

Doctor gets prison in kickback scheme

Heavy prescriber of risky drug took \$600K in benefits

BY JASON MEISNER

Chicago Tribune

A Chicago doctor who was once the nation's most prolific prescriber of the risky antipsychotic drug clozapine was sentenced Friday to nine months in prison for taking cash, vacation trips and other kickbacks from the drug's manufacturers.

Dr. Michael Reinstein, the subject of a 2009 Tribune-ProPublica joint investigation, admitted to pocketing nearly \$600,000 in benefits over the years for prescribing various forms of clozapine, known as a drug of last resort, to hundreds of mentally ill patients in his

care.

In rejecting calls by defense lawyers for probation, U.S. District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman noted that like so many other doctors convicted of fraud schemes, Reinstein served a largely under-privileged group of people who are unable to fend for themselves.

The judge also said that regardless of whether he thought the drug was helping his patients, Reinstein violated the sacred doctor-patient trust by accepting the cash.

"That is the biggest danger here," Coleman said. "It leaves a cloud over the patients and their families over whether they were put at some unnecessary risk. All of those questions are in their

Turn to **Kickback, Page 2**

Doctor gets 9 months in prison

Kickback, from Page 1

heads. ... When money is inserted into the equation, there is no trust.”

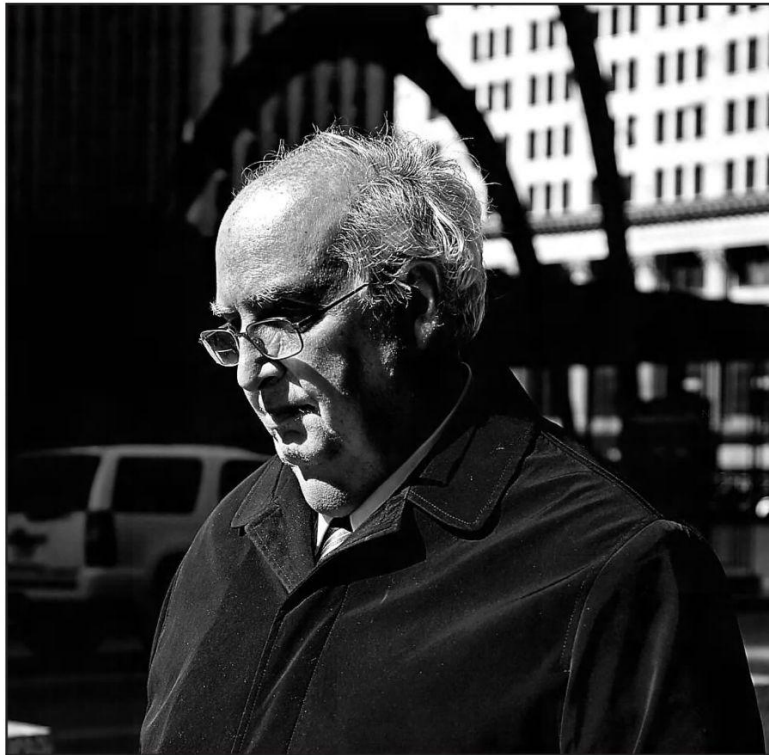
When he pleaded guilty last year, Reinstein also settled a massive lawsuit brought by the U.S. attorney’s office alleging that he submitted more than 140,000 false Medicare and Medicaid claims as part of the kickback scheme. He was ordered to pay more than \$3.7 million in penalties to the U.S. government and the state of Illinois.

In addition to the prison time, Coleman ordered Reinstein to forfeit an additional \$592,000 and serve 120 hours of community service when he’s released from custody.

Reinstein, 72, of Skokie, showed no reaction to the sentence. Moments earlier he had stood in the courtroom and apologized for his crime and the embarrassment it caused his family members, many of whom choked back tears in the courtroom gallery.

But as he had in the past, Reinstein defended his use of clozapine, which he said has been unfairly portrayed by prosecutors as dangerous.

