

## **Group Charged Government for Unneeded Treatments**

A doctor in California has been sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Xinming Fu was the last member of a group of 17 people guilty of health care fraud.

The group included six doctors. Members paid the owners of care homes to let them talk to people living there -- seniors and the mentally ill. Then they arranged respiratory (breathing) tests for them. The tests were not needed, not done the right way, or not done at all. But the group charged Medicare (a program which pays health costs for the elderly and others) for the tests.

Members got people to agree to the tests by offering them snacks and cigarettes. Sometimes, people were away in a hospital -- but the group still charged for a test at the care home.

This case took six years to finish.

Source:

<http://losangeles.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel10/la052610.htm>

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