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                           UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
14
                     FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
       CV
                                SOUTHERN DIVISION R 16-16-00008
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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               Plaintiff,
                                          PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT
                                          MICHAEL E. BARRI
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                    V.
     MICHAEL E. BARRI,
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               Defendant.
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BARRI ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California ("the USAO") in the above-captioned case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement,

This constitutes the plea agreement between MICHAEL E.

administrative, or regulatory authorities.

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DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

2. Defendant agrees to:

- a. Give up the right to indictment by a grand jury and, at the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to a single-count information in the form attached to this agreement as Exhibit A, or a substantially similar form, which charges defendant with Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Honest Services Mail Fraud, and Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity, all in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371.
 - b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
- c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.
- d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
- e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.
- f. Be truthful at all times with Pretrial Services, the United States Probation Office, and the Court.
- g. Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the time of sentencing unless defendant lacks the ability to pay and prior to sentencing submits a completed financial statement on a form to be provided by the USAO.
- 3. Defendant further agrees to cooperate fully with the USAO, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Postal Service

- Office of Inspector General, the Internal Revenue Service, and, as directed by the USAO, any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authority. This cooperation requires defendant to:

- a. Respond truthfully and completely to all questions that may be put to defendant, whether in interviews, before a grand jury, or at any trial or other court proceeding.
- b. Attend all meetings, grand jury sessions, trials or other proceedings at which defendant's presence is requested by the USAO or compelled by subpoena or court order.
- c. Produce voluntarily all documents, records, or other tangible evidence relating to matters about which the USAO, or its designee, inquires.
- 4. For purposes of this agreement: (1) "Cooperation Information" shall mean any statements made, or documents, records, tangible evidence, or other information provided, by defendant pursuant to defendant's cooperation under this agreement or pursuant to the letter agreement previously entered into by the parties dated December 14, 2015 (the "Letter Agreement"); and (2) "Plea Information" shall mean any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing and the agreed to factual basis statement in this agreement.

THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

- 5. The USAO agrees to:
 - a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
- b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.

c. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section.

- d. Except for criminal tax violations (including conspiracy to commit such violations chargeable under 18 U.S.C. § 371), not further criminally prosecute defendant for violations arising out of defendant's conduct described in the agreed-to factual basis set forth in paragraph 18 below. Defendant understands that the USAO is free to criminally prosecute defendant for any other unlawful past conduct or any unlawful conduct that occurs after the date of this agreement. Defendant agrees that at the time of sentencing the Court may consider the uncharged conduct in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed after consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines and all other relevant factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).
- e. With respect to the single count of the information, recommend that defendant be sentenced to a term of imprisonment no higher than the low end of the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, provided that the offense level used by the Court to determine that range is 19 or higher and provided that the Court does not depart downward in criminal history category. For purposes of this agreement, the low end of the Sentencing Guidelines range is that defined by the Sentencing Table in U.S.S.G. Chapter 5, Part A, without regard to reductions in the term of imprisonment that may be

permissible through the substitution of community confinement or home detention as a result of the offense level falling within Zone B or Zone C of the Sentencing Table.

6. The USAO further agrees:

- a. Not to offer as evidence in its case-in-chief in the above-captioned case or any other criminal prosecution that may be brought against defendant by the USAO, or in connection with any sentencing proceeding in any criminal case that may be brought against defendant by the USAO, any Cooperation Information.

 Defendant agrees, however, that the USAO may use both Cooperation Information and Plea Information: (1) to obtain and pursue leads to other evidence, which evidence may be used for any purpose, including any criminal prosecution of defendant; (2) to cross-examine defendant should defendant testify, or to rebut any evidence offered, or argument or representation made, by defendant, defendant's counsel, or a witness called by defendant in any trial, sentencing hearing, or other court proceeding; and (3) in any criminal prosecution of defendant for false statement, obstruction of justice, or perjury.
- b. Not to use Cooperation Information against defendant at sentencing for the purpose of determining the applicable guideline range, including the appropriateness of an upward departure, or the sentence to be imposed, and to recommend to the Court that Cooperation Information not be used in determining the applicable guideline range or the sentence to be imposed. Defendant understands, however, that Cooperation Information will be disclosed to the probation office and the Court, and that the Court may use Cooperation Information for the purposes set forth in U.S.S.G. § 181.8(b) and for determining the sentence to be imposed.