“I’ve been working with this medicine since 1971,” said Reinstein, whose medical license was indefinitely suspended by state regulators in 2014. “It has helped



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dr. Michael Reinstein leaves court after Friday’s sentencing. He once was the nation’s No. 1 prescriber of clozapine.

many, many, many patients who were not helped by other drugs.”

First licensed in Illinois in 1968, Reinstein built a lucrative practice providing psychiatric care to mentally ill patients in nursing homes concentrated near his strip mall office in the city’s Uptown neighborhood.

The Tribune-ProPublica investigation found that Reinstein had amassed a worrisome record of assembly line care that was linked to three patients’ deaths and triggered lawsuits as well as accusations of fraud. But

the federal charges did not include any accusations of patient deaths.

In his plea agreement, Reinstein admitted that, beginning in the 1990s, he prescribed the brand-name version of clozapine to hundreds of his patients while receiving \$234,000 from the manufacturer. He admitted that the payments, ostensibly for speaking engagements touting the drug, were in part for prescribing it to so many patients.

When Ivax Pharmaceuticals began making a generic form of clozapine in 2003, Reinstein struck a

\$50,000-a-year consulting agreement with the company, quickly becoming among its largest prescribers in the country.

Over the next three years, Ivax provided other perks to Reinstein and his associates, including expensive meals, tickets to sporting events and an all-expense-paid trip to Ivax’s headquarters in Miami, where Reinstein went on fishing trips, a cruise and a golf outing, according to prosecutors.

Reinstein faced up to three years in prison but was given a break in his recommended sentence because he cooperated with prosecutors on several other health care fraud investigations, including secretly recording conversations with other doctors, court records show. It was not disclosed whether any of those investigations led to criminal charges.

In asking Coleman for a sentence of a year and half in prison, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Pruitt said only 4 or 5 percent of all the patients nationwide who are on antipsychotic drugs are taking clozapine. Meanwhile, the “vast majority” of Reinstein’s patients were on the medication, Pruitt said.

“It is a staggering difference,” Pruitt said.

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State strips license of doc tied to drug deaths

BY KARISA KING

Tribune reporter

For years, Dr. Michael Reinstein was a prolific prescriber of a dangerous anti-psychotic drug in nursing homes and mental health facilities, giving it to more than 50 percent of the patients under his care.

The psychiatrist's prescriptions of clozapine, known as a risky drug of last resort, were linked to three patients' deaths and triggered federal accusations of kickbacks and fraud.

Now, the Illinois medical board has indefinitely suspended Reinstein's license, saying he received \$350,000 in illegal payments from the drug's maker while disregarding its life-threatening effects and alternative treatments. Clozapine can cause seizures, a decrease in white blood cells, inflammation of the heart wall and increased risk of death in elderly patients.

The disciplinary action comes more than four years

License of doctor in fraud case suspended

Doctor, from Page 1

after a joint investigation by the Tribune and ProPublica focused attention on Reinstein's prescribing habits.

The action against Reinstein, dated Friday, ended a two-year legal fight with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation over his use of clozapine. His license will be suspended for at least three years.

"It is the mission of the department to protect every Illinois resident who consults with a health care professional, particularly vulnerable senior citizens in nursing homes," said Dr. Brian Zachariah, chief medical coordinator for IDFPR. "Dr. Reinstein's actions and his failure to adequately explain those actions to the department, led to last week's suspension."

Reinstein, who has denied wrongdoing, is seeking an injunction in Cook County Circuit Court to stop the action, said his attorney Michael Goldberg. In every case, Reinstein stands by the medications as medically necessary, Goldberg said.

"He's very knowledgeable about the medications he prescribes and lectures about them," Goldberg said.

In its decision and other case documents, IDFPR says Reinstein issued prescriptions of generic clozapine in exchange for annual \$50,000 consulting agreements from Teva Pharmaceuticals, maker of generic clozapine, and its subsidiary IVAX from 2003 to 2009.

The documents also detail other expensive gifts from the drugmaker:

free travel to the corporate headquarters in Miami in 2004, a fishing trip and dinners with guests, a boat cruise in 2005 and several tickets to sporting events for the doctor and others.



