

## **Eli's Hospice Insider**

## Hospice News: GIP, Physician Fraud Alleged For Louisiana Hospice

The owner of a New Orleans hospice has been indicted on Medicare fraud.

Canon Healthcare owner **Shiva Akula** instructed employees to bill for unnecessary General Inpatient services and to bill for evaluation and management CPT® Codes 99233 and 99236, the Department of Justice says in a release. "These physician services reflected in CPT® Codes 99236 and 99233 should not have been billed as a separate line item in addition to the GIP services because they were included within the daily per diem rate that Medicare paid for the GIP services," the DOJ explains.

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Canon also submitted claims to Medicare for about 1,949 home visits using CPT® code 99350 that "were purported to have been performed by a doctor, when a doctor did not perform home visits," the DOJ adds. Canon received nearly \$3 million in related false payments, the feds allege.