



The 4 Points To Empowering Seniors to Prevent Healthcare Fraud

1.) What is the nature of the Problem –How much does it cost the Public Health Care System?

- 99% of all health care providers are honest. However, by some estimates, those bilking the system are collecting approximately 10% of ALL Medicare and Medicaid payments.

- Each year Medicare and Medicaid lose BILLIONS to error, fraud, and abuse. In 2004, Medicare alone lost \$19 BILLION to improper payments. That's the Good News, and it's completely unacceptable. In 1997, when the SMP program began Medicare was losing \$23 Billion.

2.) When to suspect a potential scam

- Offers of “free” services (toe nail clippings, eye glass adjustments) or equipment in exchange for Medicare Numbers.

- Billings for Services or Equipment never provided

- Medicare Patients billed at a higher rate than non-Medicare patients

- Submitting bills to Medicare when Medicare is not the Primary Insurer

- Incorrect dates of Service

- Waiving Co-Payments

3.) How to Protect yourself from Fraud

- Check for Billing errors prior to leaving the place of service

- Correct name

- Medicare Number Correct

4.) What to do if you suspect waste, fraud or abuse has been committed

- Phone the healthcare provider –it may have been a mistake
- Phone the secondary insurance carrier
- Call your SMP Concerns line

•Keep Personal information from falling into the wrong hands. Protect your Medicare Number in the same manner you would your bank account.

•Compare your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) with your senior healthcare journal or medical bills to determine that all charges are correct. Ask yourself:

- Did I receive the service or product Medicare paid for?
- Did my doctor order the service or product?
- Is the product or service relevant to what I was treated for?
- Was I billed more than once for the same service?

Never give your Medicare number to someone who calls you on the telephone

Remember Medicare does not send its representatives door-to-door

Take your Social Security number off your driver's license and checks!



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Helpful Phone Numbers & Websites



1-800-892-9085
www.genage.org

Iowa SMP 1-800-423-2449

www.StopMedicareScams.org
Scams, Press Releases, Lots more

Medicare

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
www.medicare.gov

Track your Medicare activity

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
<http://my.medicare.gov> (secure website)

Do Not Call List

1-888-382-1222
www.donotcall.gov

Credit Card Offers

1-888-567-8688
www.optoutprescreen.com

ID Theft Information

Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov
Federal Deposit Insurance Commission
www.fdic.gov

Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) 1-800-351-4664

<http://shiip.state.ia.us>

Iowa Attorney General

1-888-777-4590
www.iowaattorneygeneral.org

