

US seeks prison for Pa. execs over medical trials

MARYCLAIRE DALE - Associated Press - Associated Press

U.S. prosecutors want a judge to send four Pennsylvania executives to prison for medical-product testing that proved deadly.

The former Synthes Inc. officials have pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor stemming from the off-label use of a bone-cement product that left three patients dead.

The government accuses them of human experimentation. The defendants deny any intent to violate U.S. Food and Drug Administration protocols.

They would be the first executives sent to prison for a plea under the 1975 "Park Doctrine." The statute holds them accountable as responsible corporate officers.

Monday's sentencing before U.S. District Judge Legrome Davis could stretch into a second day.

West Chester-based Synthes and a subsidiary, Norian Corp., separately pleaded guilty to a felony and 110 misdemeanors, and agreed to pay \$23 million in fines.

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