Federal authorities busted more than 100 medical professionals for Medicare fraud including doctors, nurses and social workers. A U.S. assistant attorney general spoke at a news conference Wednesday to break down some of the charges. LANNY BREUER, Criminal Division Assistant Attorney General: These defendants allegedly recruited elderly, drug addicted and mentally ill patients from nursing homes and homeless shelters in order to submit false claims on their behalf. The federal Medicare Fraud Strike Force investigated seven cities and found $452 million in false billing. Claims from seven individuals in Baton Rouge account for about half that amount. Fierce Healthcare reports: To cover up the scam, they allegedly falsified patient notes and attendance records and forged medical professionals' signatures. Some of the defendants even went as far as to steal incriminating documents from the U.S. Attorney's Office... Fierce Healthcare also reports ambulance companies in Houston billed Medicare millions for fake and unnecessary rides. In a statement from the U.S. Justice Department, Bloomberg reports... This coordinated takedown involved the highest amount of false Medicare billings in a single takedown in strike force history. Bloomberg also reports more than half of the arrests took place in Miami. And the Los Angeles Times is reporting that under the Obama administration the crack down on Medicare fraud has gone up. Last year the federal government charged 1,430 people with healthcare fraud, up from 797 in 2008, according to the Health and Human Services Department.