- c. In connection with defendant's sentencing, to bring to the Court's attention the nature and extent of defendant's cooperation.
- d. If the USAO determines, in its exclusive judgment, that defendant has both complied with defendant's obligations under paragraphs 2 and 3 above and provided substantial assistance to law enforcement in the prosecution or investigation of another ("substantial assistance"), to move the Court pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 to fix an offense level and corresponding guideline range below that otherwise dictated by the sentencing guidelines, and to recommend a term of imprisonment at the low end of this reduced range.

DEFENDANT'S UNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING COOPERATION

- 7. Defendant understands the following:
- a. Any knowingly false or misleading statement by defendant will subject defendant to prosecution for false statement, obstruction of justice, and perjury and will constitute a breach by defendant of this agreement.
- b. Nothing in this agreement requires the USAO or any other prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authority to accept any cooperation or assistance that defendant may offer, or to use it in any particular way.
- c. Defendant cannot withdraw defendant's guilty plea if the USAO does not make a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 for a reduced guideline range or if the USAO makes such a motion and the Court does not grant it or if the Court grants such a USAO motion but elects to sentence above the reduced range.

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- d. At this time the USAO makes no agreement or representation as to whether any cooperation that defendant has provided or intends to provide constitutes or will constitute substantial assistance. The decision whether defendant has provided substantial assistance will rest solely within the exclusive judgment of the USAO.
- e. The USAO's determination whether defendant has provided substantial assistance will not depend in any way on whether the government prevails at any trial or court hearing in which defendant testifies or in which the government otherwise presents information resulting from defendant's cooperation.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of 8. the crime charged in the single count of the Information, that is, Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Honest Services Mail Fraud, and Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, the following must be true: (1) Beginning in or around 2009 and continuing through in or around October 2013, there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1346 (Mail Fraud and Honest Services Mail Fraud), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957 (Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity); (2) defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of at least one of its objects and intending to help accomplish it; and (3) one of the members of the conspiracy performed at least one overt act for the purpose of carrying out the conspiracy.

- 9. Defendant understands that Mail Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, has the following elements: (1) the defendant knowingly devised or participated in a scheme or plan to defraud, or a scheme or plan for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations or promises; (2) the statements made or facts omitted as part of the scheme were material, that is, they had a natural tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing, a person to part with money or property; (3) the defendant acted with the intent to defraud; and (4) the defendant used, or caused to be used, the mails to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme.
- 10. Defendant further understands that Honest Services Mail
 Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1346,
 has the following elements: (1) the defendant devised or
 participated in a scheme or plan to deprive a patient of his or her
 right to honest services; (2) the scheme or plan consisted of a bribe
 or kickback in exchange for medical services; (3) a medical
 professional person owed a fiduciary duty to the patient; (4) the
 defendant acted with the intent to defraud by depriving the patient
 of his or her right of honest services; (5) the defendant's act was
 material, that is, it had a natural tendency to influence, or was
 capable of influencing, a person's acts; and (6) the defendant used,
 or caused someone to use, the mails to carry out or attempt to carry
 out the scheme or plan.
- 11. Defendant understands that Engaging in Monetary
 Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity, in
 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957, has the
 following elements: (1) the defendant knowingly engaged or attempted

to engage in a monetary transaction; (2) the defendant knew the transaction involved criminally derived property; (3) the property had a value greater than \$10,000; (4) the property was, in fact, derived from mail fraud; and (5) the transaction occurred in the United States.

PENALTIES AND RESTITUTION

- 12. Defendant understands that the total statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, is: 5 years imprisonment; a 3-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- Defendant understands that defendant will be required to 13. pay full restitution to the victims of the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant agrees that, in return for the USAO's compliance with its obligations under this agreement, the Court may order restitution to persons other than the victims of the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty and in amounts greater than those alleged in the count to which defendant is pleading quilty. In particular, defendant agrees that the Court may order restitution to any victim of any of the following for any losses suffered by that victim as a result: any relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, in connection with the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. The government currently believes that the applicable amount of restitution is approximately \$206,505, but recognizes that this amount could change based on facts that come to the attention of the parties prior to sentencing.

- 14. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- 15. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. Defendant understands that once the court accepts defendant's guilty plea, it will be a federal felony for defendant to possess a firearm or ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.
- 16. Defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United States citizen, the felony conviction in this case may subject defendant to: removal, also known as deportation, which may, under some circumstances, be mandatory; denial of citizenship; and denial of admission to the United States in the future. The court cannot, and defendant's attorney also may not be able to, advise defendant

fully regarding the immigration consequences of the felony conviction in this case. Defendant understands that unexpected immigration consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

FACTUAL BASIS

17. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offense to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 18 below but is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate to that conduct.

