



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 30, 2015
Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

ONEIDA COUNTY MAN SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR MORE THAN \$200,000

UTICA – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the sentencing of an Oneida County man for his scheme to defraud UnitedHealthcare (UHC), as administrator of the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP), for more than \$200,000.

Jonathan M. Bronson, 39, of Westernville, N.Y., was sentenced by Hon. Michael L. Dwyer of Oneida County Court to six months in jail and five years of probation for Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a class E felony, to which he pleaded guilty March.

Bronson, a dependent on his wife’s State insurance policy, collected insurance payments from UHC to cover frequent out-of-network hospital emergency room visits between 2010 and 2015. He deposited the money, which was meant to cover his medical bills, into his personal account and never paid the outstanding bills he was responsible for. The scheme amounted to a total \$201,335.

“This defendant’s repeated and flagrant abuse of his health care benefits cost him his freedom,” said Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott. “I will continue to pursue and hold accountable anyone who abuses the resources of the State for their own personal gain.”

Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott’s investigation determined that the five-year scheme, which included more than 200 hospital visits, sometimes several within a week, included Bronson routinely complaining of pain and demanding that physicians who treated him in emergency rooms provide him intravenously with the drug DiLaudid, an opioid narcotic. He would typically leave the hospital when physicians declined to administer the drug.

UHC is one of a number of insurers who provide health care coverage to New York State employees and their families through the NYSHIP.

Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott thanked Attorney General Schneiderman and his staff for prosecuting the case, and thanked the State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and UHC for assisting in the investigation.

###