

Eli's Hospice Insider

Fraud & Abuse: Gentiva Agrees To \$25 Million Settlement Over Odyssey Continuous Care Fraud Charges

Five-year corporate integrity agreement requires education, audits.

Another fraud settlement regarding hospice services shows how seriously the feds are cracking down on the industry.

Odyssey Hospice, now a part of Atlanta-based **Gentiva Health Services Inc.**, has entered into a settlement agreement with the Department of Justice and a five-year corporate integrity agreement with the **HHS Office of Inspector General**, Gentiva says in a release. The investigation involved Odyssey's provision of continuous care services from January 2006 through January 2009.

Odyssey is paying \$25 million to settle unspecified fraud charges. The CIA also requires education for employees and audits, Gentiva says in the release.

The alleged fraud occurred before Gentiva bought Odyssey for \$1 billion back in 2010. "The settlement is consistent with our efforts to instill Gentiva's culture of compliance throughout the company," says **John Camperlengo**, Gentiva General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer. "We remain extremely proud of ... Gentiva's efforts to ensure strict compliance with all regulatory requirements," Camperlengo says in the release.

Note: You can see Odyssey's CIA at

http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/cia/agreements/Odyssey_Healthcare_Services_Inc_02132012.pdf.