Reinstein

The benefits flowed until fall 2009, when Reinstein asked Teva to halt the consulting agreements after the Tribune scrutinized his prescribing habits.

In March, Teva agreed to pay \$27.6 million to settle federal and state claims that the company paid Reinstein for prescribing the drug.

A federal lawsuit against Reinstein filed in 2012 remains pending in U.S. District Court in Chicago. Authorities say Reinstein submitted more than 140,000 false Medicare and Medicaid claims, and the lawsuit seeks civil penalties for each.

Based in a strip mall office in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, Reinstein served as a psychiatric medical director at 13 nursing facilities, according to the Tribune-ProPublica report. In 2007, Reinstein issued more prescriptions for clozapine than all doctors in Texas combined, the investigation found.

In written statements, Reinstein strongly defended his reliance on clozapine, saying the medication was underprescribed and was the most effective in its class for schizophrenic patients.

Reporters uncovered autopsy and court records showing that three patients under Reinstein's care died of clozapine intoxication.

One was Alvin Essary, a 50-year-old patient at Somerset Place nursing home. When he died in 1999, medical records showed he had more than five times the toxic level of clozapine in his blood. Essary's family sued Reinstein for negligence, claiming the doctor should not have prescribed multiple medications to a patient with one kidney. The lawsuit settled for \$85,000.

In 2003, Wendy Cureton died at age 27. Reinstein had increased her dose of clozapine twice as fast as the recommended pace, the Tribune and ProPublica found. A team of medical staff under Reinstein's supervision later mixed the drug with sedatives, despite warnings on the label against doing so. Reinstein then increased her dose of another antipsychotic drug. Days later, she collapsed and later died.

Odell Spruell, 54, was living on a psychiatric ward in 2007 when Reinstein doubled his longtime, stable dose of clozapine, records show. Spruell, a former steel mill worker, became lethargic, sleeping for long periods and drooling. Within three weeks of the increased dose, he died of clozapine intoxication, an autopsy found.

TRIBUNE WATCHDOG UPDATE

Suspended doctor pleads guilty to kickback scheme

By JASON MEISNER
Tribune reporter

South Side resident Ronald Jackson came to the federal courthouse Friday to watch his former doctor admit that he is a felon.

Jackson, 60, looked on as Dr. Michael Reinstein pleaded guilty to a single count of fraud for taking hundreds of thousands of dollars to prescribe a risky antipsychotic drug for his patients at Chicago nursing homes and mental health clinics.

Satisfied to see the long-time psychiatrist finally held accountable for his actions, Jackson said later that he still felt like Reinstein's admissions were the tip of the iceberg.

Many nursing homes in Chicago "had this man on speed dial," said Jackson, a resident of the Parkshore Estates Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in the city's

Woodlawn neighborhood. "He was taking advantage of people who are indigent when he's supposed to be the one looking out for them."

Reinstein, the subject of a 2009 Tribune/ProPublica joint investigation, admitted pocketing nearly \$600,000 in benefits over the years for prescribing various forms of clozapine, known as a risky drug of last resort, to hundreds of patients in his care.

Prosecutors revealed in court that Reinstein is cooperating in an ongoing investigation. That could end up cutting his sentence to as little as 1½ years in prison, according to his plea agreement.

On Friday, Reinstein also settled a massive civil lawsuit brought by the U.S. attorney's office alleging that he submitted more than 140,000 false Medicare and Medicaid claims as part

of the kickback scheme.

The settlement calls for Reinstein to pay within days more than \$3.7 million in penalties to the U.S. government and the state of Illinois. And he must forfeit an additional \$592,000 as part of his guilty plea.

Reinstein, 71, appearing in court in a rumpled gray suit, told U.S. District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman he's suffering from bladder cancer, diabetes and other ailments.

When it came time to state his plea, the Skokie resident said "guilty" so softly that the judge asked him to repeat it.

