The National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association is proud to present the investigative and legal teams involved in the Highmark Hemophilia Specialty Pharmacy/Employer Group Investigation with this year’s SIRIS Investigation of the Year Award.

The investigative team uncovered a complex scheme designed to increase revenue for a specialty pharmacy and others based on reimbursement of hemophilia factor medications. The investigation revealed that the specialty pharmacy recruited hemophiliacs and/or their family members to act as patient advocates to market the pharmacy’s services to other potential recipients. The recruited hemophiliacs were required, and sometimes forced, to receive an excess volume of factor medication from the pharmacy.

The pharmacy and individuals set up a sham employer group that “employed” the recruited hemophiliacs. Within the first several months, the sham employer group (or pharmacy) submitted claims seeking reimbursement for millions of dollars, with $4.5 million in claims in just the first several weeks.

Following its investigation, Highmark rescinded the policy, took steps to assist the involved patients in obtaining appropriate insurance coverage, and filed a federal RICO lawsuit seeking to recover its damages, avoid future payments, and obtain reimbursement for its attorneys’ fees and related costs. The specialty pharmacy and the other defendants denied all wrongdoing. The parties ultimately settled on confidential terms.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

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