

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Encino Doctor Pleads to Unlawfully Prescribing Drugs

A 69-year-old Encino physician awaiting trial for prescribing various narcotic drugs without a legitimate medical need pleaded no contest today to all counts and returns in January for sentencing, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Dr. Yahya Hedvat, who ran an Encino medical clinic called "Urgent Care," pleaded no contest to 11 counts contained in two cases, BA428107 and BA414896. He also admitted the allegation that he was out on bail when a second case was filed in August.

Deputy District Attorneys John Niedermann and Emily Street with the Major Narcotics Division are prosecuting both cases.

Jury selection was set to begin on Nov. 5 when Hedvat entered his plea before Superior Court Judge Dennis Landin.

The defendant faces up to 13 years in custody when he returns to court on Jan. 22, 2015, for sentencing at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 128.

Hedvat was first charged in October 2013 with unlawfully prescribing controlled substances, including hydrocodone, suboxone and clonazepam, without a legitimate medical need in a 10-count Grand Jury indictment.

After voluntarily surrendering his DEA license to prescribe controlled substances, Hedvat agreed to sell additional drugs, including Norco and Ativan, to an undercover agent with the California Medical Board on Aug. 8. The drugs were purchased from Hedvat's office assistant, Nikravan Hormuz, in the clinic's parking lot, prosecutors said.

Hormuz, 70, pleaded no contest today to one count of accessory after the fact and was sentenced by Judge Landin to three years formal probation.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.