



Fraud News

June 2019: Issue 01



NHS Castle Point & Rochford & Southend CCG

Coming Up In This Issue:

Welcome to the Fraud Newsletter
Understanding NHS Fraud
LCFS Summary

Page Number 1
Page Number 3
Page Number 7

Know your Local Counter Fraud Officer
Latest Fraud Convictions

Page Number 2
Page Number 4

NHS Castle Point & Rochford & Southend CCG: Counter Fraud Newsletter



Welcome to the Fraud Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Counter Fraud Newsletter from the new Counter Fraud Specialist. The newsletter is designed to bring recent cases or emerging scams to your attention to help you recognise the signs of potential fraud in the workplace.

This edition focuses on knowing your organisations new Local Counter Fraud Specialist (LCFS) and details on how to report fraud if you have any suspicions. It also gives an insight into the working day of an LCFS and understanding NHS Fraud.

The newsletter also provides details on the latest local and national convictions.

HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIONS OF FRAUD

If you have a suspicion of fraud or corruption taking place within your workplace you have a variety of options as to the best way to report it.

Option 1: Call Eleni Gill directly on **07827 308906** or by email: eleni.gill@nhs.net

Option 2: The Fraud & Corruption National Reporting Line is a free phone number where you can report suspicions in relation to any area of the NHS. You can leave your name or do it anonymously, either way we have a duty to investigate all alleged fraud. The number for this service is **0800 028 40 60**

Option 3: Contact the CFO Mark Barker on: Mark.barker@nhs.net



Is there anything you want to see reported in the next newsletter? The LCFS is keen to hear your views about the current newsletter and any ideas for future content that you may have.

Are there any aspects of fraud you would like explained in more detail?

The LCFS is happy to attend team meetings or speak to groups of staff regarding any concerns they have.

Email: eleni.gill@nhs.net



Fraud News

June 2019: Issue 01

Know Your Local Counter Fraud Officer

How did you get the role of LCFS?

"I had been working in the NHS as a Manager and had always had an interest in investigations and fraud. I began the counter fraud training and applied for the post of LCFS and was successful on the understanding that I would complete the course successfully. I completed the training in 2013 and have been working as an LCFS in various organisations since. "



What do you do on a day to day basis?

"There is a counter fraud work plan that is agreed with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) at the start of every year, including a number of prevention and detection activities. Investigations commence as soon as an allegation is received.

There is no typical day for an LCFS but there are recurring tasks that take place such as:

9.am – Start by checking and replying to urgent emails and prioritise any that involve whistle blowing. This means when a member of staff wants to report a concern about a potential fraud within their workplace.

11am – Contact the CFO to discuss and gain approval of the Audit Committee Meeting papers and update them on any current or new

investigations discussing actions and decisions taken so far and agreeing a way forward.

13.00 – I meet a whistle blower to discuss their concerns and gain a clearer understanding and decide if the allegation is strong enough to merit investigation.

15.00 – I follow this up by following initial lines of enquiry to obtain as much evidence as possible to further the investigation.

16.00 – I update FIRST (National Intelligence Reporting System), a tool especially designed for fraud investigators. Its use is mandatory, so work can be monitored to ensure it meets the required standards.

17.00 – I answer any urgent enquires that have come in during the day and begin to list priorities for the next day."

What are the common things you investigate?

"Working Whilst Sick – Getting paid sick leave whilst working for another organisation.

Travel or expense claims – Submitting expense claims knowing they are inaccurate in order to make a gain

Private work in NHS time – working on private work whilst getting paid for NHS work on NHS time."

What is the most interesting thing you have investigated?

"Students submitting false qualifications to get access to NHS funded nursing courses. The story was featured on BBC1 'The Fraud Squad' in February 19. "



Understanding NHS Fraud

NHS Counter Fraud Authority launch new resource to increase understanding of NHS Fraud



You probably know that only a minority of staff would dream of defrauding the NHS – but do you know the different ways they might try to do it? You've probably heard about fraud in procurement – but can you tell your bid rigging from your price fixing? If your answer to these questions is no, the NHS fraud reference guide <https://cfa.nhs.uk/fraud-prevention/reference-guide> could help you. The guide was developed by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) to provide information and resources on different types of fraud affecting the NHS.

It follows a classification (taxonomy) of NHS fraud which is already in use by the NHSCFA, and a brief definition is provided for each of the fraud types included in the guide.

The content of the guide will be expanded during the 2019-20 financial year, for example to provide fraud prevention advice and awareness resources. The NHS fraud reference guide is part of a wider programme of work which aims to increase understanding of fraud risks across the NHS and provide fraud prevention advice and guidance to mitigate those risks.

Kevin Cane, Fraud Prevention Manager at NHSCFA said:

"Our hope is that by raising awareness about different types of fraud affecting the NHS, the NHS fraud reference guide will make NHS staff, patients and the public better able to prevent fraud and to spot it where it occurs. This in turn will improve the NHS's ability to deal with fraud effectively."



