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## **NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **Heart Check America closes in Las Vegas**

*Carson City*-Heart Check America, located at 7690 W. Sahara Avenue in Las Vegas, has ceased operation. Local representative, Ray Solomon, stated on May 9, 2011 that "the office is closed and they are not going any further with it." This follows an investigation and inspection of the facility by the Radiation Control Program of the Nevada State Health Division.

Inspectors from the Radiation Control Program made an unannounced focused inspection at Heart Check America on March 22, 2011. The investigation determined that Heart Check America was performing examination without a physician order, as required by the Nevada Administrative Code section 459. The letter of violation sent to Heart Check America, on March 23, 2011, which cited the non-physician referral was also sent to the Board of Medical Examiners and other states where the company does business. Heart Check America also operates clinics in Illinois, California, Washington, D.C. and Colorado. Colorado has also cited Heart Check America for performing examination without a physician order and as of May 9th the facility has ceased operation in that state as well.

Another meeting was conducted on March 28th with the facility to hand deliver the violation letter when the facility failed to accept the letter through the mail.

The Nevada Radiation Control Program learned from the Corporate Office of Heart Check America that the machine was removed from the Las Vegas site for repair on April 12, 2011. On April 20, 2011, a follow-up inspection was conducted and the company was again cited for not addressing the physician orders and for other radiation safety issues. After discussions with Mr. Ray Solomon on May 9th, the Radiation Control Program issued a cease operation letter to the facility on May 11, 2011 to assure the facility did not operate X-ray equipment without addressing the violations.

The company was using a General Electric Imatron electron beam computerized tomography scanner to perform heart and lung scans as well as virtual colonoscopies and whole-body scans. The company had a telephone advertising campaign in Las Vegas.

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The Radiation Control Program conducts enforcement through the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), sections 457 and 459. It is a violation of the NAC to expose the public in Nevada to radiation unless there is an order from a physician.

Any person who believes that they have been defrauded by Heart Check America may file a complaint with the office of the Attorney General of the State of Nevada at 702-486-3420.

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