

**INTEGRITY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AND
AKRAM R. ABRAHAM, M.D., AKRAM R. ABRAHAM, M.D., P.C.,
AND ABRAHAM MEDICAL CLINIC**

I. PREAMBLE

Akram R. Abraham, M.D. (Dr. Abraham), Akram R. Abraham, M.D., P.C., and Abraham Medical Clinic (collectively referred to herein as Abraham) hereby enters into this Corporate Integrity Agreement (IA) with the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promote compliance with the statutes, regulations, and written directives of Medicare, Medicaid, and all other Federal health care programs (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b(f)) (Federal health care program requirements). Contemporaneously with this IA, Abraham is entering into a Settlement Agreement with the United States.

II. TERM AND SCOPE OF THE IA

A. The period of the compliance obligations assumed by Abraham under this IA shall be five years from the effective date of this IA. The “Effective Date” shall be the date on which the final signatory of this IA executes this IA. Each one-year period, beginning with the one-year period following the Effective Date, shall be referred to as a “Reporting Period.”

B. Sections VII, X, and XI shall expire no later than 120 days after OIG’s receipt of: (1) Abraham’s final annual report; or (2) any additional materials submitted by Abraham pursuant to OIG’s request, whichever is later.

C. The scope of this IA shall be governed by the following definitions:

1. “Arrangements” shall mean every arrangement or transaction that:

- a. involves, directly or indirectly, the offer, payment, solicitation, or receipt of anything of value; and is between Abraham and any actual or potential source of health care business or referrals to Abraham or any actual or potential recipient of health care business or referrals from Abraham. The term “source of health care business or referrals” shall mean any individual or entity that refers, recommends, arranges for, orders, leases, or purchases any good, facility, item, or service for which payment may be made in whole or in part by a Federal health care program and the term “recipient of health care business or referrals” shall mean any individual or entity (1) to whom Abraham refers an individual for the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service, or (2) from whom Abraham purchases, leases or orders or arranges for or recommends the purchasing, leasing, or ordering of any good, facility, item, or service for which payment may be made in whole or in part by a Federal health care program; or
- b. is between Abraham and a physician (or a physician’s immediate family member (as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 411.351)) who makes a referral (as defined at 42 U.S.C. § 1395nn(h)(5)) to Abraham for designated health services (as defined at 42 U.S.C. § 1395nn(h)(6)).

2. “Focus Arrangements” means every Arrangement that:

- a. is between Abraham and any actual source of health care business or referrals to Abraham and involves, directly or indirectly, the offer, payment, or provision of anything of value; or
- b. is between Abraham and any physician (or a physician’s immediate family member) (as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 411.351)) who makes a referral (as defined at 42 U.S.C. § 1395nn(h)(5)) to Abraham for designated health services (as defined at 42 U.S.C. §1395nn(h))(6)).

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of Section II.C.2, any Arrangement that satisfies the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 411.356 (ownership or investment interests), 42 C.F.R. § 411.357(g) (remuneration unrelated to the provision of designated health services); 42 C.F.R. § 411.357(i) (payments by a physician for items and services); 42 C.F.R. § 411.357(k) (non-monetary compensation); 42 C.F.R. § 411.357(m) (medical staff incidental benefits), 42 C.F.R. § 411.357(o) (compliance training), 42 C.F.R. § 411.357(q) (referral services), 42 C.F.R. § 411.357(s) (professional courtesy), 42 C.F.R. § 357(u) (community-wide health information systems), or any exception to the prohibitions of 42 U.S.C. § 1395nn enacted following the Effective Date that does not require a written agreement shall not be considered a Focus Arrangement for purposes of this IA.

3. “Covered Persons” includes:
 - a. all owners, officers, directors, and employees of Abraham;
and
 - b. all contractors, subcontractors, agents, and other persons who provide patient care items or services or who perform billing or coding functions on behalf of Abraham excluding vendors whose sole connection with Abraham is selling or otherwise providing medical supplies or equipment to Abraham and who do not bill the Federal health care programs for such medical supplies or equipment; and
 - c. all physicians and other non-physician practitioners who are members of Abraham’s active medical staff.

Notwithstanding the above, this term does not include part-time or per diem employees, contractors, subcontractors, agents, and other persons who are not reasonably expected to work more than 160 hours per year, except that any such individuals shall become “Covered Persons” at the point when they work more than 160 hours during the calendar year.

4. “Arrangements Covered Persons” includes each Covered Person who is involved with the development, approval, management, or review of Abraham’s Arrangements.

III. CORPORATE INTEGRITY OBLIGATIONS

Abraham shall establish and maintain a Compliance Program that includes the following elements:

A. Compliance Officer and Committee

1. *Compliance Officer.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Abraham shall appoint an individual to serve as its Compliance Officer and shall maintain a Compliance Officer for the term of the IA. The Compliance Officer shall be responsible for developing and implementing policies, procedures, and practices designed to ensure compliance with the requirements set forth in this IA and with Federal health care program requirements. The Compliance Officer shall be a member of senior management of Abraham, shall report directly to the President of Abraham, shall make periodic (at least quarterly) reports regarding compliance matters directly to the President of Abraham, and shall be authorized to report on such matters to the President at any time. The Compliance Officer shall be responsible for monitoring the day-to-day compliance activities engaged in by Abraham as well as for any reporting obligations created under this IA. Any noncompliance job responsibilities of the Compliance Officer shall be limited and must not interfere with the Compliance Officer's ability to perform the duties outlined in this IA.

Abraham shall report to OIG, in writing, any changes in the identity or position description of the Compliance Officer, or any actions or changes that would affect the Compliance Officer's ability to perform the duties necessary to meet the obligations in this IA, within five days after such a change.

B. Written Standards

1. *Code of Conduct.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Abraham shall develop, implement, and distribute a written Code of Conduct to all Covered Persons. Abraham shall make the promotion of, and adherence to, the Code of Conduct an element in evaluating the performance of all employees. The Code of Conduct shall, at a minimum, set forth:

- a. Abraham's commitment to full compliance with all Federal health care program requirements;
- b. Abraham's requirement that all of its Covered Persons shall be expected to comply with all Federal health care program

requirements and with Abraham's own Policies and Procedures;

- c. the requirement that all of Abraham's Covered Persons shall be expected to report to the Compliance Officer, or other appropriate individual designated by Abraham, suspected violations of any Federal health care program requirements or of Abraham's own Policies and Procedures;
- d. the right of all individuals to use the Disclosure Program described in Section III.F, and Abraham's commitment to nonretaliation and to maintain, as appropriate, confidentiality and anonymity with respect to such disclosures.

Within 90 days after the Effective Date, each Covered Person shall certify, in writing or in electronic form, that he or she has received, read, understood, and shall abide by Abraham's Code of Conduct. New Covered Persons shall receive the Code of Conduct and shall complete the required certification within 30 days after becoming a Covered Person or within 90 days after the Effective Date, whichever is later.

Abraham shall periodically review the Code of Conduct to determine if revisions are appropriate and shall make any necessary revisions based on such review. Any revised Code of Conduct shall be distributed within 30 days after any revisions are finalized. Each Covered Person shall certify, in writing, that he or she has received, read, understood, and shall abide by the revised Code of Conduct within 30 days after the distribution of the revised Code of Conduct.

