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CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Feds charge 3 pharmacists, a physician, and 2 recruiters in 3-year fraud scheme in Detroit

The US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan filed an indictment on May 17 naming 6 individuals in a scheme to unlawfully distribute Schedule II drugs from January 2015 until March 2018. The government alleges that \$9.6 million worth of controlled substances, primarily oxycodone and oxymorphone, were illegally obtained by issuance of fraudulent prescriptions. 2 individuals were named as "recruiters" who located individuals willing to be named on prescriptions issued by the defendant physician, that were then filled in pharmacies by the 3 named pharmacist defendants. The drugs were then sold on the street. All defendants were charged with conspiracy to possess controlled substances with intent to distribute. Other charges were:

- Pharmacist 1: 24 counts of unlawful distribution and 2 counts of money laundering;
- Pharmacist 2: 17 counts of unlawful distribution;
- Pharmacist 3: 6 counts of unlawful distribution;
- Physician: 24 counts of unlawful distribution;
- Recruiter 1: 30 counts of unlawful distribution, 1 count of obstruction of justice, and 1 count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon;
- Recruiter 2: 30 counts of unlawful distribution.

[United States of America v. Sodiya-Ogundipe et al., No. 2:18-cr-20351, E.D. Mich., filed May 7, 2018]