



**For Immediate Release – August 11, 2010**

**AMTRAK OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNOUNCES SENTENCING OF  
FORMER PHYSICIAN FOR HEALTH CARE FRAUD**

Sushil Sheth, a cardiologist, who surrendered his medical license, was sentenced to five years in federal prison for stealing approximately thirteen million dollars from Medicare and more than thirty other public and private health care insurance programs, including one at Amtrak, over roughly five years, Amtrak Inspector General Alves announced today. Sheth provided false information to Medicare and other insurers to receive millions of dollars for medical services which were never rendered to patients. Sheth used the fraud proceeds to live a lavish lifestyle, purchasing a suburban mansion, property in Arizona, luxury automobiles, and investing in various venture capital opportunities.

Sheth used his hospital privileges to access and obtain information about patients without their knowledge or consent. He then hired individuals to bill Medicare and other insurance providers for medical services that he purportedly rendered to patients whom he knew he never treated. Typically waiting almost a year after the treatment was purportedly provided, Sheth submitted more than 14,800 false claims for reimbursement for providing the highest level of cardiac care requiring hands on treatment in an intensive care unit on multiple days during patients' hospital stays. Sheth regularly submitted claims seeking payment that, when added together, had him providing more than 24 hours of medical services and treatment in a single day. Sheth falsely billed Amtrak \$591, 285 for critical cardiac care services that were not

rendered. The investigation was conducted by a multi-agency task force that included the FBI and numerous Offices of Inspectors General and was prosecuted by an Assistant United States Attorney in Chicago.

Sheth was also ordered to pay restitution totaling approximately \$13 million and he agreed to forfeit property and funds totaling more than \$11.3 million that the government seized from him. As part of Sheth's sentencing, he was ordered to pay restitution to Amtrak. "Health care fraud is one of our highest investigative priorities. We will work with Amtrak to protect and maintain the integrity of its health care program", said Amtrak Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Adrienne Rish.

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