

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS: Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman  
Julie Brill  
Maureen K. Ohlhausen  
Joshua D. Wright

---

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
PRAXEDES E. ALVAREZ SANTIAGO, M.D.,	)	
an individual;	)	
DANIEL PÉREZ BRISEBOIS, M.D.,	)	
an individual;	)	
JORGE E. GRILLASCA PALOU, M.D.,	)	
an individual;	)	
RAFAEL GARCIA NIEVES, M.D.,	)	C-4402
an individual;	)	
FRANCIS M. VÁZQUEZ ROURA, M.D.,	)	
an individual;	)	
ANGEL B. RIVERA SANTOS, M.D.,	)	
an individual;	)	
COSME D. SANTOS TORRES, M.D.	)	
an individual;	)	
and	)	
JUAN L. VILARÓ CHARDÓN, M.D.,	)	
an individual.	)	

---

DECISION AND ORDER

The Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”), having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of Praxedes E. Alvarez Santiago, M.D., Daniel Pérez Brisebois, M.D., Jorge Grillasca Palou, M.D., Rafael Garcia Nieves, M.D., Francis M. Vázquez Roura, M.D., Angel B. Rivera Santos, M.D., Cosme D. Santos Torres, M.D., and Juan L. Vilaró Chardón, M.D., hereinafter referred to as “Respondents,” and Respondents having been furnished thereafter with a copy of the draft Complaint that counsel for the Commission proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration and which, if issued, would charge Respondents with violations of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45; and

Respondents, their attorney, and counsel for the Commission having thereafter executed an Agreement Containing Consent Order to Cease and Desist (“Consent Agreement”), containing an admission by Respondents of all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the aforesaid draft Complaint, a statement that the signing of said Consent Agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by any Respondent that the law has been violated as alleged in such Complaint, or that the facts as alleged in such Complaint, other than jurisdictional facts, are true, and waivers and other provisions as required by the Commission’s Rules; and



## ORDER

### I.

IT IS ORDERED that, as used in this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Respondents" means the following individuals (both individually and collectively): Praxedes E. Alvarez Santiago, M.D.; Daniel Pérez Brisebois, M.D.; Jorge Gillasca Palou, M.D.; Rafael García Nieves, M.D.; Francis M. Vázquez Roura, M.D.; Angel B. Rivera Santos, M.D.; Cosme D. Santos Torres, M.D.; and Juan Vilaró Chadón, M.D.
- B. "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.
- C. "Government Entity" means any Federal, state, local or non-U.S. government, or any court, legislature, government agency, or government commission, or any judicial or regulatory authority of any government.
- D. "Medical Group Practice" means a bona fide integrated firm in which Physicians practice medicine together as partners, shareholders, owners, or employees, in which only one Physician practices medicine.
- E. "Non-exclusive Arrangement" means an arrangement that does not restrict the ability of, or facilitate the refusal of, Physicians who Participate in it to deal with Payors on an individual basis or through any other arrangement.
- F. "Order Date" means the date this Decision and Order is issued by the Commission to become final and effective.
- G. "Participate" in an entity or an arrangement means
1. to be a partner, shareholder, owner, member, or employee of such entity or arrangement; or
  2. to provide services, agree to provide services, or offer to provide services to a Payor through such entity or arrangement.

This definition applies to all tenses and forms of the word "participate," including, but not limited to, "participating," "participated," and "participation."

- H. "Payor" means any Person that pays or arranges for payment, for all or any part of any Physician services for itself or for any other Person. The term "Payor" includes any Person that develops, leases, or sells access to networks of Physicians.
- I. "Person" means any individual, partnership, joint venture, firm, corporation, association, trust, unincorporated organization, or other business or organization.

- K. "Principal Address" means either: (1) primary business address, if there is a business address, or (2) primary residential address, if there is no business address.
- L. "Qualified Clinically-Integrated Joint Arrangement" means an arrangement to provide Physician services in which:
1. all Physicians who Participate in the arrangement Participate in active and ongoing prog

II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Respondent, directly or indirectly, or through any corporate or other device, in connection with the provision of Physician services in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44, cease and desist from:

1. Participating in, organizing, or facilitating any discussion or understanding with or among any Physicians or Medical Group Practices in such Qualified Arrangement relating to price

G. Paragraph II Notification shall not be required prior to Participating in any Qualified Arrangement for which Paragraph II

V.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

A. Within sixty



VIII.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall terminate on May 1, 2033.

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark  
Secretary

SEAL  
ISSUED: May 1, 2013