

## Compliance Today – October 2022



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### CARES Act enforcement is not going away

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The United States government has not let up on the pursuit of fraud related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. On April 20, 2022, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced it was bringing criminal charges against 21 defendants for alleged “false billings to federal programs and theft from federally-funded pandemic assistance programs.”<sup>[1]</sup> The schemes misappropriated \$149 million, involving criminal acts spread across nine federal districts. The alleged criminal conduct was not solely related to pandemic funds. One alleged scheme was to offer individuals COVID-19 testing to obtain identifying information. Once the information was obtained, DOJ alleges it was used to submit fraudulent claims to the Medicare program “for unrelated, medically unnecessary, and far more expensive tests or services.” The April 20 crackdown identified a scheme by a Florida provider who fraudulently billed for telemedicine services that never occurred.

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