



What is Medicare Fraud?

Fraud occurs when an individual or organization deliberately deceives others in order to gain unauthorized benefit.

Medicare and Medicaid fraud generally involves deliberately billing for services that were not received, or billing for a service at a higher rate than is actually justified.

What is Medicare Abuse?

Medicare **abuse** occurs when providers supply services or products that are not medically necessary or that do not meet professional standards.

Examples of Fraud and Abuse

- ✓ Billing for services and supplies that were not provided
- ✓ Obtaining Medicare number for “free” services
- ✓ Billing for equipment not delivered
- ✓ “Upcoding” – improper coding to obtain a higher payment
- ✓ Unneeded or excessive x-rays and lab tests; claims for services that are not medically necessary
- ✓ Billing for excessive medical supplies
- ✓ Using another person’s Medicare card to obtain medical care, supplies or equipment

For assistance, call your local SMP Program (800)699-9043

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit www.smpresource.org

Help Stop Medicare Fraud

Health care error, fraud and abuse affect everyone.

Last year alone, Medicare lost billions of dollars to improper claims. This affects beneficiaries by wasting Medicare money that could be used to increase and improve health care services **AND** it affects everyone who pays taxes by wasting billions of taxpayer dollars.

Prevention Tips

To help prevent Medicare from losing valuable funds, and to prevent inappropriate care, it is important to report all suspected instances of error, fraud and abuse and instruct all Medicare beneficiaries on the following do's and don'ts.

DO:

- Use your **Personal Health Care Journal** to keep a record of the dates of Medicare services received
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN)
 - Did you receive the service or the product?
 - Did the doctor order this service, product or test?
 - Were you billed for the same service more than one time?
 - Is the charge or service related to your condition or treatment?

DON'T:

- Give out your Medicare number except to your doctor or other Medicare provider
- Accept "free" medical or other services in exchange for your Medicare or Social Security number
- Give your Medicare number to telephone callers or door-to-door solicitors (Medicare does not call or go door-to-door)

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