Contact: Jeffrey A. Newman, Esq. www.JeffrNewmanLaw.com jeff@jeffnewmanlaw.com Phone 617-823-3217

JEFFREY NEWMAN LAW ANNOUNCES \$12.7 MILLION SETTLEMENT IN WHISTLEBLOWER MEDICARE FRAUD CASE AGAINST MEDSTAR AMBULANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Former Employee Claimed Company Falsified Bills for Ambulance Services in Order to Qualify for Higher Medicare Reimbursements

BOSTON, MA -January 13, 2017

Jeffrey Newman Law, a law firm dedicated to representing whistleblowers nationwide, today announced that MedStar Ambulance, Inc., and its related companies have agreed to pay \$12.7 million to settle a False Claims Act lawsuit alleging the company fraudulently billed Medicare for ambulance services that did not qualify for Medicare reimbursement.

The whistleblower, former billing manager Dale Meehan, represented by Attorney Jeffrey Newman, alleged that MedStar knowingly and fraudulently billed Medicare for ambulance services that were not medically necessary or were for higher levels of ambulance services than were required or provided.

"This was a case in which the evidence obtained in the 3-year litigation was clear in that it showed that the MedStar companies fraudulently over-billed Medicare and added false information to the ambulance run documents to make them Medicare eligible when they otherwise would not have qualified for reimbursement," said Attorney Newman.

Meehan brought the case forward in 2013, after she claims she was fired for her continued questions and attempts to correct the fraudulent billing. She will receive \$3,556,000 of the settlement under the federal False Claims Act, which allows whistleblowers to sue companies that are defrauding the government and to receive a reward if the government recovers any funds as a result.

"This is not a case arising from the speculation of a disgruntled employee as has been publicly suggested in the past," added Attorney Newman. "Dale Meehan courageously came forward and told the truth about this multi-million dollar fraud scheme to make more profits. The Medicare system is already severely over-taxed at a time when every penny should be used for those who need it. Our nation should have no tolerance for this kind of fraud or deceit, and it is our hope that the new

administration will support and encourage individuals who come forward to report these kinds of fraud, as Dale Meehan did."

In addition to the payment of money, MedStar and its related companies must also enter into a Corporate Integrity Agreement (CIA) with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Investigator General (OIG). OIG negotiates CIAs with health care providers and other entities as part of the settlement of Federal health care program investigations. A comprehensive CIA typically lasts 5 years and includes requirements to, among other things, hire a compliance officer, to implement comprehensive employee training, to establish a confidential disclosure program, and to provide annual reports to the OIG on the status of activities.

The case was filed on October 4, 2013, in the Federal District Court of Massachusetts under the caption *United States ex rel. Dale Meehan v. MedStar Ambulance Inc, et al.*, Civil Action No. 13-12495-IT.

About Jeffrey Newman Law

Jeffrey Newman Law is a law firm dedicated to the representation of whistleblowers nationwide in False Claims Act (or "qui tam") litigation involving fraud against the government. This unique law allows private citizens with primary information about fraud on the federal and state governments to file actions on the governments' behalf in return for which in successful claims the whistleblowers may receive a percentage of the recoveries. Founded by Jeffrey A. Newman, Esq., the firm has a consistent track record of winning landmark, multi-million dollar settlements in cases involving Medicare and Medicaid fraud, as well as in other SEC and IRS whistleblower actions. In 2016 alone, the firm settled three cases amounting to over \$165 million in recoveries for the government. For more information, please visit www.jeffnewmanlaw.com or contact Jeffrey Newman Law at 617-823-3217.