

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Inspector General**

Inspector General  
October 20, 2011



**District of Columbia joins federal government and states in settlement  
with Pfizer, Inc.**

Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today that the District of Columbia has reached a settlement with Pfizer, Inc., a major pharmaceutical manufacturer incorporated and with its principal place of business in New York. The settlement concludes a government investigation into allegations that the company engaged in illegal off-label marketing schemes to promote the sales of its urology drug Detrol for uses that were not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”). The settlement will return \$12,619 to the state’s Medicaid program.

Detrol was FDA approved in March 1998 for the treatment of overactive bladder with symptoms of urge urinary incontinence, urgency and frequency. The settlement resolves allegations that Pfizer’s promotional activities were designed by the company to increase the prescribing of Detrol for uses in men for which it was not approved. These uses included treatment for benign prostate hyperplasia (“BPH”), bladder outlet obstruction (“BOO”) and lower urinary tract symptoms (“LUTS”). The investigation began with a whistleblower lawsuit filed by two former Pfizer employees (the “relators”) in US District Court in Boston, Massachusetts.

The settlement is the result of a joint investigation by the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts, the US Department of Justice, the relators’ attorneys, and a State Team of representatives from the Medicaid Fraud Control Units of Massachusetts, New York and Ohio. The total value of the national civil settlement is \$14 million, with \$5,576,923 designated as Medicaid program recovery. Medicaid is a state administered healthcare program for the indigent and disabled which is funded jointly by the states and the federal government. The remaining portion of the civil recovery is for damages to other federally-funded health care programs (Medicare, TRICARE and the Department of Defense).

Mr. Willoughby acknowledged the D.C. Department of Health Care Finance for providing data to the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to analyze and report to the team. In addition, he praised the work of attorney Dominick Muracco and auditor LaShawn Brooks for their work on the investigation of the matter and analysis of the D.C. utilization data.