2. *Policies and Procedures.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Abraham shall implement written Policies and Procedures regarding the operation of Abraham's compliance program, including the compliance program requirements outlined in this IA and Abraham's compliance with Federal health care program requirements. The Policies and Procedures also shall address:

- a. 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b(b) (Anti-Kickback Statute) and 42 U.S.C. § 1395nn (Stark Law), and the regulations and other guidance documents related to these statutes, and business or financial arrangements or contracts that generate unlawful Federal health care program business in violation of the Anti-Kickback Statute or the Stark Law; and

- b. the requirements set forth in Section III.D (Compliance with the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law).

Within 90 days after the Effective Date, the relevant portions of the Policies and Procedures shall be distributed to all Covered Persons whose job functions relate to those Policies and Procedures. Appropriate and knowledgeable staff shall be available to explain the Policies and Procedures.

At least annually (and more frequently, if appropriate), Abraham shall assess and update, as necessary, the Policies and Procedures. Within 30 days after the effective date of any revisions, the relevant portions of any such revised Policies and Procedures shall be distributed to all Covered Persons whose job functions relate to those Policies and Procedures.

C. Training and Education

1. *General Training.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Abraham shall provide at least two hours of General Training to each Covered Person. This training, at a minimum, shall explain Abraham's:

- a. IA requirements; and
- b. Compliance Program, including the Code of Conduct.

New Covered Persons shall receive the General Training described above within 30 days after becoming a Covered Person or within 90 days after the Effective Date, whichever is later. After receiving the initial General Training described above, each Covered Person shall receive at least one hour of General Training in each subsequent Reporting Period.

2. *Arrangements Training.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, each Arrangements Covered Person shall receive at least three hours of Arrangements Training, in addition to the General Training required above. The Arrangements Training shall include a discussion of:

- a. Arrangements that potentially implicate the Anti-Kickback Statute or the Stark Law, as well as the regulations and other guidance documents related to these statutes;

- b. Abraham's policies, procedures, and other requirements relating to Arrangements and Focus Arrangements, including but not limited to the Focus Arrangements Tracking System, the internal review and approval process, and the tracking of remuneration to and from sources of health care business or referrals required by Section III.D of the IA;
- c. the personal obligation of each individual involved in the development, approval, management, or review of Abraham's Arrangements to know the applicable legal requirements and the Abraham's policies and procedures;
- d. the legal sanctions under the Anti-Kickback Statute and the Stark Law; and
- e. examples of violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute and the Stark Law.

New Arrangements Covered Persons shall receive this training within 30 days after the beginning of their employment or becoming Arrangements Covered Persons, or within 90 days after the Effective Date, whichever is later.

After receiving the initial Arrangements Training described in this Section, each Arrangements Covered Person shall receive at least two hours of Arrangements Training, in addition to the General Training, in each subsequent Reporting Period.

3. *Certification.* Each individual who is required to attend training shall certify, in writing or in electronic form, that he or she has received the required training. The certification shall specify the type of training received and the date received. The Compliance Officer (or designee) shall retain the certifications, along with all course materials.

4. *Qualifications of Trainer.* Persons providing the training shall be knowledgeable about the subject area.

5. *Update of Training.* Abraham shall review the training annually, and, where appropriate, update the training to reflect changes in Federal health care program requirements, any issues discovered during internal audits or the Arrangements Review, and any other relevant information.

6. *Computer-based Training.* Abraham may provide the training required under this IA through appropriate computer-based training approaches. If Abraham chooses to provide computer-based training, it shall make available appropriately qualified and knowledgeable staff or trainers to answer questions or provide additional information to the individuals receiving such training.

D. Compliance with the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law

1. *Focus Arrangements Procedures.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Abraham shall create procedures reasonably designed to ensure that each existing and new or renewed Focus Arrangement does not violate the Anti-Kickback Statute and/or the Stark Law or the regulations, directives, and guidance related to these statutes (Focus Arrangements Procedures). These procedures shall include the following:

- a. creating and maintaining a centralized tracking system for all existing and new or renewed Focus Arrangements (Focus Arrangements Tracking System);
- b. tracking remuneration to and from all parties to Focus Arrangements;
- c. tracking service and activity logs to ensure that parties to the Focus Arrangement are performing the services required under the applicable Focus Arrangement(s) (if applicable);
- d. monitoring the use of leased space, medical supplies, medical devices, equipment, or other patient care items to ensure that such use is consistent with the terms of the applicable Focus Arrangement(s) (if applicable);
- e. establishing and implementing a written review and approval process for all Focus Arrangements, the purpose of which is to ensure that all new and existing or renewed Focus Arrangements do not violate the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law, and that includes at least the following: (i) a legal review of all Focus Arrangements by counsel with expertise in the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law, (ii) a process for specifying the business need or business rationale for all Focus Arrangements, and (iii) a process for determining and

documenting the fair market value of the remuneration specified in the Focus Arrangement;

- f. requiring the Compliance Officer to review the Focus Arrangements Tracking System, internal review and approval process, and other Focus Arrangements Procedures on at least an annual basis and to provide a report on the results of such review to the Compliance Committee; and
- g. implementing effective responses when suspected violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law are discovered, including disclosing Reportable Events and quantifying and repaying Overpayments pursuant to Sections III.I and III.J when appropriate.

2. *New or Renewed Arrangements.* Prior to entering into new Focus Arrangements or renewing existing Focus Arrangements, in addition to complying with the Focus Arrangements Procedures set forth above, Abraham shall comply with the following requirements (Focus Arrangements Requirements):

- a. Ensure that each Focus Arrangement is set forth in writing and signed by Abraham and the other parties to the Focus Arrangement;
- b. Include in the written agreement a requirement that each party to a Focus Arrangement who meets the definition of a Covered Person shall complete the Arrangements Training required by Section III.C.2 of this IA. Additionally, Abraham shall provide each party to the Focus Arrangement with a copy of its Code of Conduct and Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Statute Policies and Procedures;
- c. Include in the written agreement a certification by the parties to the Focus Arrangement that the parties shall not violate the Anti-Kickback Statute and the Stark Law with respect to the performance of the Arrangement.

3. *Records Retention and Access.* Abraham shall retain and make available to OIG, upon request, the Focus Arrangements Tracking System and all supporting documentation of the Focus Arrangements subject to this Section and, to the

extent available, all non-privileged communications related to the Focus Arrangements and the actual performance of the duties under the Focus Arrangements.

E. Review Procedures

1. *General Description.*

- a. *Engagement of Independent Review Organization.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Abraham shall engage an individual or entity (or entities), such as an accounting, auditing, law, or consulting firm (hereinafter “Independent Review Organization” or “IRO”), to perform the reviews listed in this Section III.E. The applicable requirements relating to the IRO are outlined in Appendix A to this IA, which is incorporated by reference.
- b. *Retention of Records.* The IRO and Abraham shall retain and make available to OIG, upon request, all work papers, supporting documentation, correspondence, and draft reports (those exchanged between the IRO and Abraham) related to the reviews.
- c. *Responsibilities and Liabilities.* Nothing in this Section III.E affects Abraham’s responsibilities or liabilities under any criminal, civil, or administrative laws or regulations applicable to any Federal health care program including, but not limited to, the Anti-Kickback Statute and/or the Stark Law.

