California Senior Medicare Patrol

Monthly Educational Webinar
January 2020
California Senior Medicare Patrol
www.cahealthadvocates.org

California Health Advocates (501C3)
- Medicare education and advocacy

Senior Medicare Patrol Program
- On site fraud prevention presentations
- Fraud alerts
- eNewsletter
- Fraudulent billing help and referrals
- Monthly educational webinars
  - Preventing Active Shooters & Workplace Violence in Healthcare
  - Limited Income Newly Eligible Transition Program (Linet) (February 27)
  - Center for Medicare Advocacy (March 26)
Cases: 2019
513 total cases

- Billing Issues: 60 cases
- Deceptive Home Health Care Enrollments: 15 cases
- Deceptive Hospice Enrollments: 60 cases
- DME Brace Scams: 105 cases
- Fraudulent Genetic Tests: 137 cases
- Medicare Advantage Plans and Agents: 49 cases
- Medicare Phone Scams: 18 cases
- Medicare Supplement Scams: 4 cases
- New Medicare Card Scams: 26 cases
- Misc.: 39 cases
Cases: January 1-17, 2020
16 cases total

- Billing Issues: 5 cases
- Deceptive Home Health Care Enrollments: 1 case
- Deceptive Hospice Enrollments: 1 case
- DME Brace Scams: 6 cases
- Fraudulent Genetic Tests: 0 cases
- Medicare Advantage Plans and Agents: 1 case
- Medicare Phone Scams: 0 cases
- Medicare Supplement Scams: 1 case
- New Medicare Card Scams: 0 cases
- Misc.: 1 case
DME Brace Scam

• Risks to Benefits and Health:
  • False claims billed
  • No access to needed DME
  • Compromised Medicare number
  • More scam calls
Protect Your Benefits

- Keep track of medical appointments
  - Use journal or calendar

- Review your statements:
  - Charges for something you didn’t get
  - Billing for the same services or supplies twice
  - Services that weren’t ordered by your doctor

- Medicare Summary Notice, Explanation of Benefits
  - List of charges by providers & suppliers that billed Medicare in a 3-month period
  - MSNs accessible at mymedicare.gov
BEWARE OF A FREE FOOT SPA!

- FBI warning - Medicare fraud scheme - foot bath/soak products
- Telemarketers contact Medicare Part D beneficiaries offering free foot spa
- Pharmacy instructs providers to mix the medications with water in order to soak their feet
- Questionable prescribing and dispensing of multiple drugs (typically antibiotics and antifungal medications) are being used in a foot bath
- Dispensed medications may be medically unnecessary
- Limited clinical value & may be harmful to patients
SMP Fraud Alerts are available in 9 languages

Free downloads at California Health Advocates:

https://cahealthadvocates.org/fraud-abuse/medicare-fraud-alerts/