



United States of America v. Saffron Gustafson

The National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association is proud to recognize the **United States of America v. Saffron Gustafson** investigation and prosecution teams with this year's **SIRIS Investigation of the Year Award**.

Based on the collaboration and investigative persistence of the involved law enforcement agencies and insurers, a durable medical equipment fraud scheme perpetrated by Saffron Gustafson, the owner of Saffron's Specialized Medicine (SSM) located in Oregon, was uncovered, investigated, and prosecuted.

The investigation revealed that beginning around September 2012 and continuing through at least August 2017, Gustafson engaged in a multistate billing scheme against private and government health care benefit plans by inflating the true acquisition costs of compression garments. She created false and fraudulent manufacturer invoices with significantly inflated acquisition costs and submitted those fraudulent invoices to the plans for reimbursement. During the investigation, a SIRIS Request for Investigation Assistance entered by the United States Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General, Defense Criminal Investigative Service helped to identify additional victims.

Throughout the scheme, SSM billed a variety of health care benefit plans more than \$3.5 million and caused more than \$2.1 million in financial loss. As a result of the overwhelming evidence uncovered by the multi-agency investigative team, Gustafson pleaded guilty to health care fraud and tax evasion charges. On September 2, 2020, she was sentenced to 21 months in federal prison and ordered to pay almost \$1.5 million in restitution.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of Inspector General
Defense Criminal Investigative Service

Glenn Watson, *Special Agent*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Robin Bonn, *Special Agent*

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Audrey E. Devinney, *Special Agent*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE United States Attorney's Office District of Oregon

Clemon D. Ashley, *Assistant United States Attorney*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service
Criminal Investigation

Dawn Wandschneider, MBA, *Special Agent*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Office of Inspector General

Molly Morgan, CFE, *Special Agent*

WASHINGTON STATE OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

Criminal Investigations Unit

Ken Harkcom, *Detective*

CAMBIA HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Konnie Mastrovito, *Manager*

KAISER PERMANENTE

Jeff Fairbanks, AHFI, CFE, CPC, *Senior Investigator*