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## Ocean County Pharmacy Agrees to \$878,000 Medicaid Settlement

TRENTON – Madison Avenue Pharmacy of Lakewood, N.J. and its owner will repay \$878,083 to the Medicaid program after a pharmacy inventory analysis conducted by the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller, Medicaid Fraud Division ("MFD"), revealed that the pharmacy was paid for claims for which it could not provide purchase invoices.

"The pharmacy inventory investigations that we routinely conduct ensure that Medicaid funds are being spent appropriately," State Comptroller Philip James Degnan said. "Through this process, our investigators verify that submitted claims are supported by proper documentation. When the pharmacy cannot provide sufficient documentation, we will act aggressively to pursue a recovery on behalf of the Medicaid program."

The settlement between Madison Avenue Pharmacy and MFD resolves all allegations resulting from this investigation, but does not amount to an admission of liability by the pharmacy.

MFD serves as the state's independent watchdog for New Jersey's various Medicaid programs and works to ensure that the state's Medicaid dollars are being spent effectively and efficiently. As part of its oversight role, MFD audits and investigates health care providers, managed care organizations and Medicaid recipients to identify and recover improperly expended Medicaid funds and identify and redress quality of care issues affecting the health of Medicaid recipients.

Suspected Medicaid waste, fraud or abuse can be reported to the MFD by calling its toll-free hotline at (888)937-2835 or by submitting a complaint form located at the following address:

http://www.state.nj.us/comptroller/divisions/medicaid/complaint.html.

Click  $\underline{\text{here}}$  to view the complete settlement.

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