



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Burtonsville Pharmacist Convicted of Felony Medicaid Fraud and Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substances**

**BALTIMORE, MD (February 14, 2019)** – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced that Susan Iwunze Nwoga, 48, of Burtonsville, was convicted of one count of Medicaid fraud, one count of theft, and 287 counts of distribution of controlled dangerous substances. Nwoga was convicted after a 6-day bench trial in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City before the Honorable Marcus Z. Shar. Nwoga was remanded pending sentencing, which is scheduled for May 21, 2019.

According to evidence admitted at trial, beginning January 1, 2013, Nwoga submitted false claims to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) in connection with the operation of her pharmacy, Poplar Grove Pharmacy, located at 709 Poplar Street in Baltimore. Specifically, as Poplar Grove’s only pharmacist, Nwoga knowingly filled and distributed fraudulent prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances, as well as other non-scheduled drugs, and submitted fraudulent claims to Medicaid. Nwoga stole over \$365,000 from Medicaid.

“Ms. Nwoga purposefully and unlawfully distributed prescription drugs, contributing to the deadly epidemic of addiction in our state and in our country,” said Attorney General Frosh. “My office is fighting to reduce the unlawful distribution of prescription drugs, whether sold over a pharmacist’s counter or on a street corner.”

Medicaid fraud is a felony punishable by a maximum sentence of five years’ incarceration and a \$100,000 fine. Felony theft over \$100,000 is punishable by a maximum sentence of 20 years incarceration and a \$25,000 fine. Each count for distribution of controlled dangerous substances is a felony punishable by a maximum sentence of 20 years incarceration and a \$15,000 fine or 5 years incarceration and a \$15,000 fine.

In making today’s announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Assistant Attorneys General Catherine Schuster Pascale and Tracee Orlove Fruman, Senior Investigator Shannon Beatty, Senior Investigative Auditor Todd Sheffer, and paralegal Harouna Boncana of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for their work on this case. Attorney General Frosh also thanked the Maryland Department of Health Office of the Inspector General, the Office of Controlled Substances Administration, and the Drug Enforcement Administration for assisting with this case.