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For Immediate Release

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Guilty Verdict for Man for Practicing Medicine without a License

Defendant Promised to Cure HIV, Cancer with Unapproved Remedy

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced today that a jury found **Keith Allen Barton, 51**, guilty of six felony counts of treating patients without a medical license, one count of false personation and three counts related to grand theft. The defendant claimed to be a medical doctor and promised patients he could cure cancer and HIV. The jury announced their verdict after two days of deliberations. Barton faces up to eight years and 10 months in local prison at sentencing on February 10.

Barton called himself “Dr. Barton” and promised to cure a woman and her children of HIV. One of the children subsequently died as a result of not receiving effective treatment. The victim paid Barton \$18,000 for the treatment. He also advised a woman with autoimmune disease to surgically extract all of her teeth and to take an ineffective treatment called “Dendritic Cellular Therapy.” This victim paid Barton more than \$32,000 for his remedies. Barton is not a licensed medical doctor, osteopath or naturopath but shares his name with a real medical doctor who is licensed in California. Barton used the fact that only his middle name differed from the real Dr. Barton to create the impression that he was a licensed professional.

This is a reminder that consumers need to be particularly wary of unapproved ‘miracle’ cures.

In a similar criminal case prosecuted by the District Attorney last year, Kathleen Helms, a San Diego woman who posed as a doctor and offered patients non-FDA-approved DMSO infusions as alternative remedies for autoimmune disorders, pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing later this month. The Consumer Unit also prosecuted Kurt Walter Donsbach, 75, who pleaded guilty to 13 felony charges, including practicing medicine without a license and selling misbranded drugs.

Deputy District Attorney, Gina Darvas in the DA’s Consumer Protection Unit prosecuted the case.