

News Release



January 26, 1993

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MIAMI CLINIC OWNER SENTENCED

JACKSONVILLE -- After pleading no contest to two counts of insurance fraud and two counts of grand theft, Gloria Gutierrez, president of Clinica Panamericana in Miami, was sentenced today to three years probation and ordered to pay restitution and investigative expenses totalling \$2,428 for giving "kickbacks" to patients after billing their insurance companies.

The Florida Division of Insurance Fraud, in cooperation with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's (BCBSF) Special Investigation Unit, conducted an investigation after receiving complaints about the clinic. "In this case, BCBSF was billed more than \$2,200 for services that were never rendered," said Charles A. Hammaker, Jr., director of security and asset protection for BCBSF.

BCBSF's anti-fraud program includes activities that range from a telephone hotline to assisting in government investigations. The program resulted in more than \$1.8 million in recoveries and savings last year, a 50 percent increase over 1991 savings of nearly \$1.2 million.

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Customers or concerned citizens who suspect any type of fraud against BCBSF should call the toll-free fraud hotline at 1-800-678-8355 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Suspected Medicare fraud should be reported to the Medicare Fraud department of BCBSF at 1-800-333-7586.