



FEB 03 2012

Bharani Padmanabhan, M.D., Ph.D.
30 Gardner Road, #6A
Brookline, MA 02445

Dear Dr. Padmanabhan:

This letter is in response to your December 25, 2011, correspondence to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Inspector General, concerning allegations of poor quality of care provided to patients at hospitals affiliated with the Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA). You also allege that CHA has fraudulently billed Medicare for millions of dollars.

OIG is responsible for reducing fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the programs of HHS, such as Medicare and Medicaid. To achieve this mission, the Office of Investigations (OI) often works closely with its partner agencies and contractors. After reviewing your complaint, OI has determined that this matter should be initially referred to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Boston Regional Office, Division of Quality Improvement (DQI), for review and appropriate action. CMS regional offices administer the Medicare program at the local level and ensure that providers are abiding by their agreements. DQI is responsible for improving the overall quality of medical care received by Medicare beneficiaries. The Boston Regional Office DQI investigates complaints related to quality of medical care received from Medicare providers in the State of Massachusetts. If fraudulent activity is identified, DQI will refer the matter back to OI. Accordingly, OI has referred your complaint to: CMS, Boston Regional Office, Office of the Regional Administrator, DQI, JFK Federal Building, Suite 2325, Boston, MA 02203. This office can also be contacted at (617) 565-1323.

In regard to your allegations concerning Medicare billing fraud, we have referred your complaint to the CMS Boston Regional Office, Division of Financial Management and Fee for Service Operations (DFMFSO), for review and appropriate action. DFMFSO is responsible for overseeing benefit integrity complaints and safeguarding the Medicare Trust Fund. If fraudulent activity is identified, DFMFSO will refer the matter back to OI. DFMFSO can be contacted at the address noted above or by calling (617) 565-1331.

We are deeply committed to ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of all the programs of HHS and would like to thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Trussell
Acting Director
Investigations Branch