



United States of America v. Shailesh Kothari and Timothy McMenamin

Primera Medical Group

The National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association is proud to recognize the **United States of America v. Shailesh Kothari and Timothy McMenamin** investigation and prosecution teams with this year's **SIRIS Investigation of the Year Award – Honorable Mention**.

This complex fraud scheme was first identified through Anthem, Inc.'s data analysis work. It was discovered that the Primera Medical Group in Georgia offered allergy testing for \$65 and then regularly billed for immunotherapy treatment that, often, was never discussed with the patients and not provided. After additional research, Anthem Senior Investigator, John Iacovelli, determined that this was a multistate healthcare fraud scheme with potential financial impact in excess of \$8.5 million and the potential to negatively affect the health and medical records of numerous patients. Iacovelli referred the matter to the Atlanta Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia.

This case represents a very successful collaboration between private insurers and federal government. In addition to the initial data analytics, Anthem, Inc., the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia engaged other health plans for purposes of information sharing on the case. They employed the use of confidential sources that were developed for purposes of enhancing and advancing the investigation.

In 2019, Shailesh Kothari, the former owner and CEO of Primera Medical Group, Inc. and Timothy McMenamin, Primera's former Chief Operating Officer, were sentenced for 81 months and 94 months, respectively, for conspiracy to commit healthcare fraud and aggravated identity theft based upon charges brought by the United States government. In addition, both Kothari's and McMenamin's sentences included an additional 3 years of supervised release after serving their time and each were ordered to pay over \$1.5 million in restitution.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Federal Bureau of Investigation

Patrick Finno, *Special Agent*
Joshua Keys, *Special Agent*

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

Christopher J. Huber, *Deputy Chief,*
Complex Frauds Section

ANTHEM, INC.

John Iacovelli, *Senior Investigator*