



MARCH 9, 1995

OIG REPORT 95-24(H)

MEMORANDUM FOR The Federal Co-Chairman
 ARC General Counsel


SUBJECT: J-1 Waiver Program--Bibb Medical Center, Centreville, Alabama,

A brief visit was made to the subject medical center to followup on information that J-1 physicians were utilized at a medical center located in a nearby non-HPSA area during the period January to May 1994. Available information indicated that two J-1s employed by the Bibb Medical Center were detailed to a facility in Perry County, Alabama, once or twice a week during the noted period.

Discussion with the Medical Center Assistant Administrator and with the Clinic Coordinator responsible for J-1 physician recruitment and activity confirmed that J-1s worked at Perry County facilities at times in 1994. However, they insisted that work at a clinic and at a hospital was in addition to the J-1s' 40 hours at Bibb Medical Center. They also noted that Bibb Medical Center had an agreement to provide cover at a clinic when the clinic's doctors were on vacation, and the J-1s had individual agreements to provide emergency room coverage for which they were paid by the Perry County facility as private practitioners. They indicated that such assignments had not been made in recent months.

Our discussion with a current J-1 physician confirmed that assignments outside the HPSA area had not occurred since mid-1994.

In view of the current situation and unavailability of a J-1 physician involved with work at a non-HPSA site in 1994, we did not pursue the issue further. We emphasized ARC requirements to the employer and a J-1 physician, including provisions for J-1 utilization at the approved HPSA location.


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General