

## NURSING HOME EXECUTIVE AGREES TO PERMANENT EXCLUSION IN SETTLEMENT WITH OIG

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced today that the president and chairman of the board of Pleasant Care Corporation, Emmanuel Bernabe, has agreed to be excluded permanently from Federal health care programs following an investigation of substandard care at nursing homes formerly operated by Pleasant Care. The exclusion of Emmanuel Bernabe is the result of an OIG investigation regarding allegations of substandard care provided at Pleasant Care nursing facilities between 2003 and 2007.

OIG alleged that under Mr. Bernabe's management, Pleasant Care put nursing home residents at risk by providing care that failed to meet professionally recognized standards. The alleged failures included providing inadequate hydration and nutrition, failing to administer appropriate wound care, and maintaining inadequate staffing levels.

"This settlement reflects our commitment to ensuring that executives who are ultimately responsible for care furnished in nursing homes are held accountable when those homes fail to provide quality care," said Inspector General Daniel R. Levinson. "It is critical that boards and management make compliance with professionally recognized standards of care a priority at all levels of their organizations."

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For more information from the Office of Inspector General go to the following web site:

<http://www.oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region3/30800202.pdf>