



## State of New Jersey

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### **Essex County Advanced Practice Nurse Agrees to Pay \$90,000 and be Debarred from Medicaid Participation**

TRENTON – An Essex County Advanced Practice Nurse has entered into a settlement with the Office of the State Comptroller, Medicaid Fraud Division (“MFD”). The terms of the settlement include the payment of \$90,000 in restitution and an agreement to a two-year debarment from the Medicaid program, effective April 26, 2018.

Udoka J. Ejiofor, A.P.N., sole owner of Luminous Cares, LLC in East Orange, New Jersey was the subject of an investigation by the MFD. MFD investigators determined that over a two-year period, Ejiofor routinely submitted claims to Medicaid for psychotherapy and evaluation and management visits that he did not provide. MFD Investigators also found that on several dates he billed Medicaid for “impossible days,” i.e. he billed for more than 24 hours of services in a single day.

“By billing the Medicaid program for vital psychotherapy services that our investigation revealed were not provided to his patients, this provider has demonstrated a glaring lack of responsibility and integrity,” State Comptroller Philip James Degnan said. “The debarment of Ejiofor and Luminous Cares is warranted and necessary to protect the interests of the Medicaid program based on the evidence our investigation uncovered.”

MFD serves as the state’s independent watchdog for New Jersey’s various Medicaid programs and works to ensure that the state’s Medicaid dollars are being spent effectively and efficiently. As part of its oversight role, MFD audits and investigates health care providers, managed care organizations and Medicaid recipients to identify and recover improperly expended Medicaid funds and identify and redress quality of care issues affecting the health of Medicaid recipients.

The claims settled by this agreement are allegations only; there have been no admissions of liability.

Suspected Medicaid waste, fraud or abuse can be reported to the MFD by calling its toll-free hotline at (888) 937-2835 or by submitting a complaint form located at the following address: <http://www.state.nj.us/comptroller/divisions/medicaid/complaint.html>.

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A copy of the settlement can be viewed by clicking [here](#).