Medicare Hospice, Healthcare Directives

Senior Medicare Patrol
March 25, 2021
www.cahealthadvocates.org

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California Health Advocates

www.cahealthadvocates.org

• **Policy** – Conduct public policy research to support recommendations for improving rights and protections for Medicare beneficiaries and their families

• **Training** – Provide timely and high-quality information on Medicare through our website, fact sheets, policy briefs and educational workshops

• **Advocacy** – Bring the experiences of Medicare beneficiaries to the public, and especially legislators and their staff at federal and state levels

• **Senior Medicare Patrol** – fraud prevention education throughout California
Hospice Fraud Harms Beneficiaries

• Prescriptions placed on hold
• No access to specialists
• Medical visits cancelled
• Surgeries postponed
• Medicare stops paying for claims
• Beneficiaries left with expensive medical bills
California SMP Hospice Fraud Cases

• 70 y/old Margarito
  • “A woman offered to help me get a better wheelchair. She took a picture of my Medicare card with her cell phone and had me sign a form.
  • I still don’t have my chair and now my ear and eye doctors won’t see me. My cardiologist said he can’t write me a prescription due to being in hospice. What’s hospice? Can you help?”

• 84 y/old Elias
  • unaware of his hospice enrollment until he went to the pharmacy to get his prescription filled & was told they could not fill it due to his hospice status.

• 78 y/old Thuong
  • Discovered he had erroneously been enrolled in hospice when he received a call from his primary doctor's office saying Medicare would not pay for a flu shot claim, because Medicare records show bene on hospice.
**Medicare now covers:**
cooking & cleaning services

**Age:**
You’re old enough to qualify for hospice.

**COVID:**
nurse visits at home, free hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks

**Hospice Recruitment Tactics:**

$:$ You can earn $400/month if you agree to enroll into our program.

**Additional benefits:**
DME, shakes, bus coupons
### Notes for Claims Above

A. This service is not covered because you are enrolled in a hospice.

B. You should not be billed for this service. You do not have to pay this amount.

C. This information is being sent to Medicaid. They will review it to see if additional benefits can be paid.
SMP Message:

- **Protect** Medical Identity by guarding the Medicare card
- **Detect** Fraudulent Billing by reviewing MSNs and EOBs
- **Report** Medicare Fraud by calling SMP at 1-855-613-7080
COVID 19 Scams Warning Door hangers
Health Care Trackers w/pages for appt. details, notes & important phone numbers (2 sizes to choose from)
COVID 19 Vaccine Scams Flyers with Spanish on backside
**CALIFORNIA SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL WARNING!**

**Beware of fraudulent hospice enrollments.**

Individuals promoting hospice enrollment for Medicare beneficiaries who are not terminally ill through cold calls, meetings, and educational sessions could be using the hospice benefit to commit Medicare fraud and abuse.

**855-613-7080**

For additional information on healthcare fraud, visit cahealthadvocates.org

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**Back Brace Fraud Alert**

**2019**

**CALIFORNIA SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL WARNING!**

Beware of false ads for "free" braces covered by Medicare. Individuals offering Medicare free or low-cost back and other orthotic braces could be using the medical equipment benefit to commit Medicare fraud and abuse.

**855-613-7080**

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**Avoid Medicare Fraud & Scams!**

**A Story About**

**Betty & the Medicare Health Plan**

**MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE**

Avoid Medicare fraud & scams!

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