in ancillary referrals for each applicant in order to continue receiving referrals.
- h. On or about February 12, 2015, defendant IGLESIAS texted Dr. Rigler expressing concern at the low volume of MRI referrals.
- i. On or about February 23, 2015, defendant IGLESIAS texted Dr. Rigler the number of applicants Dr. Rigler or his staff had referred for MRIs through defendant MEDEX.

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- j. On or about February 23, 2015, defendant IGLESIAS texted Dr. Rigler expressing concern at the low number of referrals to defendant MERIDIAN for DME and asked to meet with Dr. Rigler to discuss referrals for ancillary procedures and DME.
 - k. On or about February 23, 2015, defendants IGLESIAS and MORALES utilized email to review referrals for DME to defendant MERIDIAN by Dr. Rigler.

- l. On or about February 24, 2015, defendants MORALES and PRIME HOLDINGS emailed a member of Dr. Rigler's staff with a list of DME referrals received from Dr. Rigler from December 2014 through February 2015.
- m. In or about April 2015, defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES and PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING cut off the referral of applicants to Dr. Rigler's clinics.
- n. On or about April 17, 2015, defendant MORALES texted Dr. Rigler that he intended to discuss the cutoff with defendant IGLESIAS.
- o. On or about April 22, 2015, defendant ARGUELLO spoke with Dr. Rigler via a cellular telephone and advised that defendant IGLESIAS confirmed that the cut off of applicants by defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING was due to Dr. Rigler being behind in the referral of applicants for ancillary procedures and DME.
- p. On or about April 22, 2015, defendants IGLESIAS and MORALES met with Dr. Rigler and advised him that he was approximately \$60,000 behind in referrals for ancillary procedures and DME; defendants IGLESIAS and MORALES advised that referrals would resume if Dr. Rigler wrote a \$20,000-\$30,000 check to defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING to reduce the amount owed.

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- q. On or about April 22, 2015, defendants IGLESIAS and MORALES informed Dr. Rigler that Company A was paying the defendants for each MRI referral, but only if those referrals were scheduled by defendant MEDEX.
- r. On or about April 22, 2015, defendant MORALES instructed Dr. Rigler not to send text messages relating to the referral of applicants in order to conceal the conspirators' illegal referral scheme.
- s. On or about April 28, 2015, defendants IGLESIAS and ARGUELLO met with Dr. Rigler and reviewed the number of applicants referred to Dr. Rigler in 2015 by defendant PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING.
- t. On or about April 28, 2015, defendant IGLESIAS instructed Dr. Rigler not to mention IGLESIAS' name in text messages in order to conceal from authorities the defendants' illegal referral scheme.
- u. On or about May 12, 2015, defendants IGLESIAS and ARGUELLO met with and informed Dr. Rigler that the defendants tracked the number of referrals for MRIs from Dr. Rigler's clinics to defendant MEDEX, which are completed by Company A, and Dr. Rigler only receives credit for those MRIs scheduled by MEDEX.
- All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

Counts 2-3

HONEST SERVICES MAIL FRAUD, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1346 AND 2

- 18. Paragraphs 1 through 14 of the Introductory Allegations are realleged and incorporated by reference.
- 19. Beginning on a date unknown and continuing through at least April 2015, within the Southern District of California and elsewhere, defendants FERMIN IGLESIAS, CARLOS ARGUELLO, MIGUEL MORALES,

PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, INC., MEDEX SOLUTIONS, INC., PRIME HOLDINGS INT., INC., and MERIDIAN MEDICAL RESOURCES, INC., d.b.a. Meridian Rehab Care, knowingly and with the intent to defraud, devised a material scheme to defraud, that is, to deprive patients of their intangible right to Dr. Steven Rigler's honest services.

- 20. Paragraphs 15 through 17 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as more fully describing the scheme to defraud, that is, to deprive patients of their intangible right to Dr. Rigler's honest services.
- District of California and elsewhere, defendants FERMIN IGLESIAS, CARLOS ARGUELLO, MIGUEL MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, INC., MEDEX SOLUTIONS, INC., PRIME HOLDINGS INT., INC., and MERIDIAN MEDICAL RESOURCES, INC., d.b.a. Meridian Rehab Care, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the above-described scheme and artifice to defraud and deprive, knowingly caused to be delivered by U.S. mail according to the directions thereon the following matter:

18	Count	Date	Mail Matter
19	2	October 21, 2014	lien form for reimbursement for ancillary procedures for J.C. secured through the payment
20			of bribes and kickbacks
21	3	October 28, 2014	lien form for reimbursement for ancillary procedures for B.L. secured through the payment
22			of bribes and kickbacks

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341, 1346 and 2.

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FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

- Paragraphs 1 through 21 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant Title 18, United States to Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).
- Upon conviction of the offenses of Conspiracy and Honest 23. Services Mail Fraud as alleged in Counts 1 through 3, defendants FERMIN IGLESIAS, CARLOS ARGUELLO, MIGUEL MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, INC., MEDEX SOLUTIONS, INC., PRIME HOLDINGS INT., INC., and MERIDIAN MEDICAL RESOURCES, INC., d.b.a. Meridian Rehab Care, shall forfeit to the United States all right, title, and interest in any property, real or personal, that constitutes or was derived from proceeds traceable to a violation of such offenses, a sum of money equal to the total amount of gross proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from such offenses.
- 24. If any of the above described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of defendants IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, MEDEX, PRIME HOLDINGS and MERIDIAN:

 (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court; (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;

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it was the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United 1 States Code, Section 853(p) and Title 18, United States Code, 2 Section 982(b), to seek forfeiture of any other property of defendants 3 IGLESIAS, ARGUELLO, MORALES, PROVIDENCE SCHEDULING, MEDEX, HOLDINGS and MERIDIAN up to the value of the forfeitable property 5 described above. 6 All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c). 9 DATED: January 21, 2016. 10 AN TRUE BILL: 11 12 Foreperson LAURA E. DUFFY 13 United States Attorney 14 15 By: 16 Assistant U.S. Attorney 17 18 Bv: 19 Assistant U.S. Attorney 20 21 By:

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SHEPPARD

Assistant U.S. Attorney

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