

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on October 10, 2001, Suman Dewan M.D., New Orleans, LA, appeared in U.S. District Court, New Orleans, LA. Dewan was sentenced to 10 months confinement, 36 months supervised release, ordered to pay a fine of \$15,000 and a special assessment fee of \$100 by U.S. District Court Judge Eldon E. Fallon. The sentencing is a result of an August 1, 2001, false claims conviction against Dewan in New Orleans, LA.

This conviction and sentencing is a result of an investigation which determined Dewan submitted false claims by billing TRICARE, Medicare and the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program for skin graft procedures called adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangements when she actually performed excisions of lesions with simple nonlayered closures. The reimbursement rates for the skin graft procedures are significantly higher.