

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

February 26, 2014

The Honorable Daniel Levinson
Inspector General
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC

Dear General Levinson,

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the committee is investigating the adequacy of CMS screening of providers receiving Medicare payments or other kinds of federal funds administered by CMS.

Recent articles have reported on a chain of Texas hospitals that received nearly \$18 million in economic stimulus funds from CMS for moving to electronic medical records. These facilities continued to receive funding despite warnings that reached several agencies for more than four years of patient-care threats and allegations of fraud. This month, a federal grand jury indicted a top administrator of this hospital chain for allegedly defrauding the federal government of economic stimulus funds. The indictment alleged that the administrator falsely certified that the medical center met requirements to receive \$800,000 in stimulus money by switching from paper medical records to an electronic system. However, the indictment stated that an electronic platform was used only "minimally" and that the hospital continued to use paper and "uncertified" technology.

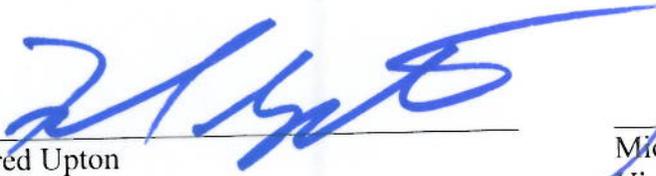
The case in Texas raises broader questions about CMS' ability to detect fraud in its programs. To assist the committee, please provide a briefing to Members and staff by March 12, 2014 to respond to the following:

1. What recommendations has the HHS Office of Inspector General made to CMS relating to improving the screening of providers or fund recipients?
2. What actions is the HHS Office of Inspector General taking to examine how CMS could improve screening of providers or fund recipients?
3. What other federal databases could CMS use to screen providers or fund recipients?

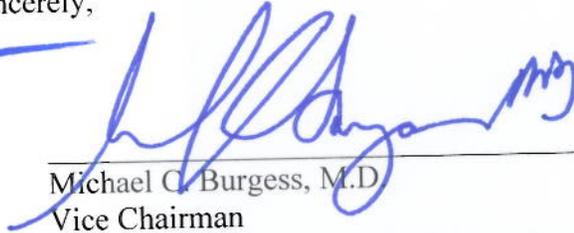
If you have any questions, please contact Alan Slobodin of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

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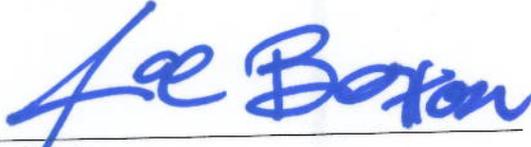
Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations



Joe Barton
Chairman Emeritus