A. Kickbacks for Referrals to Pacific Hospital

Beginning in or around 2009 and continuing to in or around October 2013, in Orange and Los Angeles Counties, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant and Michael D. Drobot ("Drobot"), together with other co-conspirators known and unknown to the United States Attorney, knowingly combined, conspired, and agreed to commit the following offenses against the United States: Mail Fraud and Honest Services Mail Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1346, and Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957.

Specifically, beginning in 2009, defendant agreed to refer workers' compensation patients, or to cause workers' compensation patients to be referred, to Pacific Hospital of Long Beach ("Pacific

Hospital"), owned and/or operated by Drobot, for spinal surgeries and other medical services, in exchange for illegal kickbacks offered and paid by Drobot and others through companies Drobot owned and/or controlled. Defendant, Drobot, and others concealed the kickbacks from both defendant's patients and the insurance carriers that paid for the services, and entered into bogus contracts under which defendant purported to provide services to Drobot's companies to justify the kickback payments.

Defendant, a licensed chiropractor, owned and operated Tri-Star Medical Group ("Tri-Star"), a medical clinic located in Santa Ana, California which specialized in treating workers' compensation patients. Defendant also owned, operated, and/or controlled Jojaso Management Company, Inc. ("Jojaso"), a medical group management company based in Santa Ana, California.

In 2009, Drobot solicited defendant to refer Tri-Star's workers' compensation patients to Pacific Hospital for spinal surgeries and other medical services in return for kickback payments. Defendant agreed. In order to conceal the kickback payments defendant and Drobot expected would be made, defendant, on behalf of Jojaso, entered into an Outsourced Collection Agreement with Pacific Hospital, effective April 17, 2009 (the "2009 Collection Agreement"). Under the terms of the 2009 Collection Agreement, Jojaso purported to provide collection services to Pacific Hospital in return for a payment of fifteen percent (15%) of any amount paid by insurance carriers to Pacific Hospital for spinal surgeries referred by defendant. Neither defendant nor Drobot believed the 2009 Collection Agreement was a legitimate contract for collection services; instead,

the 2009 Collection Agreement was merely a cover story to conceal the planned kickback payments.

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In 2011, after defendant did not cause any patients to be referred to Pacific Hospital pursuant to the 2009 Collection Agreement, Attorney A, on behalf of Pacific Hospital, solicited defendant to enter into a new agreement under which defendant would refer patients to Pacific Hospital in return for kickbacks. around June 2011, after meeting with Drobot and Attorney A, defendant entered into a second Outsourced Collection Agreement with Pacific Hospital (the "2011 Collection Agreement" and collectively with the 2009 Collection Agreement, the "Collection Agreements"). The terms of the 2011 Collection Agreement mirrored the terms of the 2009 Collection Agreement, but also provided that Jojaso would be paid its fifteen percent collection fee within sixty days of the surgery, regardless of whether any monies had yet been paid to Pacific Hospital by insurance carriers. Shortly after entering into the 2011 Collection Agreement, Jojaso received a \$10,000 payment from Pacific Hospital as a "deposit" for agreeing to refer patients to Pacific Hospital. However, between July 2011 and February 2012, defendant did not refer any patients to Pacific Hospital under the 2011 Collection Agreement.

In or around January 2012, at defendant's request, Drobot agreed to increase the amount paid to Jojaso for patients defendant referred to Pacific Hospital from fifteen percent to twenty-five percent (25%). Accordingly, on or about January 27, 2012, defendant and Drobot amended the terms of the 2011 Collection Agreement to reflect the increased kickback amount, while also removing the provision requiring Pacific Hospital to make payments to defendant within sixty

days of surgery, regardless of whether any monies had actually been collected by Pacific Hospital. Defendant then began referring Tri-Star's workers' compensation patients to Pacific Hospital. Between November 2012 and July 2013, defendant received \$158,555.98 in kickbacks in return for the referral of twelve patients to Pacific Hospital, which Pacific Hospital paid to defendant only after Pacific Hospital had collected from insurance carriers. Those surgeries were performed primarily by Surgeon A and Surgeon B, spinal surgeons who were affiliated with Tri-Star.

As defendant and Drobot knew, the Collection Agreements were bogus contracts designed to conceal the kickback payments made to defendant by Drobot. Jojaso performed and documented some limited collection-related activities on behalf of Pacific Hospital, but only for the purpose of creating an appearance that legitimate collection services had been provided.

