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◆ The Department of Justice (DOJ) said Jan. 7 it has filed a False Claims Act^[1] lawsuit^[2] against Community Health Network, an integrated health care system in central Indiana, alleging it violated the Stark Law.^[3] DOJ alleges Community Health Network has compensation relationships with some physicians that are above fair market value and that the health system paid bonuses if the physicians met a minimum target of referral revenues. The complaint was set in motion by a whistleblower. The health system told the *IndyStar* newspaper it denied wrongdoing.

◆ The Department of Justice said Jan. 9 it had recovered \$3 billion in False Claims Act settlements and judgments —\$2.6 billion of it from health care cases—during fiscal year 2019.^[4] DOJ settled a number of large-dollar health care cases. For example, Encompass Health Corp., previously known as HealthSouth Corp., paid \$4.8 million to settle allegations that some of its inpatient rehabilitation facilities provided incorrect information to Medicare to keep their inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) status and to earn a higher reimbursement rate, and that some IRF admissions were medically unnecessary.

¹31 U.S.C. §§ 3729–3733.

² DOJ, “United States Files False Claims Act Complaint against Community Health Network,” news release, January 7, 2020, <http://bit.ly/39HkqXL>.

³42 U.S.C. § 1395nn .

⁴ DOJ, “Justice Department Recovers over \$3 Billion from False Claims Act Cases in Fiscal Year 2019 ,” news release, January 9, 2020, <http://bit.ly/35ENCeA>.

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