



For Immediate Release  
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## **GOVERNMENT CLAIM AGAINST INFIRMARY CLINIC WITHOUT MERIT**

MOBILE – On July 8, 2013, Infirmary Health System and Diagnostic & Medical Clinic (Clinic) learned the United States has joined in a suit filed in federal court by Christian M. Heesch, M.D. The allegations made in the claim relate to compensation paid to physicians serving Medicare patients and are focused on the Clinic, which is an affiliate of Infirmary Health. The Clinic believes the allegations are unfounded and will vigorously defend all claims made in the complaint.

Mark Nix, Chief Executive Officer for Infirmary Health System, said: “We have been working with the government for over a year to respond to their questions and are very disappointed to see them now intervening in this claim, which we view as without merit. We believe the Clinic has provided services and compensated its physicians in full accordance with the law and that the Clinic acted in the best clinical interest of our patients. Tests performed at the Clinic were medically necessary to provide appropriate care for our patients and in compliance with applicable requirements.”

The claim was initially filed in July 2011 under the whistleblower provisions of the False Claims Act by Heesch, who was employed at Diagnostic Physicians Group from January 2004 to August 2011. Heesch would be entitled to receive a portion of any recovery.

Nix concluded: “While we support the government’s efforts to eliminate waste and inappropriate physician relationships, these allegations are unfounded. The Clinic has made every effort to comply with the complex laws governing healthcare providers.”

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Infirmary Health is composed of three hospitals, three post-acute care facilities, three diagnostic centers, and more than 30 medical clinics and other affiliates, serving an 11-county area along the Gulf Coast. Treating more than 100,000 patients annually, Infirmary Health offers the most advanced technology, comprehensive treatment, and highest quality of care to remain the First Choice for healthcare in our region.

Diagnostic & Medical Clinic includes more than 70 physicians, 14 specialties, and six locations throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties. Diagnostic & Medical Clinic has provided quality healthcare to our community for more than 60 years.