

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Program Integrity

Date: June 26, 2014
To: All Part D Plan Sponsors
From: Mark Majestic
Acting Director, Medicare Program Integrity Group
Re: Prescribing Providers of Wellness Clinic of Roland, OK

The Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) was notified by the National Benefit Integrity Medicare Drug Integrity Contractor (NBI MEDIC) of credible allegations and subsequent investigations indicating that opioid and other pain medications often sought by drug-seeking Medicare beneficiaries are being overprescribed by providers practicing at Wellness Clinic on 205 E. Ray Fine Boulevard in Roland, Oklahoma 74954.

Our office is alerting you to this information so that you will take appropriate measures to protect the Part D prescription drug benefit you offer with regard to the following prescribing providers:

Prescribing Provider	NPI Number
Dr. Ronald V. Myers, Sr.	1366620833
Dr. John C. Friedl	1518014729
Dr. George Howell	1730252289
Bernard Tougas, Physician Assistant	1366434680

The NBI MEDIC investigations revealed the clinic and its providers do not accept insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid, for payments of office visits. They accept cash or credit card payments only. Numerous Medicare beneficiaries are traveling several hundred miles seeking office visits with these prescribing providers.

On February 21, 2014, law enforcement informed the NBI MEDIC Dr. Howell voluntarily surrendered his DEA Controlled Substance registration and Oklahoma Controlled Dangerous Substance registration and Dr. Friedl is no longer employed by the clinic and is practicing at another clinic located in Arkansas.

Additionally, the NBI MEDIC was informed by area law enforcement officials that many area pharmacies no longer will dispense medications to patients of the above providers due to their concerns of the questionable prescribing practices.

If you have questions, please direct them to your CMS Account Manager or to Martina Gilly of the National Benefit Integrity MEDIC at gillym@healthintegrity.org.