

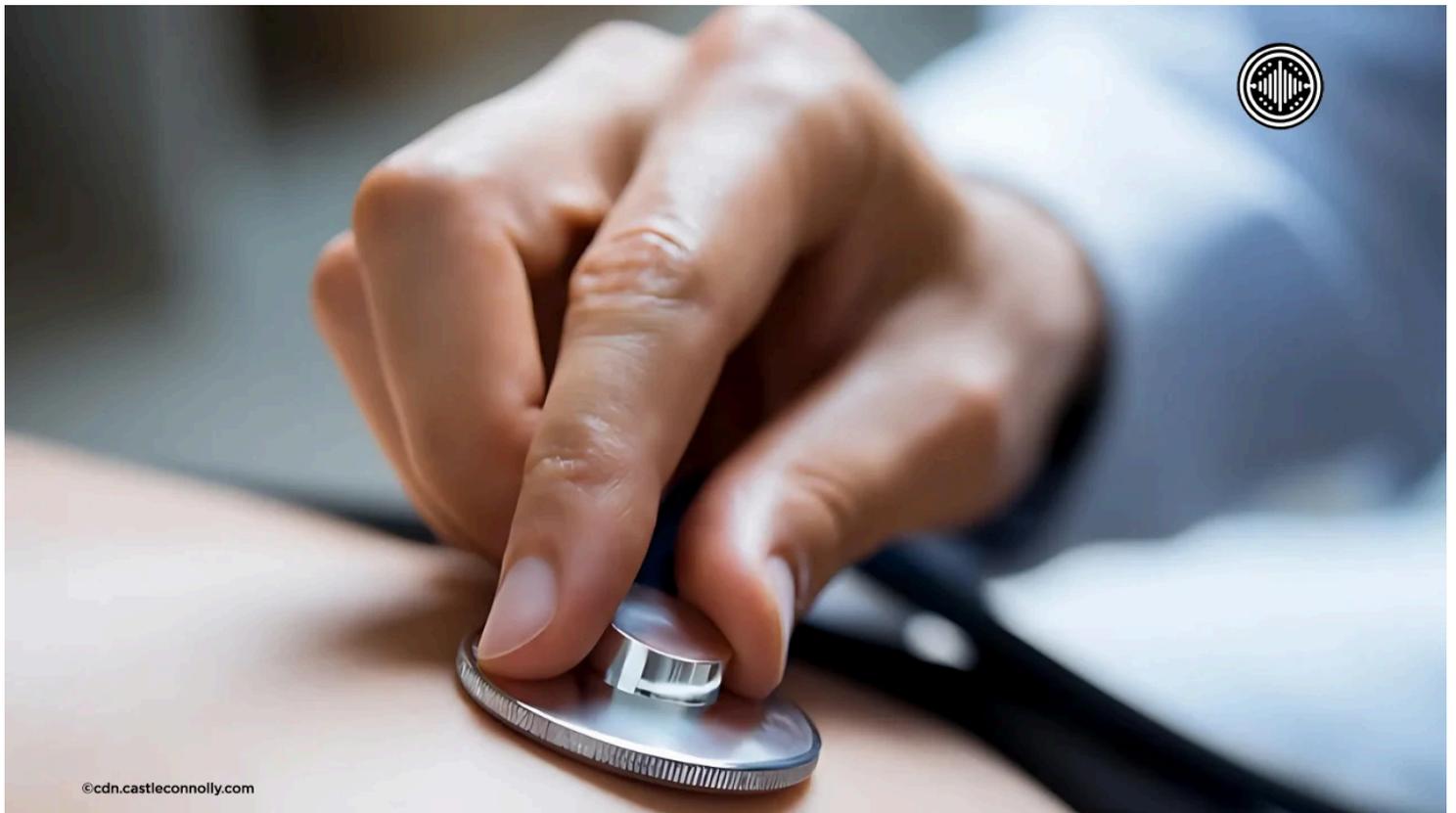
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Indian-Origin Doctor in U.S. Charged with Massive Opioid Fraud and Sexual Exploitation Scheme

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– Categories: Crime



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An Indian-origin doctor based in New Jersey has been charged with running a widespread prescription drug fraud and engaging in sexual misconduct in exchange for narcotics. Dr. Ritesh Kalra, 51, allegedly wrote over 31,000 prescriptions for oxycodone and other opioids without medical justification between 2019 and 2025.

Federal prosecutors said Kalra, who operated a medical clinic in Fair Lawn, provided powerful painkillers to individuals without conducting examinations or verifying medical need. Some recipients, according to court documents, were incarcerated when the prescriptions were issued. Others were given prescriptions in return for cash or sexual acts.

Kalra is accused of exploiting vulnerable women struggling with addiction. Several victims told investigators they were coerced into performing sexual acts, including at least one case of non-consensual intercourse, to continue receiving prescriptions.

In addition to unlawful distribution of controlled substances, Kalra faces charges of Medicaid fraud. Authorities allege he submitted false claims for non-existent patient visits, defrauding the state's public healthcare system over several years. Investigators estimate he processed as many as 50 fraudulent prescriptions per day.

U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger described the case as a gross violation of medical ethics and public trust.

“This case isn't just about illegal prescriptions. It's about a doctor who allegedly traded drugs for sex and used addiction for personal profit,” Sellinger said in *The Indian Express* report.

Kalra appeared in federal court in Newark on July 18. He was released under a \$100,000 unsecured bond and placed on home confinement. He has also been ordered to shut down his clinic and is barred from practicing medicine pending trial.

His attorney, Michael Baldassare, has denied the charges, calling the allegations “sensationalized” and vowing to contest them in court.

Federal investigators say this case is part of a broader crackdown on opioid abuse and fraud in the healthcare system. Authorities are now reviewing Kalra's patient records, financial transactions, and prescription logs for further evidence.

If convicted, Kalra could face significant prison time under federal drug trafficking and healthcare fraud laws. The case underscores growing concern over unethical medical practices fueling America's opioid crisis.