Beat: News

Cardiologist Sentenced to Prison for Unlawfully Distributing Oxycodone Pills

Raymond Catania, 60, of Warren, NJ

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USPA NEWS - A New Jersey cardiologist was sentenced today to 30 months in prison for unlawfully prescribing thousands of Oxycodone pills, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Raymond Catania, 60, of Warren, New Jersey, previously pleaded guilty by videoconference before U.S. District Judge Michael A. Shipp to an information charging him with dispensing Oxycodone outside of the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose. Judge Shipp imposed the sentence today in Trenton federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Catania was a New Jersey physician specializing in cardiology and practicing in Watchung, New Jersey. From January 2016 through March 2017, Catania issued prescriptions for thousands of Oxycodone pills to one of his patients, and Catania did so without a legitimate medical purpose and outside of the usual course of professional practice. Catania also issued prescriptions for thousands of Oxycodone pills to that patient's wife even though the wife was not Catania's patient. Oxycodone – a Schedule II controlled substance – has a high potential for abuse that can lead to severe psychological and physical dependence and can result in fatal overdoses. Catania prescribed more than 8,600 Oxycodone 30 mg pills.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Shipp fined Catania $25,000 and sentenced him to three years of supervised release.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James E. Dennehy in Newark, with the investigation leading to today's sentencing.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leslie F. Schwartz, Senior Litigation Counsel, of the Special Prosecutions Division, in Newark.

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Wendy writes for the United States Press Agency and is a former columnist with the Fulton County Expositor, Wauseon, Ohio.

Source: Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey press release July 27, 2022

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