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**CONTACT:**

Lisa Marie Shekell

404-657-9118

## **Georgia Receives \$5 Million in Drug Settlement**

**ATLANTA** – Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) announced that the state will receive \$5 million in a drug settlement from Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (BMS) and its former subsidiary Apotecocon, Inc. The settlement, which totaled \$389 million plus interest, reimburses 43 states, the District of Columbia and the federal government as a result of allegations that BMS participated in inappropriate marketing and pricing practices.

According to a statement released by the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units, allegations of misconduct include:

- Reporting inflated prices for various prescription drugs;
- Paying illegal remuneration to physicians, health care providers, and pharmacies to induce them to purchase BMS and Apotecocon products;
- Promoting the sale and use of Abilify, an antipsychotic drug, for pediatric use and for treatment of dementia-related psychosis, uses which the federal Food and Drug Administration has not approved; and
- Misreporting sales prices for Serzone, an antidepressant, resulting in the improper reduction of the amount of rebates paid to the state Medicaid programs.

Georgia was represented in settlement negotiations by a team from the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units.

For more information about the Georgia Department of Community Health, visit [www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov).

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