

Eli's Hospice Insider

Reader Question: Whistleblowers Receive Cool \$10 Million In Fraud Settlement

Long-term care company **Genesis Healthcare Inc.** has agreed to pay \$53.6 million to settle six federal lawsuits and investigations about billing for unnecessary hospice services, among other violations. Three of the four sets of allegations in the case pertain to therapy and "grossly substandard" nursing home care. But one of the sets of allegations covered by the settlement is that from April 2010 through March 2013, **Skilled Healthcare Group Inc.** and its subsidiaries **Skilled Healthcare** and **Creekside Hospice II** submitted or caused to be submitted false claims to Medicare for services performed at the Creekside Hospice facility in Las Vegas, the **Department of Justice** says in a release. Skilled and Creekside billed for hospice services for patients who were not terminally ill and billed inappropriately for certain physician evaluation management services, the DOJ charges.

Seven whistleblowers will receive \$9.67 million as their share of the recovery, the DOJ notes. The settlement amount was based on the company's ability to pay, the DOJ points out.