# Cape Cod Hospital to Pay $24.4 Million for Medicare Billing Violations



**Cape Cod Hospital Settles Medicare Billing Allegations for $24.4 Million**

Cape Cod Hospital has agreed to pay nearly $24.4 million to the federal government to settle allegations that it knowingly submitted non-compliant Medicare claims for transcatheter aortic valve replacements (TAVR). The Department of Justice uncovered that the hospital's cardiac surgeons did not properly document patient evaluations required for Medicare reimbursement, covering the period from 2015 to 2022.

The settlement resulted from a complaint initially filed by former cardiologist Richard Zelman, who will receive nearly $4.4 million for his whistleblower role. According to the settlement agreement, the hospital submitted "millions of dollars of false claims to Medicare." The hospital allegedly failed to ensure proper physician evaluations and documentation for TAVR procedures.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy stated, "This investigation and settlement ensure that patient safety is prioritized over a hospital’s bottom line." The settlement is the largest of its kind involving a Massachusetts hospital, according to attorney Gregg Shapiro.

Cape Cod Hospital board chairman Bruce Johnston expressed continued support for the hospital’s leadership and highlighted upcoming expansions, including a new patient care pavilion and a state-of-the-art cancer center. The hospital, part of Cape Cod Healthcare, asserts that the settlement does not indicate patient harm or unnecessary procedures and has since improved its documentation practices to comply with Medicare requirements.

Additionally, Cape Cod Hospital has entered a five-year agreement with the Office of the Inspector General for Health and Human Services to enhance its corporate compliance program.