

**Statement from eQHealth President Gary Curtis on Medicare Fraud Arrests
July 23, 2010**

As the Senior Medicare Patrol contractor in Louisiana, we are encouraged by the recent arrests made in Baton Rouge last week of people charged with defrauding the Medicare program. The U.S. Attorney's Healthcare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT) is to be commended for its aggressive work to investigate fraud and file charges when these illegal actions are discovered.

I commend the U.S. Attorney's office for their aggressive work to investigate fraud and file charges when these illegal actions were discovered. With 93 indictments spanning five states, and totaling more than \$251 million in fraudulent payments, this is one of the largest Medicare fraud busts ever.

I am equally pleased by the work of the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). This group educates seniors on how to detect possible fraud and then report their suspicions. I am aware that at least one of last week's arrests was due, in part, to an individual Medicare beneficiary reporting their concerns about a medical equipment supplier to the SMP.

The Louisiana Senior Medicare Patrol (www.stopmedicarefraudla.org) is administered in Louisiana by eQHealth Solutions, headquartered in Baton Rouge. Louisiana SMP is a program of the US Administration on Aging. Through education sessions, community outreach events and one-on-one counseling, seniors are given information on current health care scams and are taught to detect possible errors, fraud or abuse by checking their Medicare Summary Notices. The Louisiana SMP coordinates with and reports its findings to the Medicare Integrity Contractors, the Office of Inspector General, the Louisiana Attorney General and other elder care agencies.