



## Tips to Prevent Medicare Fraud

### Things to Do

**DO Protect** your Medicare Health Insurance Claim Number (on your Medicare card). Treat your Medicare card like it is a credit card. Don't ever give it out except to your physician or other Medicare provider. Never give your Medicare/Medicaid number in exchange for free medical equipment or any other free offer. Unscrupulous providers will use your numbers to get reimbursed for services they never delivered.

**DO Ask** questions! You have a RIGHT to know everything about your medical care, including the costs billed to Medicare.

**DO Educate** yourself about Medicare and common scams. Know your rights and know what a provider can and cannot bill to Medicare. Remember that nothing is ever "free." Beware offers of money or gifts for free medical care. Be cautious of any provider who maintains he has been endorsed by the federal government. Be wary of the "We know how to bill Medicare" scam. Avoid providers who tell you that the item or service is not usually covered, but they know how to bill Medicare.

**DO Use** a calendar to record all of your doctor's appointments and what tests or X-rays are conducted. Then check your Medicare statements carefully to make sure you received each service listed and that all the details are correct.

**DO Review** your Medicare summary notice for errors. The payment notice shows what services or supplies were billed to Medicare, what Medicare paid, and what you owe. Make sure Medicare was not billed for health care services or medical supplies and equipment you did not receive. If you spend time in a hospital, make sure the admission date, discharge date, and diagnosis on your bill are correct. Always inventory medical supplies and check against your statement.

**DO Report** suspected instances of fraud.

### Things to Avoid

**DON'T allow** anyone, except appropriate medical professionals, to review your medical records or recommend services.

**DON'T contact** your physician to request a service you do not need. Don't let anyone persuade you to see a doctor for care or services you don't need.

**DON'T accept** medical supplies from a door-to-door salesman. If someone comes to your door claiming to be from Medicare/Medicaid, remember that Medicare and Medicaid do not send representatives to your home.

**DON'T be influenced** by media advertising concerning your health. Television and radio ads are intended to raise money for someone. They do not have your best interest at heart.

## **Protect, Detect and Report**

Protect your personal information — Medicare Number, Social Security Number, Bank Account Information.

Detect fraud, errors and abuse by reading your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN).

Report fraud, errors and abuse to Arkansas SMP — 866-726-2916.

## **Reference**

Arkansas SMP (Arkansas Senior Medicare Patrol), Department of Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services at <http://www.daas.ar.gov/asmp.html#hfraud>.

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