Current Fraud Trends
HOSPICE FRAUD ALERT!

Have you suddenly lost access to your doctor?
Are your specialists refusing to see you?
Can't get your medications at the pharmacy?

BEWARE!
You may have been tricked into signing up for a program that is medically unnecessary for you.

Hospice is a benefit, covered by Medicare and it is meant for Medicare beneficiaries with a terminal illness.

Some hospice agencies may approach you outside of supermarkets or may show up to your home unannounced and recruit non-terminally ill Medicare beneficiaries by offering you free items or services and calling themselves a "program that helps seniors."

If you or someone you know signed up for free services but now face issues accessing medical care, please contact the Senior Medicare Patrol immediately at:
855-613-7080

For additional information on healthcare fraud, visit cahealthadvocates.org
Phone and Social Media Healthcare Fraud and Scams

- Back Brace
- Cardiac Genetic Test Kits
- New Medicare Cards
SMP Monthly Education

• August 25 – “Medicare & Medicaid State of Affairs”
• September 22 – “Understanding Medicare Hospice”
• October 27 & 28 – “Medicare 2023 – What’s in the Future”
• November 17 – “Medicare Advantage & Concerns”
• January 19 – “Help Available for Lower-Income Medicare Beneficiaries”
• February 23 – “Medicare Home Health Coverage & Updates”
• March 23 – “Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility Coverage & Updates”
• May 25 – “Pressing Beneficiary Issues”
**How you can Prevent Fraud**

- **Guard your card as you would a credit card.**
- **Use your Personal Healthcare Journal to record the details of your healthcare.**
- **Check your Medicare statement for accuracy.** Do you recognize the name of the provider? Did you receive services on that day? Does this claim reflect the services you received? (Important: Make sure the name, address and Medicare number on the Statement are correct).
- **Set up an account online for 24/7 access to Medicare Summary Notices at www.Medicare.gov.**

**Be Alert to Fraud Tactics**

- **NEVER** give your Medicare number (or Medicare card) to anyone other than your doctor or Medicare provider.
- If someone offers you **free medical services, screening, testing or equipment in exchange for your Medicare number,** don't accept the offer.
- People who claim they "know how to bill Medicare" to get an uncovered item or service paid, are practicing fraud. Report them immediately. Call SMP for help.

**HOW TO PREVENT AND REPORT FRAUD OR ABUSE**

- **Document** all the healthcare you receive.
- **Save** all of your Medicare and Health Care paperwork.
- **Check** each statement for accuracy. Make sure the name and Medicare number are correct.
- **Compare** your paperwork with the care you received.
- **Organize** all your paperwork.

**CONTACT the California Senior Medicare Patrol when you have questions or suspect fraud and/or abuse:**

**1-855-613-7080**

**www.cahealthadvocates.org/fraud**

Or for further assistance with Medicare, call HICAP at **1-800-434-0222**

**SMP** California Senior Medicare Patrol

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California Senior Medicare Patrol

• Education is awareness
• Workshops (virtual, onsite)
• Fraud Hotline 855-613-7080
• www.cahealthadvocates.org
• False Claims Research
• Reporting to Law Enforcement

www.cahealthadvocates.org