

# U.S. Hospice Fraud Enforcement

Top Cases · Total Losses · Dominant Schemes | April 2025 – April 2026

As of April 15, 2026

<b>\$530M+</b> Total Fraud Alleged	<b>20</b> Cases Tracked	<b>66+</b> Defendants Named	<b>4</b> States Targeted	<b>7</b> Already Sentenced	<b>221+</b> Providers Suspended
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## TOP 6 CASES BY FRAUD ALLEGED

<b>01</b>	<b>CA AG Operation Skip Trace</b> Los Angeles — 14 straw-owned hospices >> 21 Charged / 5 Arrested Stolen dark-web identities enrolled in Medi-Cal; \$267M billed for services never rendered; 14 sham hospices via straw owners. <sup>1</sup>	Billed: \$267M Paid: \$267M
<b>02</b>	<b>USA v. Ogudo et al. (UPHC)</b> Houston, TX — S.D. Texas >> 7 Indicted (43-count) Enrolled non-terminal patients via group home kickbacks; bribed physician; opened successor hospices after raid. <sup>2</sup>	Billed: \$110M Paid: \$87M
<b>03</b>	<b>Operation Never Say Die (5 Cases)</b> Los Angeles, CA — Apr 2026 Coordinated Takedown >> 8 Arrested / Charged across 5 cases 5 simultaneous CA hospice cases (Minerd/Topanga \$9.2M; Gill/St. Francis \$5.2M; Palma/One Up \$4.8M; Tindimobuna/Comfort Choice \$3.8M; Lauritzen/Valley Pacific \$0.58M). Non-terminal enrollment, kickbacks, straw ownership & forged physician signatures. <sup>3</sup>	Billed: \$50M+ Paid: \$33M+
<b>04</b>	<b>USA v. Fichidzhyan et al.</b> Los Angeles area — House of Angels >> All 5 Sentenced Straw owners via foreign nationals' stolen identities; laundered through shell companies, real estate, private school tuition. <sup>4</sup>	Billed: \$16M Paid: \$16M
<b>05</b>	<b>USA v. Shaklian</b> Pasadena, CA — Chateau d'Lumina >> Sentenced (35 mos + \$14.1M restitution) Billed Medicare for hospice & diagnostic testing not needed or not provided; multiple aliases and bogus companies; 2019–2024. <sup>5</sup>	Billed: \$14.1M Paid: \$14.1M
<b>06</b>	<b>USA v. Wintermute &amp; Bolisajian</b> Malibu / Los Angeles — 7 hospice entities >> Indicted (June 2025) Recruiter paid \$3K/patient/month kickbacks; medical director falsely certified non-terminal patients across 7 LA hospices. <sup>6</sup>	Billed: \$10.9M Paid: \$8.8M

## TOTAL LOSSES BY STATE

<b>California</b> 12 cases + Bhuva CMS+	<b>\$388M+</b>
<b>Texas</b> 3 cases	<b>\$113M+</b>
<b>Arizona</b> 2 related cases*	<b>\$1.8B+</b>
<b>Nevada</b> 1 related case*	<b>\$10.5M</b>
<b>Florida</b> No hospice cases found*	—

## DOMINANT FRAUD SCHEMES

<b>9 cases</b>	<b>Non-Terminal Patient Enrollment</b> Present in every case. Non-dying patients enrolled in hospice; some unaware they were receiving end-of-life care.
<b>9 cases</b>	<b>Money Laundering</b> Proceeds routed through shell companies, real estate purchases, luxury vehicles, and private school tuition.
<b>8 cases</b>	<b>Kickbacks to Marketers &amp; Physicians</b> Cash, checks, or monthly per-patient payments to recruiters and doctors for referrals and false certifications.
<b>7 cases</b>	<b>Sham Hospice / Ghost Billing</b> Services billed but never rendered; hospice entities operated as shells with no real clinical activity.
<b>5 cases</b>	<b>Identity Theft &amp; Straw Ownership</b> Dark-web PII used to create fake Medicare beneficiaries; foreign nationals or nominees listed as owners.

## KEY FINDINGS

- > California is the enforcement epicenter — 12 of 20 cases, including the \$267M Operation Skip Trace (largest single scheme tracked).
- > Operation Never Say Die (Apr 2026): 5 coordinated CA hospice cases, \$50M+ alleged, 8 arrested — run in parallel with VP Anti-Fraud Task Force; CMS simultaneously suspended 221+ LA providers.
- > Dr. Rajiv Bhuva (Los Angeles): No criminal charges, but CMS revoked Medicare billing privileges (March 2026) after his name appeared on \$71.7M in 2024 claims across 126 hospices — 20x the state average; fewer than 2% of 2,791 listed patients died.
- > The 2025 National HCF Takedown (June 30, 2025) was the largest in DOJ history: \$14.6B total fraud, 324 defendants across 50 districts.

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1. CA AG Operation Skip Trace — <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-dismantles-los-angeles-hospice-fraud-ring-responsible-267>  
 2. USA v. Ogudo (UPHC) — <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/four-more-charged-110-million-hospice-fraud-scheme>  
 3. Operation Never Say Die (USAO-CDCA) — <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/8-arrested-health-care-fraud-takedown-including-owners-hospices-billed-taxpayers>  
 4. USA v. Fichidzhyan — <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/four-california-residents-sentenced-prison-connection-16m-hospice-fraud-and-money-laundering>  
 5. USA v. Shaklian — <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/larchmont-woman-sentenced-nearly-3-years-federal-prison-her-role-hospice-and>  
 6. USA v. Wintermute & Bolisajian — <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-fraud/health-care-fraud-unit/2025-national-hcf-case-summaries>  
 \* AZ/NV: related cases (wound graft / antitrust) — hospice patients were victims, not billing vehicles. Florida: no federal hospice cases found. <sup>1</sup> Bhuva: CMS administrative action only — no criminal charges filed. | Sources: U.S. DOJ · HHS-OIG · State AGs | All charges are allegations; defendants presumed innocent until convicted.