



2021 NHCAA

# Awards Program

*November 17-18, 2021*



NHCAA



# United States of America v. Rashid et al.

**T**he National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association is proud to recognize the **United States of America v. Rashid et al.** investigation and prosecution teams with this year's **Investigation of the Year Award - Honorable Mention.**

The Mashiyat Rashid (Tri-County Physicians Group) case was a \$150 million health care fraud investigation predicated on information from a confidential source together with data analysis that identified multiple physicians working at a Detroit medical practice in addition to their private practices or employment at local hospitals. The practice was owned and operated by Rashid, who masked his ownership of a physician clinic and laboratory under the guise of being a "venture capitalist". The scheme involved multiple defendants participating in a web of fraud that included money laundering, kickbacks, health care fraud, and significant community impact. The scheme involved the prescribing of high-dose opioids to patients in exchange for facet joint injections, medically unnecessary services/procedures, a kickback scheme for unnecessary medical laboratory services, and home health care services for individuals that were not homebound.

In total, Tri-County Physicians Group billed Medicare \$138 million, of which \$43 million were paid. While a majority of the billing was submitted through Medicare, this total does not include the millions of dollars that were billed and paid through home health care companies, Medicaid, and through private insurance.

On March 3, 2021, Rashid was sentenced to 15 years in prison for developing and approving a corporate policy to administer unnecessary back injections to patients in exchange for prescriptions of over 6.6 million doses of medically unnecessary opioids. In addition to the prison sentence, Rashid was also ordered to pay over \$51 million in restitution to Medicare, as well as forfeiture of property traceable to proceeds of the health care fraud scheme to the United States, including over \$11.5 million, commercial real estate, residential real estate, and a Detroit Pistons season ticket membership.



# United States of America v. Rashid et al.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Inspector General  
Office of Investigations

Marc L. Heggemeyer, *Assistant Special Agent  
in Charge*  
Brian Tolan, *Special Agent*

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Criminal Division, Fraud Section

Jacob Foster, *Assistant Chief*  
Thomas J. Tynan, *Trial Attorney*

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Federal Bureau of Investigation

Darcele Jones, *Supervisory Special Agent*  
Stephen T. Osterling, *Special Agent*  
LaFell Peoples, CPA, *Forensic Accountant*

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service  
Criminal Investigation

Jeffrey K. Riedel, *Special Agent*

### BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN

Roger Ramirez, *Investigator*  
Ted S. Wink, AHFI, *Field Investigator*

### COVENTBRIDGE GROUP

Rebecca Virgin, *Program Integrity Supervisor*