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CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF. LOS ANGELES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2011 Grand Jury

GR 12 00397

СВ

INDICTMENT

[18 U.S.C. § 1349: Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 1518: Obstruction of a Criminal Investigation of Health Care Fraud Offenses; 18 U.S.C. § 2: Aiding an Abetting and Causing an Act to Be Done]

The Grand Jury charges:

Plaintiff,

Defendant.

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 1349]

A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

ν.

aka "Sophia Lee,"

YEONG JA LEE,

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

The Defendant

Defendant YEONG JA LEE, also known as "Sophia Lee"
("defendant LEE"), was an employee of Greatcare Home Health,
 Inc. ("Greatcare"), from in or about August 2009, to in or about
 December 2010.

2. Defendant LEE was not licensed in California to provide nursing or physical therapy services.

Greatcare

- 3. Greatcare was a home health agency enrolled as a Medicare provider and owned by a co-conspirator, Hee Jung Mun ("Mun").
- 4. Greatcare employed a licensed physical therapist ("PT") ("Co-conspirator 2").
- 5. Between on or about May 1, 2008, and on or about April 30, 2011, Medicare paid Greatcare approximately \$5,416,132 for claims Greatcare submitted relating to home health services.

The Medicare Program

- 6. Medicare was a federal health care benefit program, affecting commerce, that provided benefits to individuals who were over the age of 65 or disabled. Medicare was administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a federal agency under the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- 7. Individuals who qualified for Medicare benefits were referred to as "beneficiaries" and were issued Medicare identification cards with unique Health Insurance Claim Numbers.
- 8. Persons and entities that provided medical services that were reimbursed by Medicare were called Medicare "providers."
- 9. Medicare reimbursed providers for certain types of medically necessary treatment, including home health services provided by qualified home health agencies.
 - 10. Medicare coverage for home health services was limited

to situations in which specified qualifying conditions were met. These conditions included the following:

- a. The Medicare beneficiary was confined to the home and did not have a willing care-giver to assist him or her;
- b. The beneficiary needed skilled nursing services or physical or occupational therapy services;
- c. The beneficiary was under the care of a qualified physician who ordered the services.
- d. The services were performed pursuant to a written Plan of Care for the beneficiary, signed by the physician and a registered nurse ("RN") (or by a PT if only physical therapy services were provided) from the home health agency;
- e. A new Plan of Care was established for each sixty-day episode of services provided.
- f. Skilled nursing services and physical therapy were provided by an RN or PT, respectively, or by a licensed individual under the supervision of an RN or PT in accordance with the Plan of Care; and
- g. The skilled nursing services or physical or occupational therapy were medically necessary.
- 11. Medicare required a home health agency to maintain a clinical record of services provided to each beneficiary, including signed and dated clinical and progress notes recording each home visit.
- 12. Medicare paid home health agencies based on a payment system under which Medicare paid home health agencies for each sixty-day episode of services. The amount of the payment was based primarily on the severity of the beneficiary's health

condition and care needs.

B. THE OBJECT OF THE CONSPIRACY

13. Beginning in or about August 2009, and continuing to on or about December 2010, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California and elsewhere, defendant LEE, together with Mun, co-conspirator 2, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, knowingly combined, conspired, and agreed to commit health care fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347.

C. THE MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

- 14. The object of the conspiracy was carried out, and to be carried out, in substance, as follows:
- a. Defendant LEE would visit Medicare beneficiaries for Greatcare and perform services for those beneficiaries, including massages. Defendant LEE was not licensed to perform these services, as defendant LEE then well knew.
- b. Defendant LEE would write therapy notes for these visits showing that (i) the beneficiaries had received physical therapy when in fact she had only provided massages; and (ii) co-conspirator 2, a licensed PT, had visited the beneficiaries when in fact defendant LEE had done so.
- c. As defendant LEE well knew, co-conspirator 2 would then sign these therapy notes, even though co-conspirator 2 had not in fact made the visits or performed the services shown in the notes and did not know the physical conditions of many of the beneficiaries.
- d. Based in part on defendant LEE's fraudulent conduct, Greatcare would submit false and fraudulent claims to

Medicare for home health services purportedly provided to
Medicare beneficiaries. These claims were false and fraudulent,
in that the beneficiaries (i) were not confined to their homes
or otherwise did not qualify for or need home health services,
(ii) received services from unlicensed individuals, and/or (iii)
did not receive the services for which Medicare was billed.

e. Medicare paid Greatcare approximately \$5,416,132 for these false and fraudulent claims for home health services between May 1, 2008, and April 30, 2011.

COUNT TWO

[18 U.S.C. §§ 1518(a), 2]

- 15. The Grand Jury hereby repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 12 and 14 of this Indictment, as though fully set forth herein.
- 16. On or about March 29, 2011, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant LEE aided and abetted Mun and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury in willfully preventing, obstructing, misleading, and delaying, and attempting to prevent, obstruct, mislead, and delay, the communication of information relating to a violation of a Federal health care offense, namely, conspiracy to commit health care fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, to a criminal investigator. Specifically, on or about March 29, 2011, defendant LEE willfully caused to be submitted to criminal investigators false and fraudulent patient charts, which were for Medicare

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beneficiaries referred to Greatcare for home health services, and which had been prepared by defendant LEE and others known and unknown to this Grand Jury.

A TRUE BILL

Foreperson

ANDRÉ BIROTTE JR. United States Attorney

(9. Dungles

ROBERT E. DUGDALE Assistant United States Attorney Chief, Criminal Division

BEONG-SOO KIM
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Major Frauds Section

CONSUELO S. WOODHEAD Assistant United States Attorney Deputy Chief, Major Frauds Section

KRISTEN A. WILLIAMS Assistant United States Attorney Major Frauds Section