



Las Vegas HCV Outbreak Doctor Guilty of Fraud and Conspiracy

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Dipak Desai, the Nevada doctor who is serving time in prison for a 2007 hepatitis C virus (HCV) outbreak, has pleaded guilty in federal court to one felony count each of conspiracy and health care fraud, the Las Vegas Review Journal [reports](#).

Desai, 65, was indicted by a federal grand jury in 2011 on charges of conspiracy and 25 counts of health care fraud. The former practitioner was accused of inflating the length of medical procedures and over-billing insurers for anesthesia services performed at his Las Vegas endoscopy clinic between 2005 and 2008.

In 2013, Desai was [also convicted](#) of 27 criminal counts related to the hep C outbreak at his clinic, including second-degree murder for the death of one of seven HCV-positive patients referenced in the case. Prosecutors contended during trial that unsafe injection practices involving the re-use of anesthetic syringes ultimately led to the outbreak.

Desai is already serving a life sentence with the possibility of parole after 18 years for his role in the outbreak. Under this recent plea deal, he has now agreed to pay \$2.2 million in restitution to the health insurance agencies he defrauded in the scheme and to forfeit \$2.2 million to the U.S. government. The remaining fraud charges against him will be dismissed at sentencing on July 9.

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<http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/article/desai-fraud-conspiracy-charges-27072-186985125>