2. *Arrangements Review.* The IRO shall perform an Arrangements Review and prepare an Arrangements Review Report as outlined in Appendix B to this IA, which is incorporated by reference.

3. *Validation Review.* In the event OIG has reason to believe that: (a) Abraham’s Arrangements Review fails to conform to the requirements of this IA; or (b) the IRO’s findings or Arrangements Review results are inaccurate, OIG may, at its sole discretion, conduct its own review to determine whether the Arrangements Review complied with the requirements of the IA and/or the findings or Arrangements Review results are inaccurate (Validation Review). Abraham shall pay for the reasonable cost of any such review performed by OIG or any of its designated agents. Any Validation

Review of Reports submitted as part of Abraham's final Annual Report shall be initiated no later than one year after Abraham's final submission (as described in Section II) is received by OIG.

Prior to initiating a Validation Review, OIG shall notify Abraham of its intent to do so and provide a written explanation of why OIG believes such a review is necessary. To resolve any concerns raised by OIG, Abraham may request a meeting with OIG to: (a) discuss the results of any Arrangements Review submissions or findings; (b) present any additional information to clarify the results of the Arrangements Review or to correct the inaccuracy of the Arrangements Review; and/or (c) propose alternatives to the proposed Validation Review. Abraham agrees to provide any additional information as may be requested by OIG under this Section III.E.5 in an expedited manner. OIG will attempt in good faith to resolve any Arrangements Review issues with Abraham prior to conducting a Validation Review. However, the final determination as to whether or not to proceed with a Validation Review shall be made at the sole discretion of OIG.

4. *Independence and Objectivity Certification.* The IRO shall include in its report(s) to Abraham a certification that the IRO has (a) evaluated its professional independence and objectivity with respect to the reviews conducted under this Section III.E and (b) concluded that it is, in fact, independent and objective, in accordance with the requirements specified in Appendix A to this IA.

F. Disclosure Program

Within 90 days after the Effective Date, Abraham shall establish a Disclosure Program that includes a mechanism (e.g., a toll-free compliance telephone line) to enable individuals to disclose, to the Compliance Officer or some other person who is not in the disclosing individual's chain of command, any identified issues or questions associated with Abraham's policies, conduct, practices, or procedures with respect to a Federal health care program believed by the individual to be a potential violation of criminal, civil, or administrative law. Abraham shall appropriately publicize the existence of the disclosure mechanism (e.g., via periodic e-mails to employees or by posting the information in prominent common areas).

The Disclosure Program shall emphasize a nonretribution, nonretaliation policy, and shall include a reporting mechanism for anonymous communications for which appropriate confidentiality shall be maintained. Upon receipt of a disclosure, the Compliance Officer (or designee) shall gather all relevant information from the disclosing individual. The Compliance Officer (or designee) shall make a preliminary, good faith inquiry into the allegations set forth in every disclosure to ensure that he or she

has obtained all of the information necessary to determine whether a further review should be conducted. For any disclosure that is sufficiently specific so that it reasonably: (1) permits a determination of the appropriateness of the alleged improper practice; and (2) provides an opportunity for taking corrective action, Abraham shall conduct an internal review of the allegations set forth in the disclosure and ensure that proper follow-up is conducted.

The Compliance Officer (or designee) shall maintain a disclosure log, which shall include a record and summary of each disclosure received (whether anonymous or not), the status of the respective internal reviews, and any corrective action taken in response to the internal reviews.

G. Ineligible Persons

1. *Definitions.* For purposes of this IA:
 - a. an “Ineligible Person” shall include an individual or entity who:
 - i. is currently excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise ineligible to participate in the Federal health care programs or in Federal procurement or nonprocurement programs; or
 - ii. has been convicted of a criminal offense that falls within the scope of 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7(a), but has not yet been excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise declared ineligible.
 - b. “Exclusion Lists” include:
 - i. the HHS/OIG List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (available through the Internet at <http://www.oig.hhs.gov>); and
 - ii. the General Services Administration’s List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs (available through the Internet at <http://www.epls.gov>).

2. *Screening Requirements.* Abraham shall ensure that all prospective and current Covered Persons are not Ineligible Persons, by implementing the following screening requirements.

- a. Abraham shall screen all prospective Covered Persons against the Exclusion Lists prior to engaging their services and, as part of the hiring or contracting process, shall require such Covered Persons to disclose whether they are Ineligible Persons.
- b. Abraham shall screen all Covered Persons against the Exclusion Lists within 90 days after the Effective Date and on an annual basis thereafter.
- c. Abraham shall implement a policy requiring all Covered Persons to disclose immediately any debarment, exclusion, suspension, or other event that makes that person an Ineligible Person.

Nothing in Section III.G affects Abraham's responsibility to refrain from (and liability for) billing Federal health care programs for items or services furnished, ordered, or prescribed by an excluded person. Abraham understands that items or services furnished by excluded persons are not payable by Federal health care programs and that Abraham may be liable for overpayments and/or criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions for employing or contracting with an excluded person regardless of whether Abraham meets the requirements of Section III.G.

3. *Removal Requirement.* If Abraham has actual notice that a Covered Person has become an Ineligible Person, Abraham shall remove such Covered Person from responsibility for, or involvement with, Abraham's business operations related to the Federal health care programs and shall remove such Covered Person from any position for which the Covered Person's compensation or the items or services furnished, ordered, or prescribed by the Covered Person are paid in whole or part, directly or indirectly, by Federal health care programs or otherwise with Federal funds at least until such time as the Covered Person is reinstated into participation in the Federal health care programs

4. *Pending Charges and Proposed Exclusions.* If Abraham has actual notice that a Covered Person is charged with a criminal offense that falls within the scope of 42 U.S.C. §§ 1320a-7(a), 1320a-7(b)(1)-(3), or is proposed for exclusion during the Covered Person's employment or contract term or, Abraham shall take all appropriate

actions to ensure that the responsibilities of that Covered Person have not and shall not adversely affect the quality of care rendered to any beneficiary, patient, or resident, or any claims submitted to any Federal health care program.

H. Notification of Government Investigation or Legal Proceedings

Within 30 days after discovery, Abraham shall notify OIG, in writing, of any ongoing investigation or legal proceeding known to Abraham conducted or brought by a governmental entity or its agents involving an allegation that Abraham has committed a crime or has engaged in fraudulent activities. This notification shall include a description of the allegation, the identity of the investigating or prosecuting agency, and the status of such investigation or legal proceeding. Abraham shall also provide written notice to OIG within 30 days after the resolution of the matter, and shall provide OIG with a description of the findings and/or results of the investigation or proceedings, if any.

I. Repayment of Overpayments

1. *Definition of Overpayments.* For purposes of this IA, an “Overpayment” shall mean the amount of money Abraham has received in excess of the amount due and payable under any Federal health care program requirements.

