



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
MEDICAID FRAUD DIVISION
P.O. BOX 025
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0025
(609) 826-4700

PHILIP JAMES DEGNAN
State Comptroller

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

JOSH LICHTBLAU
Director

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Contact: Jeff Lamm
609-633-2377

Hudson County Pediatric Dentist Agrees to Pay \$90,000, and be Debarred from Medicaid Participation

TRENTON – A Union City, New Jersey pediatric dentist has entered into a settlement with the Office of the State Comptroller, Medicaid Fraud Division (“MFD”). The terms of the settlement include the dentist paying \$90,000 and agreeing to a three-and-a-half year debarment from the Medicaid program, effective September 15th, 2017.

Kevin P. Ward, D.D.S., sole owner of Children’s Dental Center in Union City, was the subject of an investigation by the MFD. MFD investigators determined that Ward submitted “dishonest, deceptive, and/or misrepresentative” claims to Medicaid for reimbursement that resulted in overpayments. MFD also found that Ward allowed an unlicensed employee, Tzipora Ozery, to engage in the practice of “dental radiologic technology” in violation of State laws and regulations.

MFD investigators additionally found that Ward permitted employees to use improperly sterilized dental instruments and to re-use single-use items such as saliva ejectors.

“The health of patients was needlessly placed at risk by the actions of Ward and his employees,” State Comptroller Philip James Degnan said. “The debarment from the Medicaid program for Ward, Ozery and Children’s Dental Center is warranted based on the evidence our investigation uncovered.”

The state licensing board had previously taken disciplinary action against Ward following allegations a decade ago that the dentist broke the bones of some patients during treatment.

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.

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](#).