In addition to kickback payments received pursuant to the Collection Agreement, defendant also received kickbacks from Drobot by means of a below-market rate lease of medical office space. On or about May 1, 2012, Jojaso entered into a sublease agreement with Pacific Hospital pursuant to which Jojaso subleased medical office space at 2609 Pacific Avenue, Suite 300, Long Beach, California (the "Pacific Avenue Office") for \$2,000 per month (the "Sublease Agreement"). Pacific Hospital leased the Pacific Avenue Office for \$5,162.50 per month. While defendant did not know the precise amount Pacific Hospital paid to lease the Pacific Avenue Office, defendant knew that the fair market value of the Pacific Avenue Office clearly exceeded \$2,000 per month. Defendant further understood that Drobot entered into the Sublease Agreement at the below-market rate in

return for defendant's referral of workers' compensation patients to Pacific Hospital. In total, between May 2012 and April 2013, defendant was not required to pay to Drobot \$37,950 that would have otherwise been owed had the Sublease Agreement called for payment of market-rate rent.

In total, between 2009 and 2013, through the Collection

Agreements and the Sublease Agreement, defendant received from

Drobot, Pacific Hospital, and entities under Drobot's control,

approximately \$206,505.98 in return for defendant's referral of

patients to Pacific Hospital for spinal surgeries and other medical

services. In turn, Pacific Hospital billed insurance carriers

approximately \$3.9 million for spinal surgeries and other medical

services performed on patients referred to Pacific Hospital by

defendant.

Defendant knew that it was illegal to accept the kickbacks discussed above. Further, defendant knew that Pacific Hospital would submit claims by mail and electronically to workers' compensation insurance carriers for the services that resulted from the referrals induced by the payment of kickbacks; and defendant knew that Pacific Hospital would receive by mail payments from the workers' compensation insurance carrier as reimbursement for the claims. Defendant also knew that, if the insurance carriers had known that the spinal surgeries for which they were billed resulted from referrals induced by such kickbacks, those insurance carriers would not have paid the claims or would have paid a lesser amount.

Moreover, defendant knew that, if his patients had known that he was receiving such kickbacks, they may have chosen not to obtain the

medical services recommended, or may have chosen to be treated by different medical professionals or at a different hospital.

At all times during the conspiracy, defendant knew that his coconspirators would send various items through the mail in furtherance of the conspiracy.

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to accomplish the objects of the conspiracy, defendant and other co-conspirators committed various overt acts within the Central District of California, including but not limited to the following:

Overt Act No. 1

On or about April 17, 2009, defendant caused Jojaso to enter into an Outsourced Collection Agreement with Pacific Hospital, under which Jojaso would be paid fifteen percent of any monies collected by Pacific Hospital on patients referred for surgery to Pacific Hospital by defendant.

Overt Act No. 2

On July 13, 2009, defendant sent an email message to Drobot inquiring about obtaining credentials for Surgeon C to perform spinal surgeries at Pacific Hospital.

Overt Act No. 3

On or about June 14, 2011, defendant caused Jojaso to enter into an Outsourced Collection Agreement with Pacific Hospital under which Jojaso would be paid, within sixty days of surgery, fifteen percent of any monies collected, or estimated to be collected, on patients referred for surgery to Pacific Hospital by defendant.

Overt Act No. 4

On or about June 16, 2011, defendant sent an email message to Drobot and Attorney A informing Drobot and Attorney A that the

surgery to be performed at Pacific Hospital on June 22, 2011 by Surgeon D was the result of a referral by defendant.

Overt Act No. 5

On or about January 27, 2012, defendant caused Jojaso to enter into Amendment One to Outsourced Collection Agreement, increasing the collection fee paid to Jojaso to twenty-five percent of any monies collected on patients referred for surgery to Pacific Hospital by defendant.

Overt Act No. 6

On or about May 1, 2012, defendant caused Jojaso to enter into a Medical Office Sublease with Pacific Hospital for the medical office located at 2690 Pacific Avenue, Suite 300, Long Beach, California.

Overt Act No. 7

On or about June 11, 2012, defendant sent to Attorney A an invoice purported to be for collection services performed by Jojaso related to a spinal surgery performed on Patient A at Pacific Hospital.

Overt Act No. 8

On or about November 28, 2012, Pacific Hospital sent to Jojaso a check for \$3,143 in connection with defendant's referral of Patient A to Pacific Hospital for spinal surgery.