2. *Repayment of Overpayments.*

- a. If, at any time, Abraham identifies any Overpayment, Abraham shall repay the Overpayment to the appropriate payor (e.g., Medicare fiscal intermediary or carrier) within 30 days after identification of the Overpayment and take remedial steps within 60 days after identification (or such additional time as may be agreed to by the payor) to correct the problem, including preventing the underlying problem and the Overpayment from recurring. If not yet quantified, within 30 days after identification, Abraham shall notify the payor of its efforts to quantify the Overpayment amount along with a schedule of when such work is expected to be completed. Notification and repayment to the payor shall be done in accordance with the payor’s policies.
- b. Notwithstanding the above, notification and repayment of any Overpayment amount that routinely is reconciled or adjusted pursuant to policies and procedures established by the payor

should be handled in accordance with such policies and procedures.

J. Reportable Events

1. *Definition of Reportable Event.* For purposes of this IA, a “Reportable Event” means anything that involves:
 - a. a substantial Overpayment;
 - b. a matter that a reasonable person would consider a probable violation of criminal, civil, or administrative laws applicable to any Federal health care program for which penalties or exclusion may be authorized;
 - c. the employment of or contracting with a Covered Person who is an Ineligible Person as defined by Section III.G.1.a; or
 - d. the filing of a bankruptcy petition by Abraham.

A Reportable Event may be the result of an isolated event or a series of occurrences.

2. *Reporting of Reportable Events.* If Abraham determines (after a reasonable opportunity to conduct an appropriate review or investigation of the allegations) through any means that there is a Reportable Event, Abraham shall notify OIG, in writing, within 30 days after making the determination that the Reportable Event exists.
3. *Reportable Events under Section III.J.1.a.* For Reportable Events under Section III.J.1.a, the report to the OIG shall be made at the same time as the repayment to the payor required under Section III.I, and shall include:
 - a. a copy of the notification and repayment to the payor required in Section III.I.2;
 - b. a description of the steps taken by Abraham to identify and quantify the Overpayment;

- c. a complete description of the Reportable Event, including the relevant facts, persons involved, and legal and Federal health care program authorities implicated;
- d. a description of Abraham's actions taken to correct the Reportable Event; and
- e. any further steps Abraham plans to take to address the Reportable Event and prevent it from recurring.

4. *Reportable Events under Section III.J.1.b and c.* For Reportable Events under Section III.J.1.b and III.J.1.c, the report to OIG shall include:

- a. a complete description of the Reportable Event, including the relevant facts, persons involved, and legal and Federal health care program authorities implicated;
- b. a description of Abraham's actions taken to correct the Reportable Event;
- c. any further steps Abraham plans to take to address the Reportable Event and prevent it from recurring; and
- d. if the Reportable Event has resulted in an Overpayment, a description of the steps taken by Abraham to identify and quantify the Overpayment.

5. *Reportable Events under Section III.J.1.d.* For Reportable Events under Section III.J.1.d, the report to the OIG shall include documentation of the bankruptcy filing and a description of any Federal health care program authorities implicated.

6. *Reportable Events Involving the Stark Law.* Notwithstanding the reporting requirements outlined above, any Reportable Event that involves only a probable violation of section 1877 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §1395nn (the Stark Law) should be submitted by Abraham to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) through the self-referral disclosure protocol (SRDP), with a copy to the OIG. The requirements of Section III.I.2 that require repayment to the payor of any identified Overpayment within 30 days shall not apply to any Overpayment that may result from a probable violation of only the Stark Law that is disclosed to CMS pursuant to the SRDP.

IV. CHANGES TO BUSINESS UNITS OR LOCATIONS

A. Change or Closure of Unit or Location

In the event that, after the Effective Date, Abraham changes locations or closes a business unit or location related to the furnishing of items or services that may be reimbursed by Federal health care programs, Abraham shall notify OIG of this fact as soon as possible, but no later than within 30 days after the date of change or closure of the location.

B. Purchase or Establishment of New Unit or Location

In the event that, after the Effective Date, Abraham purchases or establishes a new business unit or location related to the furnishing of items or services that may be reimbursed by Federal health care programs, Abraham shall notify OIG at least 30 days prior to such purchase or the operation of the new business unit or location. This notification shall include the address of the new business unit or location, phone number, fax number, the location's Medicare and state Medicaid program provider number and/or supplier number(s), and the name and address of each Medicare and state Medicaid program contractor to which Abraham currently submits claims. Each new business unit or location and all Covered Persons at each new business unit or location shall be subject to the applicable requirements of this IA.

C. Sale of Unit or Location

In the event that, after the Effective Date, Abraham proposes to sell any or all of its business units or locations that are subject to this IA, Abraham shall notify OIG of the proposed sale at least 30 days prior to the sale of such business unit or location. This notification shall include a description of the business unit or location to be sold, a brief description of the terms of the sale, and the name and contact information of the prospective purchaser. This IA shall be binding on the purchaser of such business unit or location, unless otherwise determined and agreed to in writing by the OIG.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND ANNUAL REPORTS

A. Implementation Report

Within 120 days after the Effective Date, Abraham shall submit a written report to OIG summarizing the status of its implementation of the requirements of this IA (Implementation Report). The Implementation Report shall, at a minimum, include:

1. the name, address, phone number, and position description of the Compliance Officer required by Section III.A, and a summary of other noncompliance job responsibilities the Compliance Officer may have;
2. a copy of Abraham's Code of Conduct required by Section III.B.1;
3. the number of individuals required to complete the Code of Conduct certification required by Section III.B.1, the percentage of individuals who have completed such certification, and an explanation of any exceptions (the documentation supporting this information shall be made available to OIG upon request);
4. a summary of all Policies and Procedures required by Section III.B (copies of the Policies and Procedures shall be made available to OIG upon request);
5. the following information regarding each type of training required by Section III.C:
 - a. a description of such training, including a summary of the topics covered, the length of sessions, and a schedule of training sessions; and
 - b. the number of individuals required to be trained, percentage of individuals actually trained, and an explanation of any exceptions.
7. a description of (a) the Focus Arrangements Tracking System required by Section III.D.1.a, (b) the internal review and approval process required by Section III.D.1.e; and (c) the tracking and monitoring procedures and other Focus Arrangements Procedures required by Section III.D.1;
8. a description of the Disclosure Program required by Section III.F;
9. the following information regarding the IRO(s): (a) identity, address, and phone number; (b) a copy of the engagement letter; (c) information to demonstrate that the IRO has the qualifications outlined in Appendix A to this IA, (d) a summary and description of any and all current and prior engagements and agreements between Abraham and the IRO; and (e) a certification from the IRO regarding its professional independence and objectivity with respect to Abraham;

10. a description of the process by which Abraham fulfills the requirements of Section III.G regarding Ineligible Persons;

11. a list of all of Abraham's locations (including locations and mailing addresses); the corresponding name under which each location is doing business; the corresponding phone numbers and fax numbers; each location's Medicare and state Medicaid program provider number(s) and/or supplier number(s); and the name and address of each Medicare and state Medicaid program contractor to which Abraham currently submits claims;

12. a description of Abraham's corporate structure, including identification of any parent and sister companies, subsidiaries, and their respective lines of business; and

13. the certifications required by Section V.C.

