



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:
press@oag.state.md.us
410-576-7009

Maryland Physician Sentenced in Felony Medicaid Fraud Investigation

BALTIMORE, MD (July 28, 2023) – Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today announced the sentencing of Vitalis Ohakwe Ojiegbe, 68, of Bowie, Maryland, who pleaded guilty to one count of Medicaid Fraud for writing prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances without a legitimate medical purpose in the Circuit Court for Prince George’s County in June. The Honorable Judge Carol Coderre sentenced Ojiegbe to a five-year suspended sentence with three years’ supervised probation. Ojiegbe was ordered to pay \$16,035.11 in restitution and is also to be excluded from participating in any federally funded healthcare program.

Ojiegbe, a physician specializing in internal medicine, owned and operated Sunrise Medical Clinic, a medical practice located in the 9800 block of Greenbelt Road in Lanham, Maryland. The investigation began following a referral from the Maryland Department of Health’s Office of Controlled Substances Administration (OCSA). OCSA is the state agency responsible for enforcing the Controlled Dangerous Substances Act. Beginning in January 2013 and continuing through June 9, 2019, Ojiegbe charged his patients, many of whom were Medicaid recipients, \$200.00 a month for monthly medical appointments, even though the patients could have seen a Medicaid provider free of charge. In exchange for these cash payments, Ojiegbe prescribed controlled dangerous substances, including oxycodone and alprazolam, without a legitimate medical purpose.

This case was prosecuted by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Attorney General’s Office in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Attorney General Brown thanked Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Assistant Attorneys General Lisa Marts and Cathy Schuster Pascale, Fraud Analyst Todd Sheffer and Investigator Michael Glenn for their work on the case. Attorney General Brown also thanked Special Agent James Browning of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit receives 75 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award totaling \$4,908,456 for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2023. The remaining 25 percent, totaling \$1,636,148 for FY 2023, is funded by the state of Maryland.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2023/072823.pdf>