First licensed in Illinois in 1968, Reinstein built a lucrative practice providing psychiatric care to mentally ill patients in nursing homes concentrated near his strip mall office in the city's Uptown neighborhood. His medical license was indefinitely suspended



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dr. Michael Reinstein walks Friday from the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, where he pleaded guilty to one count of fraud.

by state regulators in August after the kickback allegations.

The Tribune/ProPublica investigation found that Reinstein had amassed a worrisome record of assembly line care that was linked to three patients' deaths and triggered lawsuits as well as accusations of fraud. But the federal charge did not include any accusations of patient deaths.

In his plea agreement,

Reinstein admitted that, beginning in the 1990s, he prescribed the brand-name version of clozapine to hundreds of his patients while receiving \$234,000 from the manufacturer. Reinstein admitted that the payments, ostensibly for speaking engagements touting the drug, were in part for prescribing the drug to so many patients.

When Ivax Pharmaceuticals began making a ge-

neric form of clozapine in 2003, Reinstein struck a \$50,000-per-year consulting agreement with the company, quickly becoming among its largest prescribers in the country.

Over the next three years, Ivax provided other perks to Reinstein and his associates, including expensive meals, tickets to sporting events and an all-expense-paid trip to Ivax's headquarters in Miami, where Reinstein went on fishing trips, a cruise and a golf outing, according to prosecutors.

Reinstein, who was given a personal recognizance bond pending his sentencing, declined to comment Friday after the hearing. But in a telephone interview with the Tribune last week, he defended his actions, describing clozapine as a "very useful" state-of-the-art drug whose benefits can far outweigh the risks as long as patients are closely monitored.

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Medicaid payments to psychiatrist halted

Federal suit says doctor fraudulently prescribed medicine to thousands

BY DEBORAH L. SHELTON

Tribune reporter

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services has suspended Medicaid payments to a controversial Chicago psychiatrist who the federal government says fraudulently prescribed antipsychotic medication to thousands of mentally ill nursing home patients.

The action means that Dr. Michael J. Reinstein, also accused in a federal lawsuit of accepting kickbacks from drug companies, will be prohibited from billing Medicaid, and that any unprocessed bills already submitted will not be paid, said Bradley Hart, Medicaid inspector general.

Hart said the 180-day suspension could be extended pending the status of the federal lawsuit, which was filed last week.

Meanwhile, another state agency, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, has filed a formal complaint against Reinstein that mirrors the federal accusations and could lead to disciplinary action on his medical license. A preliminary hearing is set for Dec. 17.

The two-count complaint alleges that Reinstein “routinely and continuously” prescribed to elderly patients various psychiatric medications, including clozapine, also known by its brand name, Clozaril, despite the risk of potentially life-threatening side effects, including seizures and death.

The “respondent knew and/or should have known that clozapine is considered to be a drug of last resort for elderly patients,” the complaint says.

The complaint also alleges that Reinstein prescribed the treatment in exchange for financial compensation from IVAX, the manufacturer of generic clozapine, and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., the company that IVAX later merged into.

Reached by phone Monday, Reinstein, 69, said he was unaware of the payment suspension and couldn't comment on it. But he

said he prescribed the drug appropriately. “I feel my treatment with clozapine was justified,” he said. “I think for the severely mentally ill population that I treat, the patients I use clozapine with, it was the best choice. I am confident that I will be vindicated.”

He said he will borrow money if necessary to continue his medical practice, which includes working at four hospitals, 20 nursing homes and his office in the Uptown area.

Acting U.S. Attorney Gary Shapiro said last week that the federal lawsuit filed against Reinstein represented “the largest civil case alleging prescription medication fraud against an individual ever brought in Chicago.”

A joint 2009 investigation by the Tribune and ProPublica, a nonprofit investigative journalism group, revealed Reinstein's unusually heavy reliance on clozapine, which has been linked to at least three deaths. In 2007 he wrote more prescriptions for clozapine than all the doctors in Texas combined, the investigation found. The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation mentioned the series in its complaint.

In their lawsuit, federal authorities alleged that Reinstein submitted at least 140,000 false claims to Medicare and Medicaid for antipsychotic medications he had prescribed based on the kickbacks he received from pharmaceutical companies instead of the medical needs of his patients.

