

## Report on Medicare Compliance Volume 28, Number 25. July 15, 2019 News Briefs: July 15, 2019

By Nina Youngstrom

♦ Vascular surgeon Vasso Godiali of Bay City, Michigan, was indicted in connection with a \$60 million health fraud scheme, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan said July 10. Godiali allegedly submitted false claims for placing stents in dialysis patients and for treating arterial blood clots. The indictment also alleges the vascular surgeon "exploited medical billing software to improperly maximize payments from Medicare, Medicaid, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan"; billed payers for services not rendered; and inappropriately used modifier 59 to bill for separate and distinct procedures. "The indictment further alleges that Godiali utilized six corporations through which he laundered approximately \$49 million, which he ultimately used to fund investment accounts at multiple financial institutions," the U.S. attorney's office says. "In addition, the indictment alleges that he engaged in money laundering by using proceeds from his scheme to pay property taxes on a Houghton Lake, Michigan, residence." Visit <a href="http://bit.ly/2XTmlWb">http://bit.ly/2XTmlWb</a>.

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