Latest Fraud Convictions

Defrauded NHS Trust is paid back £1.2m



From top left: Stephen Tyndale, Monica Thomson, Abdul Naeem, Asif Habib, Imtiaz Khoda

A payment of £1.2 million has been received by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, as a result of a Proceeds of Crime compensation order and collaboration between agencies to tackle fraud.

Substantial payments have also been awarded by the courts to other NHS trusts who fell victim to the same organised crime group: North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has received £298,219.79 and Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust has received £216,584.76.

The original fraud and money laundering investigation led by Lincolnshire Police revealed that a criminal group (Pictured left) defrauded £12 million from various public bodies including a number of NHS bodies, councils and housing associations around the UK

The Guernsey government was also targeted, losing £2.6 million. The fraudsters employed forged letters, emails and faxes to masquerade as a legitimate firm and divert payments to themselves.

Continued on Page 5.



Fraud News

June 2019: Issue 01

Continued from Page 4

The investigation resulted in over 50 years of prison sentences in total. The 14th member of the crime group to be convicted, Bayo Awonorin, was sentenced in January this year to nine years and six months' imprisonment, after pleading guilty to conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to launder money. He had fled the UK whilst on bail but was tracked down in the US by Lincolnshire Police and extradited. Another conspirator was sentenced to three-and-a-half-years imprisonment in January 2018, after being detained in Germany on a European Arrest Warrant.

The international nature of the case went further: funds were laundered through business accounts in the UK, Dubai, Turkey and Poland and some of those funds were later moved back to the UK. One of the conspirators, Oluwatoyin Allison, remains wanted. He was convicted in his absence in April 2017 and jailed for seven years.

Operation Tarlac began back in September 2011, with a complaint of fraud from Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

A payment to a building firm of £1.28 million towards a new mental health rehabilitation unit had gone missing. A further 20 linked offences and total losses of £12.6 million suffered by various parties were identified. In sentencing, Judge Philip Head, described it as a "sophisticated and widespread fraud in its conception and execution" with the loss falling on the tax payer.



The poster features the NHS logo at the top left, followed by the text 'Counter Fraud Authority' and 'Report Fraud' in large orange letters. Below this is the website 'www.cfa.nhs.uk'. The background is a dark blue image of a person in a blue uniform looking down, overlaid with a circular graphic of blue and orange segments.

Remember – you can help us to identify potentially poor practices which could lead to these types of fraud taking place. If something just ‘doesn’t quite feel right’, let us know. You can:

- 1 – Contact Eleni Gill, LCFS, on 07827 308906 or by email eleni.gill@nhs.net;
- 2 – Call the National Fraud & Corruption Reporting Line on 0800 028 40 60; or
- 3 – Contact Mark Barker, CFO, on Mark.barker@nhs.net



Convicted NHS fraudster ordered to hand over all assets



Convicted NHS dialysis manager, Alan Hodge has been told he must pay the NHS £30,720 following his role in a large fraud against Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, or face an extra 9 months in jail (Croydon Crown Court, 7 March 2019).

Hodge (55), of Aultone Way, Sutton, Surrey, was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment in December 2016 following an investigation by both national and local NHS fraud investigators. As the Trust's Renal Technical Department Manager, he awarded contracts to three company owners with whom he colluded to inflate invoices for work that was substandard and sometimes not completed at all.

The group were sentenced to 10.5 years in total in December 2016. After their convictions, NHSCFA Financial Investigators began the process to recover money stolen and return it to the NHS. With Proceeds of Crime Act orders already having been granted for three of the fraudsters, the NHSCFA has continued to progress action against Hodge. The NHSCFA demonstrated that he had £30,720 of available assets, including his £30,000 share of his former home and a £720 scooter. He has been instructed to pay the total amount within three months (by 7 June 2019) or face a further 9 months' imprisonment. The money will go straight back to the NHS and the NHSCFA will now continue to explore all other avenues to recover the money taken, including working with NHS Pensions to consider accessing the financial value of Hodge's NHS Pension Scheme.

"We know that the vast majority of people would not dream of taking money out of the NHS – with your help we can help make sure that anyone who would do this is brought to justice, and the money put back into patient care, where it belongs."



LCFS Summary



Remember: I'm here to help protect the NHS from fraud and corruption, but I can't do this alone, I can't be everywhere, and I need your help.

If you think something seems 'suspicious' and want to chat anything through, you can always email me on eleni.gill@nhs.net or call me on 07827 308906 and we can discuss your concerns. If you would prefer, you can always raise your concerns via the NHS Fraud & Corruption Reporting Line on 0800 028 40 60 or to Mark Barker via Mark.barker@nhs.net

Please don't worry about raising your concerns, you will be protected by the Whistleblowing policy for all concerns raised in good faith, and no one will be disadvantaged if enquiries find that no wrongdoing has occurred. It is better to report a concern that turns out to be nothing, than not say anything and a fraud is being perpetrated costing the NHS money and ultimately affecting the care we offer patients.

Eleni Gill Local Counter Fraud Specialist