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.
OIG Hotline

- OIG Hotline Video

Investigations

Office of Investigations Regional Map

5/29/2020
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ONLY DHHS/OIG
COVID Fraud Concerns

- Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facilities
- Identity Theft
- Telemedicine
- Fake Testing Kits/Cures/PPE
- Add on Testing*
Long Term Care Facilities

- Neglect and Abuse
- Intentional Actions
- Patient Dumping
- CMS requires Nursing Homes to report COVID-19 Positives to CDC, patients, families.

Billing Scam

- Marketer receive Beneficiary Sample
- Lab conducts COVID-19 Testing and additional panels.
- Kickbacks paid to Marketer
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.

Telemedicine Scams

Relaxed Regulatory Environment

• CMS $ Inflate the length of telemed visits and or
• DEA bill for unnecessary
• FDA services.
  -TurnKey
  Companies
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

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
Financial Impact

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

Opioids
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

ARPO

Partnership with DOJ, FBI and DEA
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

ARPO Operation Totals

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


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.

Questions?
Thank You!