He also allegedly submitted 50,000 more claims to Medicare and Medicaid in which he falsely stated he had properly monitored the conditions of his patients at more than 30 area nursing homes and long-term care facilities, according to the lawsuit.

The suit seeks triple damages under the False Claims Act as well as hefty civil penalties for each of the tens of thousands of alleged false claims — a total that could easily reach millions of dollars if authorities prove the allegations against Reinstein. Federal authorities said they are continuing to investigate Reinstein.

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Chicago doctor charged in pharma kickback case

Filing: Guilty plea likely for payoff totaling \$2K

BY JASON MEISNER

Tribune reporter

Two decades ago, Dr. Michael Reinstein was known as one of the most prolific Medicaid billers in Chicago history, once charging the taxpayer-funded program for the care of 490 patients in just five days.

In 2009, a joint Tribune-ProPublica investigation found that Reinstein had been overprescribing powerful anti-psychotic drugs in Chicago nursing homes and mental health facilities, amassing a worrisome record of assembly line care that was linked to three patients' deaths and triggered lawsuits as well as accusations of kickbacks and fraud.

Now, six months after state regulators indefinitely suspended Reinstein's medical license, federal authorities have quietly filed a criminal charge alleging that Reinstein took kick-

backs from a pharmaceutical company to prescribe clozapine, known as a risky drug of last resort, to patients in his care.

According to a court filing posted Thursday evening, Reinstein, 71, is scheduled to plead guilty on one felony count at his arraignment Feb. 13.

In a telephone interview, Reinstein's attorney, Terence Campbell, said that Reinstein was "working toward resolving the issues raised by the government and hopes to put this episode behind him soon."

While the charge alleges only one kickback from pharmaceutical giant Teva totaling \$2,000, federal prosecutors want to seize nearly \$600,000 of allegedly ill-gotten gains stemming from clozapine prescriptions.

The criminal charge could also signal a settlement in a pending civil case brought by the



Reinstein

Turn to **Doctor, Page 10**

Feds charge suspended doctor in kickback case

Doctor, from Page 1

U.S. attorney's office that alleged that Reinstein received illegal kickbacks from pharmaceutical companies and submitted more than 140,000 false Medicare and Medicaid claims. Authorities called it the largest civil case alleging prescription medication fraud against an individual ever brought in Chicago. Reinstein potentially faces huge damages and civil penalties.

Reached by phone Thursday, Reinstein said he could not comment on the criminal charge. But he denied that any payments from Teva were for prescribing clozapine, saying he earned the money from lectures he gave at medical conferences talking about the benefits of that and other antipsychotic medications.

Reinstein also defended his history of prescribing clozapine, which is manufactured under the trade name Clozaril. He described it as a "very useful" state-of-the-art drug whose benefits can far outweigh the risks as long as patients are closely monitored.

"I think it's an under-prescribed treatment for severe mental illness," Reinstein said. "I and many other people have been involved in many research studies that show it keeps people from

engaging in violent behavior ... and is helpful in suicide prevention."

First licensed in Illinois in 1968, Reinstein built a lucrative practice in Chicago providing psychiatric care to mentally ill patients in nursing homes concentrated near his strip mall office in the city's Uptown neighborhood.

Reinstein's history of improbably prolific Medicaid billing goes back to at least 1991, when he was suspended from the program for a year after officials accused him of failing to keep records to substantiate his work.

A 1993 Tribune series highlighting problems in the Medicaid system showed that in 1991 alone, Reinstein had billed for 15,480 patient encounters, mostly in Chicago-area nursing homes. He claimed in bills submitted to the system that he had cared for more than 70 patients a day on 44 days, the newspaper found. The number of patients visits topped more than 100 a day on 12 days, his bills claimed.

For years, Reinstein routinely prescribed antipsychotic and other psychiatric medications to indigent patients based on kickbacks from pharmaceutical companies, not his own independent evaluation of the patients' needs, according to the civil suit filed by prosecutors in 2012.

