

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Hospice Settles Qui Tam Suit for \$1.3 Million

Hospice owner personally liable for \$200K.

More evidence that the feds are cracking down on hospice patient eligibility comes in a seven-figure False Claims Act lawsuit settlement.

Harmony Care Hospice Inc. based in Columbia, S.C. and its owner/CEO **Daniel Burton** will pay \$1.3 million to settle charges that the hospice knowingly submitted claims for ineligible hospice patients, the **Department of Justice** says in a release. Burton is individually liable for \$200,000 of the settlement amount, the DOJ says.

The patients at issue did not have a six-month prognosis, the DOJ alleges.

The settlement resolves a qui tam lawsuit filed by former Harmony employees **Mona Singletary** and **Lynda Fulton**, Justice says. The staffers will share \$245,000 of the settlement.

Harmony and Burton will enter into a corporate integrity agreement with the **HHS Office of Inspector General**, according to the release.