

## California Senior Medicare Patrol

# Medicare Fraud Alert

January 2016

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### Beware of Fraudulent Hospice Enrollments

We're getting several reports about a hospice company that is giving presentations and visiting seniors at their home, and enrolling them into hospice even though they do not have a terminal illness with 6 months or less to live. The hospice company misleads people into enrolling in hospice by offering beneficiaries housekeeping, home health, nurse visits and/or medications for "free". The hospice company is claiming they are a different branch of hospice and that services are covered by Medicare through "Obama Care".

Some things to watch for:

- Beware of hospice companies enrolling patients who do not have a terminal illness with 6 months or less to live.
- Beware of people who say they know how to get Medicare to pay for something. Medicare pays for services and items based on medical necessity -- meaning a service or item you really need for your medical condition. Also, most durable medical equipment requires a prescription from your doctor.

If you or someone you know comes across such hospice scams, call the [Senior Medicare Patrol](#) at [1-855-613-7080](tel:1-855-613-7080). If you need help with your Medicare, call the [Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program \(HICAP\)](#) at [1-800-434-0222](tel:1-800-434-0222). Visit: [cahealthadvocates.org](http://cahealthadvocates.org). Thank You!

