COVID-19 Consumer Tip Sheet
Tips for Protecting Yourself and Medicare

How to prevent Scams:

- Scams related to the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, are rapidly increasing. Scammers are targeting older adults and those with serious long-term health conditions.
- Do not purchase medical supplies from unverified sources through online advertisements, emails or phone solicitation, including offers for vaccination, prevention or cures for COVID-19.
- There is no vaccine for COVID-19 at this time.
- Do not accept any free COVID-19 testing or treatment from an unsolicited vendor that comes to your house.
- Do not donate money to a charity by cash, by gift card, or wire transfer.

- Fraudsters are attempting to bill Medicare for sham test and treatments.
- Don’t give your Medicare number or any other personal information out to anyone you do do not know, that call, email, or texts you.

Medicare covers all medically necessary hospitalizations under COVID-19 quarantine.
Medicare Part B covers COVID-19 tests when ordered by your doctor or health care provider on or after February 4, 2020.
Always talk to your doctor about tele-medicine services that are available to you. There are different options for your doctor to contact you.
Be alert for “investment opportunities.” The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is warning people about online promotions, claiming that the products of publicly traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure COVID-19 and that the stock of these companies will increase in value.

COVID-19 Resources:
- Administration for Community Living (ACL): ACL.gov/COVID-19
- Senior Medicare Patrol National Resource Center (SMPNRC): http://www.smpresource.org/Content/Medicare-Fraud-Schemes/COVID-19-Fraud
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC): FTC.gov/coronavirus
- Medicare: Medicare.gov/Medicare-coronavirus

Protect, Detect and Report your Medicare benefits
Illinois SMP is ready to provide you with information you need to PROTECT yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; DETECT potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and REPORT your concerns. We help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud through educational presentations. Contact Illinois SMP at Illinois SMP at (800)699-9043.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPO0036, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.