



*News From*

# **Maggie Brooks**

## *Monroe County Executive*

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **BROOKS, SHEEHAN CRACK DOWN ON IMPROPER MEDICAID PRACTICES AT LOCAL PHARMACY**

*County and OMIG working to recover millions in wrongly claimed funds*

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** and Medicaid Inspector General **James G. Sheehan** today announced that the County and the Inspector General's Office have identified more than \$3.3 million in Medicaid claim overpayments made to Saratoga Pharmacy in Rochester, New York. The New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) is currently in the process of recovering the sum of all funds garnered through inappropriate Medicaid practices by the pharmacy and its operators over a two-year period (2004-05).

*"Monroe County is committed to providing access to vital healthcare services for all County residents who truly need and legitimately qualify for Medicaid assistance," said **Brooks**. "Yet make no mistake, we make every effort to operate a delivery system free from fraud and misuse. Violations of these expectations, whether by providers or recipients, will simply not be tolerated and will be punished accordingly. I am pleased that the inappropriate behavior at Saratoga Pharmacy has been exposed and, moreover, that millions of dollars will be returned to our taxpayers."*

The OMIG ordered Saratoga Pharmacy, located at 192 Lyell Ave in Rochester, to return a total of \$3,300,535 in overpayments to Monroe County as a result of unacceptable Medicaid claiming practices occurring during the years 2004 and 2005.

*"The Office of the Medicaid Inspector General is dedicated to investigating and stopping instances of fraud, waste and abuse across New York State," said **Sheehan**. "This collaborative effort between our office and the County led to a discovery of more than \$3 million in improperly paid Medicaid funds for the county and the State of New York. This is a prime example of the ways in which government agencies at all levels can work together to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program."*

Saratoga Pharmacy's systematic abuse of the Medicaid Program was revealed by a joint audit performed by the OMIG and the Monroe County Department of Human Services. During the investigation, Monroe County utilized several data mining tools, including software designed by the Salient Corporation, to identify claim irregularities in the pharmacy's Medicaid records. County investigators also enlisted Medicaid compliance experts from The Bonadio Group to assist with the audit.

*"Saratoga Pharmacy is an example of a successful audit completed by a team of Medicaid integrity experts in partnership with our Department of Human Services," continued **Brooks**. "In our past experience with these audits, most providers have completed the audit with minimal or no errors, but some audits have identified what we consider to be unsubstantiated Medicaid claims that required repayment to taxpayers."*

*Rest assured, we will continue our oversight efforts with the aim of completely eradicating all intentional or unintentional Medicaid abuse in Monroe County.”*

Monroe County citizens are strongly encouraged to report any form of suspected Medicaid fraud, waste or abuse. If you have information concerning Medicaid fraud or abuse please contact the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General’s statewide hotline at 1-877-87FRAUD (1-877-873-7283).

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