

***Insurance Times:*** Supreme Court to hear managed care appeal case

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said last week it would intervene in a Miami class action lawsuit between the managed care industry and doctors.

The HMO case puts the justices in the middle of a class-action claim that health care insurers are cheating doctors. The court will consider whether doctors can sue under a federal racketeering law or whether some disputes must go to arbitration.

“This is a hot topic with the Supreme Court, with federal courts generally,” doctors' attorney Harley Tropin said.

About 600,000 doctors are jointly suing 15 HMOs in Miami. This case involves two of the HMOs, PacifiCare Health Systems Inc. and United Healthcare Inc., which claim the doctors had signed contracts promising to work out disagreements in arbitration.