

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	Criminal No. 18-12 J
v.)	
)	(21 U.S.C. § 846; and 18 U.S.C. §§ 1347
PETER JAMES RIDELLA)	and 2)

INFORMATION

COUNT ONE

The United States Attorney charges:

From in and around April of 2011, and continuing thereafter to in and around March of 2018 in the Western District of Pennsylvania, the defendant, PETER JAMES RIDELLA, did knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully conspire with persons known to the United States Attorney to distribute a quantity of oxycodone, and hydrocodone and acetaminophen, also known as Percocet, Schedule II controlled substances, contrary to the provisions of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C).

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

COUNT TWO

The United States Attorney further charges:

1. The allegations of Count One are herein realleged and incorporated by reference.

2. Highmark was a private health care benefit program, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), which provided a medical benefit for which payment was made under a plan or contract.

3. The defendant, PETER JAMES RIDELLA, was a physician licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and held a DEA registration to prescribe scheduled narcotics.

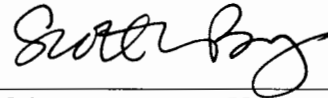
4. From in and around May 2011, and continuing thereafter until in and around March 2018, in the Western District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, the defendant, PETER JAMES RIDELLA, perpetrated a scheme to defraud Highmark, and to obtain, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money and property under the custody and control of Highmark, in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care benefits and services.

5. It was part of and in furtherance of the scheme that the defendant, PETER JAMES RIDELLA, prescribed scheduled medication, primarily oxycodone, and hydrocodone and acetaminophen, also known as Percocet, to a person known to the United States Attorney as J.R., under false pretenses, namely that the prescriptions were provided for a legitimate medical reason and in the usual course of professional practice when in fact they were not.

6. It was further a part of and in furtherance of the scheme that the defendant, PETER JAMES RIDELLA, caused the prescriptions to be filled by pharmacies using Highmark health insurance.

7. It was further a part of and in furtherance of the scheme that the defendant, PETER JAMES RIDELLA, caused Highmark to pay for some of the unlawful prescriptions as if they were issued for a legitimate medical reason and in the usual course of professional practice

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347 and 2.



SCOTT W. BRADY
United States Attorney
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