Overt Act No. 9

On or about May 29, 2013, Pacific Hospital sent to Jojaso a check for \$26,248.03.

Overt Act No. 10

On or about June 14, 2012, Pacific Hospital sent to Jojaso a check for \$20,036.89.

Overt Act No. 11

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On or about July 2, 2013, Pacific Hospital sent to Jojaso a check for \$25,613.93.

B. Kickbacks for Referrals to Tri-City Medical Center

Defendant also received kickback payments for referring workers' compensation patients to Tri-City Medical Center in Hawaiian Gardens, California ("Tri-City") for spinal surgeries and other medical procedures. Defendant was introduced to Executive A of Tri-City by Paul Randall, a health care marketer. Defendant and Executive A agreed that Tri-City would pay kickbacks to defendant in exchange for defendant's referrals to Tri-City. To facilitate the kickback arrangement, defendant entered into a collection agreement with Tri-City (the "Tri-City Collection Agreement") that called for defendant to be paid twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) of any amount collected for medical services provided to patients referred by defendant. Based on his conversation with Executive A, defendant knew that the Tri-City Collection Agreement, like the Collection Agreements later entered into with Drobot and Pacific Hospital, was a bogus contract, and that defendant was not required to perform legitimate collection activities in order to earn the purported collection fee and to be paid for referrals. When defendant first sought payment for referrals from Tri-City, however, Attorney B advised defendant that, in order for defendant to be paid for his referrals, defendant was required to create documentation designed to show that defendant performed some collection-related activities. even though the payment to defendant was for defendant's referrals. Defendant thereafter began maintaining documentation as instructed by Attorney B.

Pursuant to his agreement with Executive A, defendant referred workers' compensation patients to Surgeon B, Surgeon C, and others for surgeries to be performed at Tri-City. In return for those referrals, defendant received kickback payments from both Tri-City and Randall.

SENTENCING FACTORS

18. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds appropriate up to the maximum set by statute for the crime of conviction. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable Sentencing Guidelines factors:

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Base Offense Level: 6 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(a)(2)]
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Specific Offense Characteristics:

Loss between +10 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)(F)] \$150,000-\$250,000

Abuse of Trust +2 [U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3]

Upward Departure: +2 [U.S.S.G. § 5K2.0]

The USAO will agree to a two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility (and, if applicable, move for an additional one-level downward adjustment under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b)) only if the

conditions set forth in paragraph 5(c)) are met. Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue that additional specific offense characteristics, adjustments, and departures under the Sentencing Guidelines are appropriate.

- 19. Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.
- 20. Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue for a sentence outside the sentencing range established by the Sentencing Guidelines based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(6), and (a)(7).

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 21. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following rights:
 - a. The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.
 - b. The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
- c. The right to be represented by counsel and if necessary have the court appoint counsel at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel and if necessary have the court appoint counsel at every other stage of the proceeding.
- d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
- e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant.
- f. The right to testify and to present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify.

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- g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant.
- h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

22. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea was involuntary, by pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to appeal defendant's conviction on the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE

23. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a total term of imprisonment on all counts of conviction of no more than the low end of the Guidelines range corresponding to a total offense level of 19 and defendant's criminal history category, defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the following: (a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the Court; (c) the fine imposed by the court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (d) the amount and terms of any restitution order, provided it requires payment of no more than \$206,505; (e) the term of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; and (f) any of the following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court: the conditions set forth in General Orders 318, 01-05, and/or 05-02 of this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C.

§§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).

24. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the sentence are at or below the statutory maximum specified above and (b) the Court imposes a term of imprisonment of no less than the low end of the Guidelines range corresponding to a total offense level of 19 and defendant's criminal history category, the USAO gives up its right to appeal any portion of the sentence, with the exception that the USAO reserves the right to appeal the following: the amount of restitution ordered, if that amount is less than \$206,505.

RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

25. Defendant agrees that if, after entering a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement, including in particular its obligations regarding the use of Cooperation Information; (b) in any investigation, criminal prosecution, or civil, administrative, or regulatory action, defendant agrees that any Cooperation Information and any evidence derived from any Cooperation Information shall be admissible against defendant, and defendant will not assert, and hereby waives and gives up, any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, or any federal rule, that any Cooperation Information or any evidence derived from any Cooperation Information should be suppressed or is inadmissible.

