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By Nina Youngstrom

♦ A Houston woman was ordered to pay \$15 million in restitution after she was convicted of health care fraud and money laundering, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas said March 6. Daniela Gozes—Wagner also will serve 240 months in prison. She conspired with other people to bill Medicare and Medicaid for millions of dollars of medical tests that weren't performed or weren't medically necessary. The tests took place at 28 facilities that were actually empty offices, the U.S. attorney's office said. Gozes—Wagner tried to keep Medicare from learning about the scheme by hiring "seat warmers" —women paid to answer phones in nearly empty offices, where they thought they could stream movies to fill the time. "However, when Medicare investigators tried to inspect the empty offices, these 'seat warmers' were instructed to notify Gozes—Wagner and prevent the investigators from inspecting the offices," the U.S. attorney's office said. Visit http://bit.ly/2ELotRb.

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