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◆ North Carolina physician Damian Brezinski and his medical group, Wilmington Health, agreed to pay \$244,000 to settle false claims allegations in connection with cardiac stent procedures, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina said Nov. 12. The investigation of Brezinski got underway after a self-disclosure from New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, North Carolina. "The hospital reported that an internal audit uncovered potentially false claims for cardiac stenting procedures that Dr. Brezinski performed in that facility," the U.S. attorney's office said. An independent investigation by the government found that from 2010 to 2014, Brezinski put arterial stents in patients who allegedly didn't need them, according to their medical records. Then he and his medical group billed Medicare and TRICARE for the procedures. The U.S. attorney's office said that New Hanover Regional Medical Center separately agreed to repay \$900,000 in facility fees it received for the stent insertions. There were no admissions of liability. Visit <http://bit.ly/2NGN2Hx>.

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