



You can help Fight Medicare Fraud and Abuse! Medicare's Incentive Reward Program for Fraud and Abuse!

To help fight Medicare fraud and abuse, follow these 3 easy steps:

Step 1: Compare your Medicare statement with the services you received from your doctor or other health care provider. If you have questions about the statement or the services provided, **talk first to your doctor or health care provider.**

Step 2: If you still have questions after talking to your doctor or provider, contact your Medicare contractor. The telephone number is listed on your Medicare statement. The contractor will follow-up on your questions and will determine if an investigation is necessary. If the investigation leads to the recovery of the least \$100 from a health care provider, you may be eligible for a reward.

Step 3: If you feel further action is needed in dealing with Medicare fraud or abuse; call the Medicare fraud hotline at: 1-800-447-8477 or you local SMP at 1-800-233-1737. Your call will be taken seriously. If a review of your complaint leads to the recovery of at least \$100 from a provider, you may be eligible for a reward.

To be eligible for a reward:

- ❖ The information you give must lead to a recovery of a least \$100
- ❖ The information must not be related to a fraud investigation already underway
- ❖ You must not be related to an employee of certain Federal government agencies

If the information you provide makes you eligible for a reward, you will be mailed a letter after all Medicare funds have been recovered. Please be aware that investigations take a long time to complete; some take several months or years.

12 Tips to Protect Yourself from Health Care Fraud

1. Only visit your personal doctor, hospital or clinic for medical help. Only they should make referrals for special equipment, services or medicine.
2. Never show anyone your medical or prescription records without first talking to your doctor or pharmacist.
3. If someone calls and tries to threaten or pressure you into something – simply hang up the phone.
4. If someone comes to your door and says they are from Medicare or some other health care company shut the door...*It's shrewd to be rude!*
5. Do your homework and talk to your health care provider before buying or investing in internet “cure-all” or “miracle” products or services.
6. Don't keep mail in your mailbox for more than one day. People steal personal information right out of your mailbox.
7. Rip up or shred your Medicare or other health care papers and other important documents before throwing them away. *Crooks go through the trash!*
8. Treat your Medicare & Social Security numbers like credit cards. If someone offers to buy your Medicare or social security number, **don't** do it...it's simply not worth it.
9. Remember that “Medicare” doesn't sell anything.
10. Follow your instincts—if it seems too good to be true, it usually is!
11. If you suspect an error, fraud or abuse related to health care, gather the facts and report it.
12. **ALWAYS** read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or health care billing statement. Your Medicare Summary Notice is the piece of mail stamped “This is Not a Bill” that comes in after you get medical care.