



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR **HEALTHCARE AT HOME**SM

A Connecticut home-health agency with Hartford area operations must pay about \$5.25 million to settle federal allegations of Medicaid fraud

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Stratford-based Family Care Visiting Nurse and Home Care Agency LLC (FCVNA), and owners David A. and Rita C. Krett, agreed to the settlement with the state of Connecticut and the U.S. government, State Attorney General George Jepsen and Connecticut U.S. Attorney Deirdre Daly said Thursday.

FCVNA has offices in Stratford, Woodbridge, Norwalk and Meriden and provides home health services in Hartford, Middlesex, Fairfield and New Haven Counties. FCVNA is enrolled as a provider in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP), which includes the state Medicaid program.

According to investigators, the allegations against FCVNA involved fraudulent billing to Medicaid for certain home health services. The services in question included 60-day assessments, billed to a specific code in the Healthcare Common Procedure coding system. According to the coding standards, this service must be performed by a registered nurse.

Investigators alleged that, from Jan. 1, 2009 to last April 30, FCVNA regularly billed certain codes even though a registered nurse did not provide the assessments as required by Medicaid.

Additionally, it is alleged the agency, with the Kretts' knowledge, submitted claims to Medicaid for patients who were or may have been eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, without first following required procedures for submitting claims to Medicare.

"Home health care providers and other providers who fraudulently bill the Medicaid program drive up the cost of health care for all of us," Daly said in a statement.

FCVNA and the Kretts could not be immediately reached Thursday for comment.

Note: Family Care Visiting Nurse Agency is not a member of the CT Assoc. for Healthcare at Home