

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Hospice News: Whistleblower Lawsuit Leads To \$1.75 Million Settlement

Aggressive marketing goals and sham medical director payments have led to a hefty settlement for an Atlanta hospice.

From 2013 to 2017, **STG Healthcare of Atlanta Inc.** submitted claims for patients who weren't terminally ill, the **Department of Justice** says in a release. "STG Healthcare's business practices - setting aggressive goals for enrolling patients and failing to supervise properly the admission practices of its staff and medical directors - resulted in the submission of claims for ineligible patients," the DOJ maintains.

STG Healthcare, operating as **Interim Healthcare of Atlanta**, also paid a referring physician to be a "back up" medical director, but the doc did not serve as a legitimate hospice physician, the government contends.

STG and its senior executives, **Paschal "Pat" Gilley** and **Mathew Gilley**, agreed to pay \$1.75 million to settle the charges that were sparked by a whistleblower lawsuit filed by former employees **Serita Samuel** and **Miranda Eskridge**.

"Hospice is not a blank check for unscrupulous medical providers willing to admit patients who are not terminally ill," said U.S. Attorney **Byung J. "BJay" Pak** in the release. "We will ... continue to prioritize cases where it appears that a medical decision, especially the decision to forego curative treatment, has been influenced by a kickback."