According to the suit, the company that originally made Clozaril paid Reinstein to promote it even as he became the largest prescriber of the drug to Medicaid recipients in the nation.

In 2003, Reinstein agreed to begin prescribing a generic version made by Ivax Pharmaceuticals in exchange for a \$50,000 annual "consulting agreement" that included paying his nurse to speak on behalf of the drug and funding for a Reinstein-affiliated entity known as the Uptown Research Institute.

"He quickly became the largest prescriber of generic clozapine in the country," prosecutors alleged.

From 2003 to 2006, Ivax continued to provide other perks, including flying Reinstein, his wife and seven other associates to Ivax's headquarters in Miami, where the entourage went on fishing trips, a cruise and a golf outing.

After Israel-based Teva took over Ivax in January 2006, the company paid all expenses for Reinstein and his associates to again travel to Miami. That trip featured a \$2,300 cruise and at least two dinners costing \$1,700 each. Over the next two years, Teva paid Reinstein more than \$100,000 in annual speaking fees.

Teva, also sued by federal and

state officials over the alleged kickbacks to Reinstein, agreed to settle the litigation in March by paying \$27.6 million. The company did not admit wrongdoing.

The Tribune-ProPublica investigation found that in 2007, Reinstein prescribed various medications to 4,141 Medicaid patients, including more prescriptions for clozapine than were written by all the doctors in Texas put together. Records from that year suggested that if each of his patient visits had lasted only 10 minutes, Reinstein would have had to work 21 hours a day, seven days a week.

Reporters also uncovered autopsy and court records showing that three patients under Reinstein's care died of clozapine intoxication from 1999 to 2007. One was Alvin Essary, who had more than five times the toxic level of clozapine in his blood when he died in 1999, medical records showed.

His family sued Reinstein for negligence, claiming that the doctor should not have prescribed multiple medications to a patient with one kidney. The lawsuit was settled for \$85,000.

Clozapine is not a commonly prescribed drug. But while Reinstein was allegedly soliciting kickbacks, he had more than half his patients on it, according to the

government. At one nursing home, he had prescribed the medication to 300 of its 400 residents, the lawsuit alleged.

Clozapine, originally developed in the 1960s, has potentially severe side effects, including seizures, a decrease in white blood cells and inflammation of the heart wall. It is typically prescribed only for patients who have not responded to other treatments.

But several studies have lauded the drug's ability to reduce the symptoms of schizophrenia, particularly in patients who have harmed themselves in the past or attempted suicide.

In his comments Thursday to the Tribune, Reinstein said there are risks with any kind of psychiatric care, including not medicating a patient enough, and that clozapine has been unfairly portrayed as dangerous. He said he was not aware of any patient of his who had died from the drug since 2007.

"I'm not trying to be cavalier about it — anyone on Clozaril or any other psychotropic medication needs to be monitored carefully," Reinstein said.

"But the drug is not by itself dangerous."

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WATCHDOG UPDATE

U.S. sues doctor known for prescribing risky drug

Dr. Michael J. Reinstein, right, allegedly sought kickbacks and fraudulently made thousands of orders for mentally ill patients



BY SAM ROE
Tribune reporter

Federal authorities on Thursday sued a controversial Chicago psychiatrist, accusing him of pocketing kickbacks from drug companies and committing a massive fraud as he prescribed antipsychotic medication to thousands of mentally ill patients in area nursing homes.

The lawsuit against Dr. Michael J. Reinstein repre-

sents “the largest civil case alleging prescription medication fraud against an individual ever brought in Chicago,” acting U.S. Attorney Gary Shapiro said in a statement.

The allegations come three years after a joint investigation by the Chicago Tribune and ProPublica, a nonprofit investigative journalism group, found that Reinstein had provided assembly-line care using a risky

antipsychotic drug.

The two-part series revealed that Reinstein’s unusually heavy reliance on the drug clozapine — a potent psychotropic medication — has been linked to at least three deaths. In 2007 he made more prescriptions for clozapine than all the doctors in Texas combined, the investigation found.

