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4 medical clinics in region named in U.S. indictment

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ducted by unlicensed technicians, unnecessary tests and 15-minute sessions that lasted no more than a few minutes.

The four-year probe began with complaints from patients and insurance companies. It escalated into a sting operation in which FBI agents posed as patients and personal-injury lawyers seeking to inflate insurance claims with the help of the clinic managers.

The "lawyers" were mailed medical descriptions that exaggerated the extent of patients' injuries and resulting disabilities, federal authorities said.

The five men surrendered yesterday morning at U.S. District Court. They pleaded not guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark and were released on bonds ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

— convicted, they face prison terms ranging from five to 10 years and fines of at least \$250,000 each.

None of the defendants would comment outside the courtroom. Kenneth Kaplan, Orlander's lawyer, blamed the insurance industry for his client's predicament.

"The insurance industry has spent a number of years trying to put these rehabilitation clinics out of business, especially the ones they think are large billers," Kaplan said. "They've filed lawsuits, and they've contacted the U.S. Attorney's Office as a way to avoid millions of dollars in claims."

Kaplan would not comment on the FBI undercover operation because he had not seen any of the videotapes prosecutors intend to use as evidence.

The clinics remained opened yesterday. Patients said they were unaware of the federal charges, and employees declined to comment.

Haverstraw resident Rafael Bueno said he has been getting treatment for a back injury at Pomona Medical Care & Diagnosis twice weekly for the past eight months. He knew nothing about the federal charges against the doctor and chiropractor who run the clinic.

There were no allegations that patients were harmed, but White said the private insurance companies, state insurance fund and

ment of carpal tunnel syndrome.

In 1997, the clinics advertised its use of the CTD Mark I, a traction device designed to help those with carpal tunnel syndrome. But the \$7,000 machines had not been approved by the Federal Drug Administration, and the Justice Department prosecuted the manufacturer for marketing the device.

Orlander and the clinics were not charged with any wrongdoing but came under fire for attracting customers with the device.

As part of yesterday's indictment, the government is seeking the forfeiture of \$5 million from Orlander and Greenbaum and Orlander's Chappaqua office.

The money-laundering charges accuse Orlander of transferring \$3.6 million from the account of ALO Health Management to his own account through 27 withdrawals from December 1996 through January 1999. In the next 14 months, authorities said, he transferred \$10.1 million between his own accounts.

Staff writer Jane Lemer contributed information for this report



Hudson River PCBs Reassessment Project

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced that it will give the public an additional 60 days to submit comments on the Agency's proposed plan to clean up polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, from the Hudson River. This will extend the public comment period to April 17, 2001, allowing the public a total of more than 120 days to give EPA its input and feedback on the ten-year scientific study and plan to address the environmental and public health risks posed by the PCB contamination of river sediment. EPA now expects to finalize its decision on an approach to the Hudson River cleanup in August 2001.

Written comment may be addressed to Alison Hess/Doug Tomchuk, Hudson River PCBs Public Comment, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, New York, NY, 10007. You may also e-mail your comments to HudsonComment.Region2@epa.gov. For more information, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/hudson, or contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 837-3672.

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