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EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

26. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

- Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the 27. signature of this agreement and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. For example, if defendant knowingly, in an interview, before a grand jury, or at trial, falsely accuses another person of criminal conduct or falsely minimizes defendant's own role, or the role of another, in criminal conduct, defendant will have breached this agreement. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then:
- a. If defendant has previously entered a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be able to withdraw the guilty plea.
- b. The USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement; in particular, the USAO: (i) will no longer be bound by any agreements concerning sentencing and will be free to seek any sentence up to the statutory maximum for the crime to which defendant has pleaded guilty; and (ii) will no longer be bound by any agreement

- c. The USAO will be free to criminally prosecute defendant for false statement, obstruction of justice, and perjury based on any knowingly false or misleading statement by defendant.
- d. In any investigation, criminal prosecution, or civil, administrative, or regulatory action: (i) defendant will not assert, and hereby waives and gives up, any claim that any Cooperation Information was obtained in violation of the Fifth Amendment privilege against compelled self-incrimination; and (ii) defendant agrees that any Cooperation Information and any Plea Information, as well as any evidence derived from any Cooperation Information or any Plea Information, shall be admissible against defendant, and defendant will not assert, and hereby waives and gives up, any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other federal rule, that any Cooperation Information, any Plea Information, or any evidence derived from any Cooperation Information Information or any Plea Information should be suppressed or is inadmissible.

COURT AND PROBATION OFFICE NOT PARTIES

- 28. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States Probation Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing factors.
- 29. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information

to the United States Probation Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the calculations in paragraph 20 are consistent with the facts of this case. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the United States Probation Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.

30. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty plea, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

31. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional

promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

32. The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's quilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

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BARRI

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

EILEEN M. DECKER United States Attorney

Shley	1/21/16
SCOTT D. TENLEY/	Date
Assistant United States Attorney	
MID	1/20/2016
MICHAEL E. BARRI	Date
Defendant .	
[/ Mynell	1/20/16

17 Attorney for Defendant MICHAEL E.

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be

filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading guilty because I am guilty of the charges and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other reason.

Mas

MICHAEL E. BARRI Defendant 1/20/2016

Date

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

I am MICHAEL E. BARRI's attorney. I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set

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1	forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of		
2	a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement.		
3	Muny 1/20/16		
4	II JESSICA C. MUNK Date		
5	Attorney for Defendant MICHAEL E. BARRI		
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EXHIBIT A

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 SOUTHERN DIVISION 11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SA CR No. 16-12 Plaintiff, INFORMATION 13 v. [18 U.S.C. § 371: Conspiracy] 14 MICHAEL E. BARRI, Defendant. 15 16 17 18 The United States Attorney charges: 19 [18 U.S.C. § 371] 20 INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS 21 At all times relevant to this Information: 22 1. Healthsmart Pacific Inc., doing business as Pacific Hospital of Long Beach ("Pacific Hospital"), was a hospital located 23 24 in Long Beach, California, specializing in surgeries, particularly 25 spinal and orthopedic surgeries. From at least in or around 1997 to October 2013, Pacific Hospital was owned and/or operated by Michael 26 27 D. Drobot ("Drobot") and Executive A.

2. Defendant MICHAEL E. BARRI ("defendant BARRI") was a chiropractor who owned and operated Tri-Star Medical Group ("Tri-Star"), a medical clinic located in Santa Ana, California specializing in treating workers' compensation patients.

- 3. Defendant BARRI also operated and controlled Jojaso Management Company, Inc. ("Jojaso"), a medical group management company based in Santa Ana, California.
- 4. The California Workers' Compensation System ("CWCS") was a system created by California law to provide insurance covering treatment of injury or illness suffered by individuals in the course of their employment. Under the CWCS, employers were required to purchase workers' compensation insurance policies from insurance carriers to cover their employees. When an employee suffered a covered injury or illness and received medical services, the medical service provider submitted a claim for payment to the relevant insurance carrier, which then paid the claim. Claims were submitted to and paid by the insurance carriers either by mail or electronically. The CWCS was governed by various California laws and regulations.
- 5. The California State Compensation Insurance Fund ("SCIF") was a non-profit insurance carrier, created by the California Legislature, that provided workers' compensation insurance to employees in California, including serving as the "insurer of last resort" under the CWCS system for employees without any other coverage.
- 6. California law, including but not limited to the California Business and Professions Code, the California Insurance Code, and the California Labor Code, prohibited the offering, delivering,

soliciting, or receiving of anything of value in return for referring a patient for medical services.

