

PREVENT. DETECT. REPORT.

Join the fight against Medicare fraud, errors and abuse

The U.S. General Accounting Office estimates that \$1 of every \$7 spent on Medicare is paid inappropriately due to fraud, errors and abuse. Medicare fraud can increase your premiums and result in denied future claims.

Law enforcement on every level—county, state and federal—are joining forces to stop the abusers, but they need your help. Armed with knowledge about Medicare fraud—how to PREVENT it, how to DETECT it, and how to REPORT it—you can join the fight.

Join forces with the Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). Iowa SMP's mission is to empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect and report Medicare and health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, counseling and education. The Iowa SMP is housed within the Iowa Insurance Division and provides support through our network of more than 350 SHIP-SMP volunteers across the state.

Reporting Medicare Fraud

If you suspect fraud, errors or abuse, make an appointment with a SHIP-SMP counselor at www.shiip.iowa.gov or contact Iowa SHIP-SMP at 1-800-351-4664 (TTY 1-800-735-2942)

Tips to Detect Medicare Fraud

1. Always review medical bills, Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) statements, and Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs). Be alert for unexpected or unexplained charges for medical services, prescription drugs, supplies, or equipment.
2. If you have Original Medicare, set up your account on Medicare.gov for 24/7 access to your claims history.
3. Keep a journal and save your receipts. Compare this information to your medical statements. Are the dates correct? Did you receive the services or supplies? Do you recognize the provider's name?

Free. Confidential. Objective.

1-800-351-4664 shiip.iowa.gov

SHIP-SMP is a service of the State of Iowa. It does not sell or promote any insurance companies, policies or agents.



This project was supported, in part by grant numbers 90SAPG0070 and 90MPPG0046, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201

Tips to Protect Against Medicare Fraud

1. Protect your Medicare Card just like your credit cards. Only give your number to people you know and trust, such as your healthcare provider.
2. Be suspicious of anyone offering you free medical equipment or services by requesting your Medicare number, especially over the phone, on T.V., in junk mail, online or in-person. If you need medical equipment or services, ask your doctor.
3. If individuals call and ask for your insurance or Medicare information, hang up. Beware if someone seems to know part of your Medicare number and ask you to give out the rest. Be suspicious if they say they represent Medicare. Remember: Medicare and other government agencies will never call you to ask you for your Medicare number.

Watch Out for These Common Scams In Iowa

COVID-19

Beware of scammers who offer COVID-19 test kits over the phone or other “free benefits” for Medicare beneficiaries. Scammers will ask you for your Medicare number from your “red, white, and blue card”, and then file false claims for additional tests— they will not allow you to cancel the order.

Free Medical Equipment

Stay safe. Don't accept offers of free medical equipment—like those for wheelchairs, walkers, or brace. The equipment is not free; you may receive a bill if Medicare denies the claims. Or you could be denied for medically necessary equipment in the future. Don't give your health information to strangers. Trust your medical professionals to prescribe the equipment you need.

Guard Your Card

Your Medicare card is very valuable to scammers— it is as important as your Social Security number and as valuable as any credit card. In the wrong hands, your Medicare number can be used to bill for services and products that you may not even receive or may not be medically necessary. Never give out your Medicare number over the phone or to people who are not your health care providers. Do not believe callers telling you Medicare is issuing new cards. The card you receive when you sign up does not need to be replaced. Offers for new Medicare gold cards, chip cards, plastic cards—or other types—are all scams.



1-800-351-4664 shiip.iowa.gov

SHIIP-SMP is a service of the State of Iowa. It does not sell or promote any insurance companies, policies or agents.



This project was supported, in part by grant numbers 90SAPG0070 and 90MPPG0046, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201