



Friday, October 30, 2009

Prevention and Early Detection of Health Care Fraud, Abuse, and Waste

MODERATOR

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Director

SPEAKERS

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Edward Litchko is the senior director, Corporate and Financial Investigations Department, Independence Blue Cross (IBC) and Family of Companies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His

department is responsible for preventing, detecting, and investigating all potential areas of fraud, waste, and abuse against company assets. His department is also responsible for conducting audits of medical and pharmacy related claims submitted by professional, hospital, ancillary service, and pharmaceutical providers and to secure financial recoveries of any overpaid claims. Mr. Litchko serves as the health care industry representative to the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority, and is the vice-chairman of the Blue Cross Blue Shield National Anti-Fraud Advisory Board. He has been a member of the National Healthcare Anti-Fraud Association since 2000, and is a member of the New Jersey Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor Health Care Working Group.

Prior to IBC, Mr. Litchko served as special agent-in charge (SAIC) of the Internal Revenue Service's Philadelphia Field Office of the Criminal Investigation Division and the SAIC of the Newark New Jersey and Foreign Operations Field Offices. He retired from the U.S. Army in August 2002 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Litchko earned a degree in business administration from Bloomsburg University and attended the University of Baltimore's MBA program.



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Cesar Arias is a registered pharmacist and private investigator. He is a former drug agent supervisor for the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Statewide Pharmaceutical Services, where he supervised drug agents to regulate the pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers in South Florida. In April of 2001, Mr. Arias was instrumental in discovering counterfeit Neupogen in the U.S. drug supply. The resulting Operation Stonecold Task Force uncovered counterfeit drug rings operating in the South Florida, including the sale of counterfeit of Epogen, Procrit, and Lipitor. Operation Stonecold led to major changes in Florida pharmaceutical law, and many of those changes have been adopted by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. The story of Operation Stonecold is retold in the book *Dangerous Doses* by New York Times reporter Katherine Eban (Harcourt, 2005). Mr. Arias currently consults for major insurers on issues related to health care fraud. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Florida.