- 7. The Federal Employees' Compensation Act ("FECA") provided benefits to civilian employees of the United States, including United States Postal Service employees, for medical expenses and wage-loss disability due to a traumatic injury or occupational disease sustained while working as a federal employee. Benefits available to injured employees included rehabilitation, medical, surgical, hospital, pharmaceutical, and supplies for treatment of an injury. The Department of Labor ("DOL") - Office of Workers' Compensation Programs ("OWCP") was the governmental body responsible for administering the FECA. When a federal employee suffered a covered injury or illness and received medical services, the medical service provider submitted a claim for payment by mail or electronically to Affiliated Computer Services ("ACS"), located in London, Kentucky, which was contracted with the DOL to handle such Upon approval of the claim, ACS sent payment by mail or electronic funds transfer from the U.S. Treasury in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to the medical service provider.
- 8. Federal law prohibited the offering, delivering, soliciting, or receiving of anything of value in return for referring a patient for medical services paid for by a federal health care benefit program.

B. OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

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9. Beginning on a date unknown but at least as early as in or around 2009, and continuing through at least in or around April 2013, in Orange and Los Angeles Counties, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant BARRI and Drobot, together with

others known and unknown to the United States Attorney, knowingly combined, conspired, and agreed to commit the following offenses against the United States: Mail Fraud and Honest Services Mail Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1346; and Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957.

C. MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

- 10. The objects of the conspiracy were to be carried out, and were carried out, in the following ways, among others:
- a. Drobot and other co-conspirators offered to pay kickbacks to defendant BARRI and other doctors, chiropractors, workers' compensation and personal injury attorneys, marketers, and others in return for referring workers' compensation patients to Pacific Hospital for spinal surgeries, other types of surgeries, magnetic resonance imaging, toxicology, durable medical equipment, and other services, to be paid through FECA and the CWCS. For spinal surgeries, typically, Drobot offered to pay a kickback of \$15,000 per lumbar fusion surgery and \$10,000 per cervical fusion surgery, provided that equipment distributed through International Implants was used in the surgery.
- b. Influenced by the promise of kickbacks, defendant BARRI and other doctors, chiropractors, workers' compensation and personal injury attorneys, marketers, and others referred patients insured through the CWCS and the FECA to Pacific Hospital for spinal surgeries, other types of surgeries, and other medical services. In some cases, defendant BARRI and other doctors, chiropractors, or others referred patients to spinal surgeons, who understood that the

referrals were conditioned on the spinal surgeons' performing the surgeries at Pacific Hospital. The workers' compensation patients were not informed that the medical professionals had been offered kickbacks to induce them to refer the surgeries and other medical services to Pacific Hospital. That information would have been material to those patients, to whom defendant BARRI and other doctors owed a fiduciary duty to disclose any financial conflicts of interest.

- c. The surgeries and other medical services were performed on the referred workers' compensation patients at Pacific Hospital.
- d. Pacific Hospital submitted claims, by mail and electronically, to SCIF and other workers' compensation insurance carriers for payment of the costs of the surgeries and other medical services.
- e. As defendant BARRI and the other co-conspirators knew and intended, and as was reasonably foreseeable to them, in submitting claims for payment, Pacific Hospital concealed material information from SCIF and other workers' compensation insurance carriers, including the fact that Pacific Hospital did not disclose to the insurance carriers that it had offered or paid kickbacks for the referral of the surgeries and other medical services for which it was submitting claims.
- f. The insurance carriers paid Pacific Hospital's claims, by mail or electronically.
- g. Drobot and others paid and caused others to pay kickbacks to defendant BARRI and other doctors, chiropractors,

marketers, and others who had referred patients to Pacific Hospital for surgeries and other medical services.

- h. To conceal the nature of the kickback payments from both workers' compensation insurance carriers and patients, Drobot, through one of the companies he owned and/or operated, entered into bogus contracts with the doctors, chiropractors, including defendant BARRI, marketers, and others. The services discussed in those contracts were, in fact, generally not provided; rather, the compensation paid was based on the number and type of surgeries and other medical services referred to Pacific Hospital. Defendant BARRI and Drobot entered into the following bogus contracts in order to hide the kickback payments: a collections agreement and a lease agreement.
- i. Drobot and others kept records of the number of surgeries and other medical services performed at Pacific Hospital due to referrals from the kickback recipients, as well as amounts paid to the kickback recipients for those referrals. Periodically, Drobot and others amended the bogus contracts with the kickback recipients to increase or decrease the amount of agreed compensation described in the contracts, in order to match the amount of kickbacks paid or promised in return for referrals.

D. EFFECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

11. Had SCIF and the other workers' compensation insurance carriers known the true facts regarding the payment of kickbacks for the referral of workers' compensation patients for surgeries and other medical services performed at Pacific Hospital, they would not have paid the claims or would have paid a lesser amount.

12. From 2005 to in or around April 2013, Pacific Hospital billed workers' compensation insurance carriers approximately \$580 million in claims for spinal surgeries that were the result of the payment of a kickback; and Drobot and other co-conspirators paid kickback recipients between approximately \$20 million and \$50 million in kickbacks relating to those claims.

E. OVERT ACTS

13. On or about the following dates, in furtherance of the conspiracy and to accomplish the objects of the conspiracy, defendant BARRI and other co-conspirators known and unknown to the United States Attorney, committed various overt acts within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, including, but not limited to, the following:

Overt Act No. 1: On or about April 17, 2009, defendant BARRI caused Jojaso to enter into an Outsourced Collection Agreement with Pacific Hospital, under which Jojaso would be paid fifteen percent of any monies collected by Pacific Hospital on patients referred for surgery to Pacific Hospital by defendant BARRI.

Overt Act No. 2: On July 13, 2009, defendant BARRI sent an email message to Drobot inquiring about obtaining credentials for Surgeon C to perform spinal surgeries at Pacific Hospital.

Overt Act No. 3: On or about June 14, 2011, defendant BARRI caused Jojaso to enter into an Outsourced Collection Agreement with Pacific Hospital under which Jojaso would be paid, within sixty days of surgery, fifteen percent of any monies collected, or estimated to be collected, on patients referred for surgery to Pacific Hospital by defendant BARRI.

Overt Act No. 4: On or about June 16, 2011, defendant BARRI sent an email message to Drobot and Attorney A informing Drobot and Attorney A that the surgery to be performed at Pacific Hospital on June 22, 2011 by Surgeon D was the result of a referral by defendant BARRI.

Overt Act No. 5: On or about January 27, 2012, defendant BARRI caused Jojaso to enter into Amendment One to Outsourced Collection Agreement, increasing the collection fee paid to Jojaso to twenty-five percent of any monies collected on patients referred for

Overt Act No. 6: On or about May 1, 2012, defendant BARRI caused Jojaso to enter into a Medical Office Sublease with Pacific Hospital for the medical office located at 2690 Pacific Avenue, Suite 300, Long Beach, California.

surgery to Pacific Hospital by defendant BARRI.

Overt Act No. 7: On or about June 11, 2012, defendant BARRI sent to Attorney A an invoice purported to be for collection services performed by Jojaso related to a spinal surgery performed on Patient A at Pacific Hospital.

Overt Act No. 8: On or about November 28, 2012, Pacific Hospital sent to Jojaso a check for \$3,143 in connection with defendant BARRI's referral of Patient A to Pacific Hospital for spinal surgery.

Overt Act No. 9: On or about May 29, 2013, Pacific Hospital sent to Jojaso a check for \$26,248.03.

Overt Act No. 10: On or about June 14, 2012, Pacific Hospital sent to Jojaso a check for \$20,036.89.

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+	Overt Act No. 11: On or about	July 2, 2013, Pacific Hospital
2	sent to Jojaso a check for \$25,613.9	93.
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4	· II	LEEN M. DECKER
5		nited States Attorney
6		
7		AWRENCE S. MIDDLETON Ssistant United States Attorney
8		nief, Criminal Division
9	As	ENNISE D. WILLETT
		nief, Santa Ana Branch Office
11	SC	OSHUA M. ROBBINS COTT D. TENLEY ssistant United States Attorneys
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Cristy Fillon, declare: 2

That I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of or employed in Orange County, California; that my business address is the Office of United States Attorney, 411 West 4th Street, Suite 8000, Santa Ana, California 92701; that I am over the age of 18; and

that I am not a party to the above-titled action;

That I am employed by the United States Attorney for the Central District of California, who is a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, at whose direction, on this date, January 25, 2016, I served a copy of the foregoing document(s): PLEA AGREEMENT

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- ☐ Placed in a closed envelope for collection and interoffice delivery, addressed as follows:
- □ Placed in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing via United States mail, addressed as follows: SEE ATTACHED
- \square By hand delivery, addressed as \square By facsimile, as follows: follows:
- \square By messenger, as follows:
- ☐ By Federal Express, as follows:

This Certificate is executed on January 25, 2016, in Santa Ana, I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing California. is true and correct.

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Legal Assistant

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