



## WHAT

Medicare fraud is big business for criminals – Medicare loses billions of dollars each year due to fraud, errors, and abuse.

**DO YOUR PART TO WIPE OUT FRAUD!**

## WHO

### What is the Senior Medicare Patrol ?

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is a program to help Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries prevent, detect, and report health care fraud. SMP teaches people on Medicare how to protect their personal information, identify and report errors on their health care statements, recognize scams, (such as illegal marketing, providing unnecessary services, and charging for services that were not provided), and report fraud and abuse to the proper authorities.

## HOW

SMP's conduct outreach in their communities by presenting to groups, hosting exhibits at community events, providing one-on-one counseling, and answering calls. SMP's also help people on Medicare and Medicaid who are unable to address billing questions themselves, and, if necessary, **SMP's will refer fraud to the Office of Inspector General or other outside organizations that can investigate.**

## PROTECT

**Protecting your personal information is your best defense against health care fraud and abuse.**

Treat your Medicare and Social Security numbers like your credit card and never give these out to a stranger.

Remember, Medicare won't call to ask for your Medicare number.

## DETECT

**Knowing how to spot suspicious activity can help you stop health care fraud and abuse in its tracks.**

Read your Medicare statements. Look for services or equipment you didn't receive, double charges, or things your doctor didn't order. You are the first line of defense against fraud.

## REPORT

**Ask questions and report problems.** If you have questions about your Medicare statements, call your health care provider or plan. If you're not comfortable calling your health provider or not satisfied with the response, call your local SMP.

**1-800-551-3191**



This project was supported by grant #90MPPG0052-03-00 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, DPHHS, Washington D.C., 20201. Points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official ACL policy.