B. Annual Reports

Abraham shall submit to OIG annually a report with respect to the status of, and findings regarding, Abraham's compliance activities for each of the five Reporting Periods (Annual Report). Each Annual Report shall include, at a minimum:

1. any change in the identity, position description, or other noncompliance job responsibilities of the Compliance Officer described in Section III.A;

2. a summary of any changes or amendments to Abraham's Code of Conduct required by Section III.B.1 and the reason for such changes, along with a copy of the revised Code of Conduct;

3. the number of individuals required to complete the Code of Conduct certification required by Section III.B.1, the percentage of individuals who have completed such certification, and an explanation of any exceptions (the documentation supporting this information shall be made available to OIG upon request);

4. a summary of any significant changes or amendments to the Policies and Procedures required by Section III.B and the reasons for such changes (e.g., change in contractor policy);

5. the following information regarding each type of training required by Section III.C:

- a. a description of the initial and annual training, including a summary of the topics covered, the length of sessions, and a schedule of training sessions; and
- b. the number of individuals required to complete the initial and annual training, the percentage of individuals who actually completed the initial and annual training, and an explanation of any exceptions.

7. a description of (a) any changes to the Focus Arrangements Tracking System required by Section III.D.1.a; (b) any changes to the internal review and approval process required by Section III.D.1.e; and (c) any changes to the tracking and monitoring procedures and other Arrangements Procedures required by Section III.D.1;

8. a complete copy of all reports prepared pursuant to Section III.E, along with a copy of the IRO's engagement letter;

9. Abraham's response to the reports prepared pursuant to Section III.E., along with corrective action plan(s) related to any issues raised by the reports;

10. a summary and description of any and all current and prior engagements and agreements between Abraham and the IRO, if different from what was submitted as part of the Implementation Report;

11. a certification from the IRO regarding its professional independence and objectivity with respect to Abraham;

12. a summary of Reportable Events (as defined in Section III.J) identified during the Reporting Period and the status of any corrective action relating to all such Reportable Events;

13. a report of the aggregate Overpayments that have been returned to the Federal health care programs. Overpayment amounts shall be broken down into the following categories: inpatient Medicare, outpatient Medicare, Medicaid (report each applicable state separately, if applicable), and other Federal health care programs. Overpayment amounts that are routinely reconciled or adjusted pursuant to policies and

procedures established by the payor do not need to be included in this aggregate Overpayment report;

14. a summary of the disclosures in the disclosure log required by Section III.F that: (a) relate to Federal health care programs; or (b) involve allegations of conduct that may involve illegal remunerations or inappropriate referrals in violation of the Anti-Kickback Statute or Stark law (the complete disclosure log shall be made available to OIG upon request);

15. any changes to the process by which Abraham fulfills the requirements of Section III.G regarding Ineligible Persons;

16. a summary describing any ongoing investigation or legal proceeding required to have been reported pursuant to Section III.H. The summary shall include a description of the allegation, the identity of the investigating or prosecuting agency, and the status of such investigation or legal proceeding;

17. a description of all changes to the most recently provided list of Abraham's locations (including addresses) as required by Section V.A.11; the corresponding name under which each location is doing business; the corresponding phone numbers and fax numbers; each location's Medicare and state Medicaid program provider number(s) and/or supplier number(s); and the name and address of each Medicare and state Medicaid program contractor to which Abraham currently submits claims; and

18. the certifications required by Section V.C.

The first Annual Report shall be received by OIG no later than 60 days after the end of the first Reporting Period. Subsequent Annual Reports shall be received by OIG no later than the anniversary date of the due date of the first Annual Report.

C. Certifications

The Implementation Report and Annual Reports shall include a certification by Dr. Abraham and the Compliance Officer that:

1. to the best of his or her knowledge, except as otherwise described in the applicable report, Abraham is in compliance with all of the requirements of this IA;

2. to the best of his or her knowledge, Abraham has implemented procedures reasonably designed to ensure that all Focus Arrangements do not violate the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law, including the Focus Arrangements Procedures required in Section III.D of the IA;

3. to the best of his or her knowledge, Abraham has fulfilled the requirements for New and Renewed Focus Arrangements under Section III.D.2 of the IA;

4. he or she has reviewed the Report and has made reasonable inquiry regarding its content and believes that the information in the Report is accurate and truthful; and

5. to the best of his or her knowledge, Abraham has complied with its obligations under the Settlement Agreement not to resubmit to any Federal health care program payors any previously denied claims related to the Covered Conduct addressed in the Settlement Agreement, and not to appeal any such denials of claims.

D. Designation of Information

Abraham shall clearly identify any portions of its submissions that it believes are trade secrets, or information that is commercial or financial and privileged or confidential, and therefore potentially exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Abraham shall refrain from identifying any information as exempt from disclosure if that information does not meet the criteria for exemption from disclosure under FOIA.

VI. NOTIFICATIONS AND SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

Unless otherwise stated in writing after the Effective Date, all notifications and reports required under this IA shall be submitted to the following entities:

OIG: Administrative and Civil Remedies Branch
Office of Counsel to the Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Cohen Building, Room 5527
330 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201
Telephone: 202.619.2078
Facsimile: 202.205.0604

Abraham: Dr. Akram Abraham
Abraham Medical Clinic
920 N 8th St
Hollis, OK 73550

Unless otherwise specified, all notifications and reports required by this IA may be made by certified mail, overnight mail, hand delivery, or other means, provided that there is proof that such notification was received. For purposes of this requirement, internal facsimile confirmation sheets do not constitute proof of receipt. Upon request by OIG, Abraham may be required to provide OIG with an electronic copy of each notification or report required by this IA in searchable portable document format (pdf), in addition to a paper copy.

VII. OIG INSPECTION, AUDIT, AND REVIEW RIGHTS

In addition to any other rights OIG may have by statute, regulation, or contract, OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) may examine or request copies of Abraham's books, records, and other documents and supporting materials and/or conduct on-site reviews of any of Abraham's locations for the purpose of verifying and evaluating: (a) Abraham's compliance with the terms of this IA; and (b) Abraham's compliance with the requirements of the Federal health care programs. The documentation described above shall be made available by Abraham to OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) at all reasonable times for inspection, audit, or reproduction. Furthermore, for purposes of this provision, OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) may interview any of Abraham's employees, contractors, or agents who consent to be interviewed at the individual's place of business during normal business hours or at such other place and time as may be mutually agreed upon between the individual and OIG. Abraham shall assist OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) in contacting and arranging interviews with such individuals upon OIG's request. Abraham's employees may elect to be interviewed with or without a representative of Abraham present.

VIII. DOCUMENT AND RECORD RETENTION

Abraham shall maintain for inspection all documents and records relating to reimbursement from the Federal health care programs, or to compliance with this IA, for six years (or longer if otherwise required by law) from the Effective Date.

IX. DISCLOSURES

Consistent with HHS's FOIA procedures, set forth in 45 C.F.R. Part 5, OIG shall make a reasonable effort to notify Abraham prior to any release by OIG of information submitted by Abraham pursuant to its obligations under this IA and identified upon submission by Abraham as trade secrets, or information that is commercial or financial and privileged or confidential, under the FOIA rules. With respect to such releases, Abraham shall have the rights set forth at 45 C.F.R. § 5.65(d).

X. BREACH AND DEFAULT PROVISIONS

Abraham is expected to fully and timely comply with all of its IA obligations.

A. Stipulated Penalties for Failure to Comply with Certain Obligations

As a contractual remedy, Abraham and OIG hereby agree that failure to comply with certain obligations as set forth in this IA may lead to the imposition of the following monetary penalties (hereinafter referred to as "Stipulated Penalties") in accordance with the following provisions.

