

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Hospice Owner Pleads Guilty To Kickbacks

A California home health and hospice agency owner has pleaded guilty to fraud and kickback charges.

Akop Atoyan and his wife, **Liana Karapetyan**, owners of ANG Health Care Inc., Excel Home Healthcare Inc., and Excel Hospice Inc. in the Sacramento area, paid kickbacks to hospital and SNF employees and their spouses in return for referrals, the Department of Justice says in a release. Medicare paid the agencies more than \$2 million for the claims for those referred patients.



In addition to the guilty plea, Atoyan agreed to repay \$5 million in restitution. Karapetyan and the kickback recipients also have pleaded guilty in the scheme and await sentencing, the DOJ notes.