

RSVP SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) empowers seniors to protect themselves from Healthcare Fraud.

PROTECT. Protect yourself from Medicare errors, fraud, and abuse.

Protecting your personal information is the best line of defense in the fight against healthcare fraud and abuse. Every day, consumers get ripped off by scam artists. Medicare and Medicaid lose billions of dollars each year. You can make a difference.

Here are some ways to take an active role in protecting your healthcare benefits:

- Treat your Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security numbers like a credit card number. Never give these numbers to a stranger.
- Remember, Medicare doesn't call or visit to sell you anything.
- Don't carry your Medicare or Medicaid card unless you will need it. Only take it to doctor's appointments, visits to your hospital or clinic, or trips to the pharmacy.
- Record doctor visits, tests and procedures in your personal health care journal or calendar.
- Save Medicare Summary Notices and Part D Explanation of Benefits. Shred the documents when they are no longer useful.

DETECT. Learn to detect potential errors, fraud, and abuse. Even when you do everything right, there is a chance that you could be a target of healthcare fraud. There are a lot of ways that your personal information can be used without your permission.

For further information, visit: www.StopMedicareFraud.gov.

Here are some of the steps you can take to detect potential errors, fraud and abuse:

- Always review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) and Part D Explanation of Benefits (EOB) for mistakes. Access to your current Medicare accounts is available 24 hours a day, simply visit: www.MyMedicare.gov.
- Compare your MSN and EOB to your personal health care journal and prescription drug receipts to make sure they are correct.
- Look for three things on your billing statement: 1) Charges for something you didn't get, 2) Billing for the same thing twice, and 3) Services that were not ordered by your doctor.

REPORT. If you suspect that you have been a target of errors, fraud, and/or abuse report it immediately! You will protect other people from becoming victims and help to save your Medicare benefits.

- For assistance in detecting possible Medicare abuse or fraud, please contact your local SMP representative by calling 1-877-808-2468.



SMP Helps Medicare Beneficiary Avoid Being Victimized

Mr Lee has Medicare. One evening he received a phone call from a woman who identified herself as a Medicare representative. The woman on the phone told Mr. Lee she could save him hundreds of dollars each month by signing him up for the new Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. Mr. Lee pays over \$300 in drug costs each month, so he was eager to join. When the woman said she could sign him up over the phone and asked for Mr. Lee's Medicare and checking account number, he gave them to her.

After sleeping on it, Mr. Lee realized he had made a mistake by giving out his personal information and contacted his local SMP. The SMP helped Mr. Lee contact his bank to close his account and reported the crime to the police and Medicare.

Mr. Lee was almost a victim of fraud...thanks to his SMP, he was not.

Area Agency on Aging of North Idaho

2120 Lakewood Drive, Suite B • Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 208-667-3179 or 800-786-5536 • Fax 208-667-5938 • www.aaani.org

