

Opelika physician indicted for health care fraud

Drew Taylor | Opelika-Auburn News | Twitter May 1, 2014

An Opelika doctor has been indicted by a federal grand jury for health care fraud, according to federal prosecutors.

Dr. Yashica Robinson-White, 38, of Opelika was recently indicted by a federal grand jury for health care fraud totaling over \$60,000 and for introducing misbranded drugs into interstate commerce. The indictment was handed down April 24, but was sealed until Wednesday.

The six-count indictment, which was filed in U.S. District Court, charges Robinson-White with committing health care fraud through the Alabama Women's Wellness Center, her OB-GYN practice that provided birth control services to patients in east Alabama.

The indictment alleges that between November 2010 and April 2012, Robinson-White intentionally defrauded Alabama Medicaid by fraudulently billing the organization \$60,300 for misbranded birth control devices known as intrauterine devices that came through a provider in Great Neck, N.Y. The indictment listed at least five Medicaid patients that had allegedly been administered the misbranded IUDs, which had not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and were cheaper than legal IUDs.

"The Medicaid Program is designed to help those families and women in need," U.S. Attorney George Beck said in a press release. "But when Medicaid pays for those services, it expects that the patients will receive legitimate, legal drugs and products. When a doctor uses unapproved drugs and products, the doctor interferes with the ability of the Alabama Medicaid Agency to deliver quality health care to the public. This office will continue to investigate and prosecute health care fraud of this kind aggressively and thoroughly."

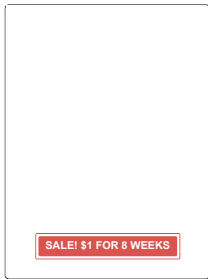
Ty Howard, Robinson-White's attorney based in Nashville, said his client fully cooperated with the government throughout the investigation and that he is disappointed the government chose to seek an indictment against her.

"To the extent of their allegations of intentional fraudulent conduct, we would unequivocally deny those allegations," Howard said. "She had a good practice and we certainly look forward to getting a swift resolution to this matter."

Beck said the case was brought to his attention by the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations, who had identified more than 1,000 doctors and clinics nationwide that had been receiving misbranded drugs and products.

Each count of the health care fraud scheme carries a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, while the misbranding count carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Attorney Jack Levy of Birmingham is also representing Robinson-White, while Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bob Anderson and Denise Simpson will prosecute the



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