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By Nina Youngstrom

♦ Internal medicine physician Anuja Kurichh, who runs the practice PHC Healthcare LLC, in College Park, Maryland, agreed to pay \$555,000 to settle false claims allegations that she billed for medical services that she didn't perform, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland said March 31. From Aug. 1, 2013, to Jan. 31, 2019, Kurichh billed Medicare and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program for ultrasound studies of the "(1) area behind the abdominal cavity; (2) heart, including blood flow and valve function; (3) blood flow on both sides of the head and neck; (4) arteries and arterial grafts in both legs"; and for (5) removing ear wax, blood sample collection, and corresponding evaluation and management codes indicating face−to−face patient visits lasting 10 to 15 minutes even though travel records allegedly showed she was out of the country on the dates of service. "During the billed dates of service, Dr. Kurichh was the sole provider for PHC Healthcare, LLC and was responsible for identifying the Current Procedural Terminology Codes to be used for billing the services rendered," the U.S. attorney's office said. She did not admit liability in the settlement.

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