1. A Stipulated Penalty of \$2,500 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day Abraham fails to establish and implement any of the following obligations as described in Section III:

- a. a Compliance Officer;
- b. a written Code of Conduct;
- c. written Policies and Procedures;
- d. the training of Covered Persons and Arrangements Covered Persons;
- e. the Focus Arrangements Procedures and/or Focus Arrangements Requirements described in Sections III.D.1 and III.D.2;
- f. a Disclosure Program;
- g. Ineligible Persons screening and removal requirements;

- h. notification of Government investigations or legal proceedings; and
- i. reporting of Reportable Events.

2. A Stipulated Penalty of \$2,500 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day Abraham fails to engage and use an IRO, as required in Section III.E, Appendix A, and Appendix B.

3. A Stipulated Penalty of \$2,500 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day Abraham fails to submit the Implementation Report or any Annual Reports to OIG in accordance with the requirements of Section V by the deadlines for submission.

4. A Stipulated Penalty of \$2,500 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day Abraham fails to submit the annual Arrangements Review Report in accordance with the requirements of Section III.E and Appendix B.

5. A Stipulated Penalty of \$1,500 for each day Abraham fails to grant access as required in Section VII. (This Stipulated Penalty shall begin to accrue on the date Abraham fails to grant access.)

6. A Stipulated Penalty of \$5,000 for each false certification submitted by or on behalf of Abraham as part of its Implementation Report, Annual Report, additional documentation to a report (as requested by the OIG), or otherwise required by this IA.

7. A Stipulated Penalty of \$1,000 for each day Abraham fails to comply fully and adequately with any obligation of this IA. OIG shall provide notice to Abraham stating the specific grounds for its determination that Abraham has failed to comply fully and adequately with the IA obligation(s) at issue and steps Abraham shall take to comply with the IA. (This Stipulated Penalty shall begin to accrue 10 days after Abraham receives this notice from OIG of the failure to comply.) A Stipulated Penalty as described in this Subsection shall not be demanded for any violation for which OIG has sought a Stipulated Penalty under Subsections 1-6 of this Section.

B. Timely Written Requests for Extensions

Abraham may, in advance of the due date, submit a timely written request for an extension of time to perform any act or file any notification or report required by this IA. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, if OIG grants the timely written request with respect to an act, notification, or report, Stipulated Penalties for failure to perform the act or file the notification or report shall not begin to accrue until one day after Abraham fails to meet the revised deadline set by OIG. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, if OIG denies such a timely written request, Stipulated Penalties for failure to perform the act or file the notification or report shall not begin to accrue until three business days after Abraham receives OIG's written denial of such request or the original due date, whichever is later. A "timely written request" is defined as a request in writing received by OIG at least five business days prior to the date by which any act is due to be performed or any notification or report is due to be filed.

C. Payment of Stipulated Penalties

1. *Demand Letter.* Upon a finding that Abraham has failed to comply with any of the obligations described in Section X.A and after determining that Stipulated Penalties are appropriate, OIG shall notify Abraham of: (a) Abraham's failure to comply; and (b) OIG's exercise of its contractual right to demand payment of the Stipulated Penalties. (This notification shall be referred to as the "Demand Letter.")

2. *Response to Demand Letter.* Within 10 days after the receipt of the Demand Letter, Abraham shall either: (a) cure the breach to OIG's satisfaction and pay the applicable Stipulated Penalties or (b) request a hearing before an HHS administrative law judge (ALJ) to dispute OIG's determination of noncompliance, pursuant to the agreed upon provisions set forth below in Section X.E. In the event Abraham elects to request an ALJ hearing, the Stipulated Penalties shall continue to accrue until Abraham cures, to OIG's satisfaction, the alleged breach in dispute. Failure to respond to the Demand Letter in one of these two manners within the allowed time period shall be considered a material breach of this IA and shall be grounds for exclusion under Section X.D.

3. *Form of Payment.* Payment of the Stipulated Penalties shall be made by electronic funds transfer to an account specified by OIG in the Demand Letter.

4. *Independence from Material Breach Determination.* Except as set forth in Section X.D.1.c, these provisions for payment of Stipulated Penalties shall not affect or otherwise set a standard for OIG's decision that Abraham has materially

breached this IA, which decision shall be made at OIG's discretion and shall be governed by the provisions in Section X.D, below.

D. Exclusion for Material Breach of this IA

1. *Definition of Material Breach.* A material breach of this IA means:
 - a. a failure by Abraham to report a Reportable Event, take corrective action, and make the appropriate refunds, as required in Section III.J;
 - b. a repeated or flagrant violation of the obligations under this IA, including, but not limited to, the obligations addressed in Section X.A;
 - c. a failure to respond to a Demand Letter concerning the payment of Stipulated Penalties in accordance with Section X.C; or
 - d. a failure to engage and use an IRO in accordance with Section III.E, Appendix A, and Appendix B.

2. *Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude.* The parties agree that a material breach of this IA by Abraham constitutes an independent basis for Abraham's exclusion from participation in the Federal health care programs. Upon a determination by OIG that Abraham has materially breached this IA and that exclusion is the appropriate remedy, OIG shall notify Abraham of: (a) Abraham's material breach; and (b) OIG's intent to exercise its contractual right to impose exclusion. (This notification shall be referred to as the "Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude.")

3. *Opportunity to Cure.* Abraham shall have 30 days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude to demonstrate to OIG's satisfaction that:
 - a. Abraham is in compliance with the obligations of the IA cited by OIG as being the basis for the material breach;

- b. the alleged material breach has been cured; or
- c. the alleged material breach cannot be cured within the 30-day period, but that: (i) Abraham has begun to take action to cure the material breach; (ii) Abraham is pursuing such action with due diligence; and (iii) Abraham has provided to OIG a reasonable timetable for curing the material breach.

4. *Exclusion Letter.* If, at the conclusion of the 30-day period, Abraham fails to satisfy the requirements of Section X.D.3, OIG may exclude Abraham from participation in the Federal health care programs. OIG shall notify Abraham in writing of its determination to exclude Abraham. (This letter shall be referred to as the “Exclusion Letter.”) Subject to the Dispute Resolution provisions in Section X.E, below, the exclusion shall go into effect 30 days after the date of Abraham’s receipt of the Exclusion Letter. The exclusion shall have national effect and shall also apply to all other Federal procurement and nonprocurement programs. Reinstatement to program participation is not automatic. After the end of the period of exclusion, Abraham may apply for reinstatement by submitting a written request for reinstatement in accordance with the provisions at 42 C.F.R. §§ 1001.3001-.3004.

E. Dispute Resolution

1. *Review Rights.* Upon OIG’s delivery to Abraham of its Demand Letter or of its Exclusion Letter, and as an agreed-upon contractual remedy for the resolution of disputes arising under this IA, Abraham shall be afforded certain review rights comparable to the ones that are provided in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7(f) and 42 C.F.R. Part 1005 as if they applied to the Stipulated Penalties or exclusion sought pursuant to this IA. Specifically, OIG’s determination to demand payment of Stipulated Penalties or to seek exclusion shall be subject to review by an HHS ALJ and, in the event of an appeal, the HHS Departmental Appeals Board (DAB), in a manner consistent with the provisions in 42 C.F.R. § 1005.2-1005.21. Notwithstanding the language in 42 C.F.R. § 1005.2(c), the request for a hearing involving Stipulated Penalties shall be made within 10 days after receipt of the Demand Letter and the request for a hearing involving exclusion shall be made within 25 days after receipt of the Exclusion Letter.

