

Abbott Wins in \$1 Billion Trial Over Marketing of Stents

Abbott Laboratories didn't cause medical providers to submit false payment claims to Medicare for unapproved stents, a Texas jury ruled, thwarting a whistle-blower's lawsuit seeking as much as \$1 billion, **reports Bloomberg**.

A former salesman for Abbott's predecessor Guidant claimed the company pushed bile duct stents that were intended for short-term purposes for more complex vascular use. His 2006 lawsuit on behalf of the U.S. government accused the company of encouraging doctors and hospitals to code bills to Medicare falsely.

"Abbott, which acquired Guidant's stent business in 2006, denied during the trial in Dallas federal court that it induced anyone to submit false claims to Medicare. Its lawyers told jurors the use of biliary stents for peripheral vascular or arterial disease was accepted medical practice and Medicare knowingly approved payments," Bloomberg reports.

Read the article.