

What is Medicare Fraud?

Medicare fraud occurs when someone deceives Medicare into paying when it should not, or paying more than it should. Fraud is against the law and should be reported. Knowing how to protect yourself from, detect, and report Medicare fraud will help save both you and Medicare money.

Medicare Fraud Do's and Don'ts

DO:

- Learn how Medicare works so you can more easily identify fraud
- Keep a health journal where you record all health services and items you receive
- Compare your health journal with the list of claims you receive from Medicare or your Medicare Advantage plan
- Ask questions if you are unsure if something is fraud
- Report health care providers who pressure you into receiving a health service or item you do not need
- Report Medicare marketing fraud. This includes when a plan or broker calls, visits, or e-mails you without your permission

DON'T :

- Provide your Medicare or other personal information to anyone other than a trusted health care professional
- Give out your Medicare or other personal information to someone you don't know who calls you on the phone. Social Security and Medicare will **never** call you and ask you for your information.
- Agree to receive care you do not feel you need
- Pay more for a health service or item than Medicare or your Medicare Advantage plan states you should
- Accept gifts from a plan or broker in exchange for enrolling in their plan

How to Report Medicare Fraud

If you suspect Medicare fraud, you should contact the national Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) hotline at 877-808-2468. You should include as many details as possible, such as specific names, dates, times, and locations.