2. *Stipulated Penalties Review.* Notwithstanding any provision of Title 42 of the United States Code or Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the only issues in a proceeding for Stipulated Penalties under this IA shall be: (a) whether Abraham was in full and timely compliance with the obligations of this IA for which OIG

demands payment; and (b) the period of noncompliance. Abraham shall have the burden of proving its full and timely compliance and the steps taken to cure the noncompliance, if any. OIG shall not have the right to appeal to the DAB an adverse ALJ decision related to Stipulated Penalties. If the ALJ agrees with OIG with regard to a finding of a breach of this IA and orders Abraham to pay Stipulated Penalties, such Stipulated Penalties shall become due and payable 20 days after the ALJ issues such a decision unless Abraham requests review of the ALJ decision by the DAB. If the ALJ decision is properly appealed to the DAB and the DAB upholds the determination of OIG, the Stipulated Penalties shall become due and payable 20 days after the DAB issues its decision.

3. *Exclusion Review.* Notwithstanding any provision of Title 42 of the United States Code or Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the only issues in a proceeding for exclusion based on a material breach of this IA shall be:

- a. whether Abraham was in material breach of this IA;
- b. whether such breach was continuing on the date of the Exclusion Letter; and
- c. whether the alleged material breach could not have been cured within the 30-day period, but that: (i) Abraham had begun to take action to cure the material breach within that period; (ii) Abraham has pursued and is pursuing such action with due diligence; and (iii) Abraham provided to OIG within that period a reasonable timetable for curing the material breach and Abraham has followed the timetable.

For purposes of the exclusion herein, exclusion shall take effect only after an ALJ decision favorable to OIG, or, if the ALJ rules for Abraham, only after a DAB decision in favor of OIG. Abraham's election of its contractual right to appeal to the DAB shall not abrogate OIG's authority to exclude Abraham upon the issuance of an ALJ's decision in favor of OIG. If the ALJ sustains the determination of OIG and determines that exclusion is authorized, such exclusion shall take effect 20 days after the ALJ issues such a decision, notwithstanding that Abraham may request review of the ALJ decision by the DAB. If the DAB finds in favor of OIG after an ALJ decision adverse to OIG, the exclusion shall take effect 20 days after the DAB decision. Abraham shall waive its right to any notice of such an exclusion if a decision upholding the exclusion is rendered by the ALJ or DAB. If the DAB finds in favor of Abraham, Abraham shall be reinstated effective on the date of the original exclusion.

4. *Finality of Decision.* The review by an ALJ or DAB provided for above shall not be considered to be an appeal right arising under any statutes or regulations. Consequently, the parties to this IA agree that the DAB's decision (or the ALJ's decision if not appealed) shall be considered final for all purposes under this IA.

XI. EFFECTIVE AND BINDING AGREEMENT

Abraham and OIG agree as follows:

A. This IA shall be binding on the successors, assigns, and transferees of Abraham;

B. This IA shall become final and binding on the date the final signature is obtained on the IA;

C. This IA constitutes the complete agreement between the parties and may not be amended except by written consent of the parties to this IA;

D. OIG may agree to a suspension of Abraham's obligations under this IA based on a certification by Abraham that it is no longer providing health care items or services that will be billed to any Federal health care program and that it does not have any ownership or control interest, as defined in 42 U.S.C. §1320a-3, in any entity that bills any Federal health care program. If Abraham is relieved of its IA obligations, Abraham will be required to notify OIG in writing at least 30 days in advance if Abraham plans to resume providing health care items or services that are billed to any Federal health care program or to obtain an ownership or control interest in any entity that bills any Federal health care program. At such time, OIG shall evaluate whether the IA will be reactivated or modified.

E. The undersigned Abraham signatories represent and warrant that they are authorized to execute this IA. The undersigned OIG signatory represents that he is signing this IA in his official capacity and that he is authorized to execute this IA.

F. This IA may be executed in counterparts, each of which constitutes an original and all of which constitute one and the same IA. Facsimiles of signatures shall constitute acceptable, binding signatures for purposes of this IA.

ON BEHALF OF ABRAHAM

 /Akram R. Abraham, M.D./
Akram R. Abraham, M.D.

 6-8-2012
DATE

 /Akram R. Abraham, M.D./
Akram R. Abraham, M.D., President
For Akram R. Abraham, M.D., P.C.

 6-8-2012
DATE

**ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

/Gregory E. Demske/

6/13/12

GREGORY E. DEMSKE
Chief Counsel to the Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

DATE

/Karen Glassman/

6/11/2012

KAREN GLASSMAN
Associate Counsel
Office of Inspector General
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

DATE

APPENDIX A

INDEPENDENT REVIEW ORGANIZATION

This Appendix contains the requirements relating to the Independent Review Organization (IRO) required by Section III.E of the IA.

A. IRO Engagement

1. Abraham shall engage an IRO that possesses the qualifications set forth in Paragraph B, below, to perform the responsibilities in Paragraph C, below. The IRO shall conduct the review in a professionally independent and objective fashion, as set forth in Paragraph D. Within 30 days after OIG receives the information identified in Section V.A.9 of the IA or any additional information submitted by Abraham in response to a request by OIG, whichever is later, OIG will notify Abraham if the IRO is unacceptable. Absent notification from OIG that the IRO is unacceptable, Abraham may continue to engage the IRO.

2. If Abraham engages a new IRO during the term of the IA, this IRO shall also meet the requirements of this Appendix. If a new IRO is engaged, Abraham shall submit the information identified in Section V.A.9 of the IA to OIG within 30 days of engagement of the IRO. Within 30 days after OIG receives this information or any additional information submitted by Abraham at the request of OIG, whichever is later, OIG will notify Abraham if the IRO is unacceptable. Absent notification from OIG that the IRO is unacceptable, Abraham may continue to engage the IRO.

B. IRO Qualifications

The IRO shall:

1. assign individuals to conduct the Arrangements Review who are knowledgeable in the requirements of the Anti-Kickback Statute and the Stark Law and the regulations and other guidance documents related to these statutes; and

2. have sufficient staff and resources to conduct the reviews required by the IA on a timely basis.

C. IRO Responsibilities

The IRO shall:

1. perform each Arrangements Review in accordance with the specific requirements of the IA;

2. respond to all OIG inquiries in a prompt, objective, and factual manner; and

3. prepare timely, clear, well-written reports that include all the information required by Appendix B to the IA.

D. IRO Independence and Objectivity

The IRO must perform the Arrangements Review in a professionally independent and objective fashion, as defined in the Government Auditing Standards (July 2007 Revision) issued by the United States Government Accountability Office.

E. IRO Removal/Termination

1. *Provider and IRO.* If Abraham terminates its IRO or if the IRO withdraws from the engagement during the term of the IA, Abraham must submit a notice explaining its reasons for termination or the reason for withdrawal to OIG no later than 30 days after termination or withdrawal. Abraham must engage a new IRO in accordance with Paragraph A of this Appendix and within 60 days of termination or withdrawal of the prior IRO or at least 60 days prior to the end of the current Reporting Period, whichever is earlier.

