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Morris County Pharmacy Agrees to \$309,000 Settlement

TRENTON – Valley Pharmacy of Succasunna, N.J. and its owner will pay \$300,000 to the Medicaid program plus \$9,000 in interest, after Medicaid Fraud Division ("MFD") investigators within the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller found that the pharmacy had failed to disclose significant adverse information in its Medicaid application.

Specifically, MFD investigators found that a managing employee of the pharmacy had been suspended from the New York State Medicaid program following a criminal conviction tied to the Medicaid program. This information was not disclosed by Valley Pharmacy when the pharmacy sought to enter the Medicaid program in New Jersey.

"Accurate and full disclosure is required to participate in the Medicaid program, for good reason," State Comptroller Philip James Degnan said. "We screen applicants to ensure the integrity of the Medicaid program and to flag potential issues as early as possible."

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 tollfree 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.

Click $\underline{\text{here}}$ to view the complete settlement.

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