

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Notorious Novus Case Yields Another Guilty Plea

A fourth defendant has pleaded guilty in the case against **Novus Health**, in which the feds allege Novus CEO **Bradley Harris** directed hospice nurses to speed up the death of elderly patients by administering certain drugs (see Eli's Hospice Insider, Vol. 10, No. 4).

Former Novus medical director **Charles Leach**, medical director for Novus from 2014 to 2015, admitted to his role in the \$60 million scheme last month, saying he signed blank prescriptions and was aware Harris often directed the medical operations, according to press reports. But Leach's attorney told the Dallas Morning News that Leach was "horrified to find out" that Harris was ordering the team to hasten patient deaths.

Leach, who was one of six physicians indicted in the case, faces sentencing Dec. 10. The rest of the Novus defendants who haven't pleaded guilty face trial in January. Among those who have entered guilty pleas so far are nursing supervisor **Jessica Love** and operations director **Melanie Murphey**.