2. *OIG Removal of IRO.* In the event OIG has reason to believe that the IRO does not possess the qualifications described in Paragraph B, is not independent and objective as set forth in Paragraph D, or has failed to carry out its responsibilities as described in Paragraph C, OIG may, at its sole discretion, require Abraham to engage a new IRO in accordance with Paragraph A of this Appendix. Abraham must engage a new IRO within 60 days of termination of the prior IRO or at least 60 days prior to the end of the current Reporting Period, whichever is earlier.

Prior to requiring Abraham to engage a new IRO, OIG shall notify Abraham of its intent to do so and provide a written explanation of why OIG believes such a step is necessary. To resolve any concerns raised by OIG, Abraham may present additional information regarding the IRO's qualifications, independence or performance of its responsibilities. OIG will attempt in good faith to resolve any differences regarding the IRO with Abraham prior to requiring Abraham to terminate the IRO. However, the final determination as to whether or not to require Abraham to engage a new IRO shall be made at the sole discretion of OIG.

APPENDIX B

ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW

The Arrangements Review shall consist of two components: a systems review and a transactions review. The IRO shall perform all components of each Arrangements Review. If there are no material changes to Abraham's systems, processes, policies, and procedures relating to Arrangements, the Arrangements Systems Review shall be performed for the first and fourth Reporting Periods. If Abraham materially changes the Arrangements systems, processes, policies and procedures, the IRO shall perform an Arrangements Systems Review for the Reporting Period in which such changes were made in addition to conducting the systems review for the first and fourth Reporting Periods. The Arrangements Transactions Review shall be performed annually and shall cover each of the five Reporting Periods.

A. Arrangements Systems Review. The Arrangements Systems Review shall be a review of Abraham's systems, processes, policies, and procedures relating to the initiation, review, approval, and tracking of Arrangements. Specifically, the IRO shall review the following:

1. Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures with respect to creating and maintaining a centralized tracking system for all existing and new and renewed Focus Arrangements (Focus Arrangements Tracking System), including a detailed description of the information captured in the Focus Arrangements Tracking System;

2. Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures for tracking remuneration to and from all parties to Focus Arrangements;

3. Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures for tracking service and activity logs to ensure that parties to the Focus Arrangement are performing the services required under the applicable Focus Arrangement(s) (if applicable);

4. Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures for monitoring the use of leased space, medical supplies, medical devices, equipment, or other patient care items to ensure that such use is consistent with the terms of the applicable Focus Arrangement(s) (if applicable);

5. Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures for initiating Arrangements, including those policies that identify the individuals with

authority to initiate an Arrangement and that specify the business need or business rationale required to initiate an Arrangement;

6. Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures for the internal review and approval of all Arrangements, including those policies that identify the individuals required to approve each type or category of Arrangement entered into by Abraham, the internal controls designed to ensure that all required approvals are obtained, and the processes for ensuring that all Focus Arrangements are subject to a legal review by counsel with expertise in the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law;

7. the Compliance Officer's annual review of and reporting to the Compliance Committee on the Focus Arrangements Tracking System, Abraham's internal review and approval process, and other Arrangements systems, process, policies, and procedures;

8. Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures for implementing effective responses when suspected violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law are discovered, including disclosing Reportable Events and quantifying and repaying Overpayments when appropriate; and

9. Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures for ensuring that all new and renewed Focus Arrangements comply with the Focus Arrangements Requirements set forth in Section III.D.2 of the IA.

B. Arrangements Systems Review Report. The IRO shall prepare a report based upon each Arrangements Systems Review performed. The Arrangements Systems Review Report shall include the following information:

1. a description of the documentation (including policies) reviewed and personnel interviewed;

2. a detailed description of Abraham's systems, policies, processes, and procedures relating to the items identified in Section A.1-9 above;

3. findings and supporting rationale regarding weaknesses in Abraham's systems, processes, policies, and procedures relating to Arrangements described in Section A.1-9 above; and

4. recommendations to improve Abraham's systems, policies, processes, or procedures relating to Arrangements described in Section A.1-9 above.

C. Arrangements Transactions Review. The Arrangements Transactions Review shall consist of a review by the IRO of all of the Focus Arrangements that were entered into or renewed by Abraham during the Reporting Period. The IRO shall assess whether Abraham has complied with the Focus Arrangements Procedures and the Focus Arrangements Requirements described in Sections III.D.1 and III.D.2 of the IA, with respect to the selected Focus Arrangements.

The IRO's assessment with respect to each Focus Arrangement that is subject to review shall include:

1. verifying that the Focus Arrangement is maintained in Abraham's centralized tracking system in a manner that permits the IRO to identify the parties to the Focus Arrangement and the relevant terms of the Focus Arrangement (*i.e.*, the items/services/equipment/space to be provided, the amount of compensation, the effective date, the expiration date, etc.)
2. verifying that the Focus Arrangement was subject to the internal review and approval process (including both a legal and business review) and obtained the necessary approvals and that such review and approval is appropriately documented;
3. verifying that the remuneration related to the Focus Arrangement is properly tracked;
4. verifying that the service and activity logs are properly completed and reviewed (if applicable);
5. verifying that leased space, medical supplies, medical devices, and equipment, and other patient care items are properly monitored (if applicable); and
6. verifying that the Focus Arrangement satisfies the Focus Arrangements Requirements of Section III.D.2 of the IA.

D. Arrangements Transaction Review Report. The IRO shall prepare a report based on each Arrangements Transactions Review performed. The Arrangements Transaction Review Report shall include the following information:

1. *Review Methodology*
 - a. Review Protocol: A detailed narrative description of the procedures performed and a description of the

sampling unit and universe utilized in performing the procedures for the sample reviewed.

- b. Sources of Data: A full description of the documentation and other information, if applicable, relied upon by the IRO in performing the Arrangements Transaction Review.
- c. Supplemental Materials. The IRO shall request all documentation and materials required for its review of the Focus Arrangements selected as part of the Arrangements Transaction Review and Abraham shall furnish such documentation and materials to the IRO, prior to the IRO initiating its review of the Focus Arrangements. If the IRO accepts any supplemental documentation or materials from Abraham after the IRO has completed its initial review of the Focus Arrangements (Supplemental Materials), the IRO shall identify in the Arrangements Transaction Review Report the Supplemental Materials, the date the Supplemental Materials were accepted, and the relative weight the IRO gave to the Supplemental Materials in its review. In addition, the IRO shall include a narrative in the Arrangements Transaction Review Report describing the process by which the Supplemental Materials were accepted and the IRO's reasons for accepting the Supplemental Materials.

2. *Review Findings*. The IRO's findings with respect to whether Abraham has complied with the Focus Arrangements Procedures and Focus Arrangements Requirements with respect to each of the randomly selected Focus Arrangements reviewed by the IRO. In addition, the Arrangements Transactions Review Report shall include observations, findings and recommendations on possible improvements to Abraham's policies, procedures, and systems in place to ensure that all Focus Arrangements comply with the Focus Arrangements Procedures and Focus Arrangements Requirements.