Reinstein’s use of clozapine is at the heart of the lawsuit filed by federal authorities in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

The authorities allege that Reinstein submitted at least 140,000 false claims to Medicare and Medicaid

*Please turn to **Page 15***

Federal suit targets doctor known for risky drug

Continued from Page 1

for antipsychotic medications he had prescribed based on the kickbacks he received from pharmaceutical companies — and not on the medical needs of his patients.

He also submitted 50,000 more claims to Medicare and Medicaid in which he falsely stated he had properly monitored the conditions of his patients at more than 30 area nursing homes and long-term care facilities, the authorities allege.

The lawsuit seeks triple damages under the False Claims Act as well as hefty civil penalties for each of the tens of thousands of alleged false claims — a total that could easily reach millions of dollars if authorities prove the allegations against Reinstein.

Federal authorities said the investigation into Reinstein's practices continues.

Reached Thursday by phone, Reinstein, 69, who has an office in Chicago's Uptown area, said he was unaware of the suit. "I can't comment on it because I haven't seen it," he said.

According to the lawsuit, Reinstein prescribed Clozaril, the trade name for clozapine, to hundreds of patients at a time years ago. The drug was made by Novartis, which for many years paid Reinstein to promote the medication, authorities said.

The Tribune-ProPublica investigation documented how clozapine posed potential serious side effects, including enlargement of the heart and increased seizure risk.

"Despite the potential side effects and clozapine's status as a drug of last resort," the suit said, "Reinstein often had more than 1,000 individual patients on Clozaril at any given time

prior to August 2003."

When Novartis's patent for Clozaril expired in 1998, generic forms of clozapine became available. Yet Reinstein "resisted pharmacy and drug company efforts to switch his patients to generic clozapine and continued to be the largest prescriber of Novartis's Clozaril to Medicaid recipients in the United States," the suit said.

Then around July 2003, Novartis notified Reinstein that it would be withdrawing "support" for Clozaril, and the regular payments the firm had been making to the doctor soon ended, according to the suit.

Meanwhile, IVAX Pharmaceuticals Inc., a Florida company, reached out to Reinstein to try to get him to switch his patients to its generic version of clozapine, the suit said. Reinstein agreed, and IVAX paid him \$50,000 under a one-year

"consulting agreement," funded a research study by a Reinstein-affiliated entity and paid his nurse to speak on behalf of the drug, the suit alleged.

"After reaching this kickback agreement with IVAX, Reinstein immediately began switching his patients from Clozaril to IVAX's clozapine," the suit said. The doctor then became "the largest prescriber of generic clozapine in the United States."

Clozapine is not a commonly prescribed drug. But while Reinstein was allegedly soliciting kickbacks, he had more than half of his patients on it, according to the government. At one nursing home, he had prescribed the medication to 300 of its 400 residents.

The government alleged that the kickback scheme continued until 2006. IVAX renewed Reinstein's \$50,000 "consulting agree-

ment" for at least another couple of years, authorities said.

IVAX also paid for airfare, lodging, meals and entertainment expenses for Reinstein and several associates to travel to its headquarters in Miami, as well as for a fishing trip, the lawsuit alleged. In another trip to Miami, the company paid for the doctor and his associates "to go on a \$800 boat cruise, a golf outing and at least two dinners costing more than \$1,400 each," the government said.

According to the suit, after IVAX became a subsidiary of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, an Israeli company, Teva paid for a trip to Miami for Reinstein and several associates. That 2006 trip included a \$2,300 boat cruise.

The following year, Teva and Reinstein agreed to a new one-year \$50,000 "speaker agreement," the

lawsuit says.


The suit says that shortly after the Tribune-ProPublica investigation was published in 2009, Reinstein contacted Teva and asked that it stop paying him.

A Teva spokeswoman said the company has been cooperating with the government investigation.

"Clozapine is an important medicine approved for treatment of severe schizophrenia in patients who fail standard therapy," she wrote. "Although clozapine has proven to be effective for this indication, there are potential serious side effects that require careful medical supervision."

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 Read a 2009 ProPublica and Tribune report on Dr. Michael Reinstein.