

## Eli's Rehab Report

### Medicare Fraud Lands Therapy Clinic Owners In The Slammer

**Court doubles down -- owners must also pay \$345K each in restitution.**

You'd better provide the therapy services you bill for or the feds will catch up with you - and the fallout won't be pretty.

That's the lesson **Aaron and Michelle Clark** of **Superior Physical Therapy** in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., have learned after a U.S. District Court sentenced the couple to jail time and steep fines for defrauding Medicare and **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan** (BCBSM), the Associated Press reports.

In a written plea agreement, Aaron Clark admitted to a felony charge of health care fraud and Michelle Clark admitted to a misdemeanor charge of theft from a health care benefit program after allegations that the couple used different schemes to obtain payment for services they either didn't provide or that didn't qualify as physical therapy.

Price tag: Aaron Clark will spend two years in prison followed by three years of supervised release. He must pay \$345,000 in restitution. Michelle will spend 90 days in prison with one year of supervised release. She, too, must pay back \$345,000, according to a press release by the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**.

The fraud was uncovered by a joint investigation by the FBI, the Office of Inspector General for the **Department of Health and Human Services**, and BCBSM officials.