

# California Senior Medicare Patrol

## Medicare Fraud Alert

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### Beware of Postcards Advertising “Free” Braces to Relieve Pain

We’re getting several reports of Medicare beneficiaries receiving urgently marked postcards with a special notice of pending eligibility to receive a Medicare-covered back brace or knee support system.

We urge you NOT to respond to these mailers and advise you to talk to your doctor FIRST about any pain you are experiencing. Medicare only covers braces and other durable medical equipment (DME) that is medically necessary with a doctor’s prescription. Scammers, however, hope you don’t know that. They just want your Medicare number to bill Medicare for equipment you never receive, or to bill Medicare for much more expensive equipment than you receive. We’ve seen cases where the Medicare beneficiary is stuck with a \$200 bill. Protect yourself and guard your Medicare card!

If you or someone you know comes across such scams, let us know.

Together we can stop fraud! Call the [Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program \(HICAP\)](#) at 1-800-434-0222, or the [Senior Medicare Patrol](#) at 1-855-613-7080.

Visit: [cahealthadvocates.org](http://cahealthadvocates.org).

Thank You!

