

Medicare loses an estimated 60 billion dollars each year due to fraud, errors, and abuse. Every day these issues affect countless beneficiaries nationwide.

HOW DOES HEALTH CARE FRAUD HAPPEN?

You receive a call from a “representative” offering an incentive – perhaps a free back or knee brace. All he needs is your Medicare number. It may seem harmless at first, but this is attempted fraud and it could lead to identity theft.

Never accept medical equipment or supplies unless they are ordered by your doctor. Unless you initiated the call, never share your Medicare number or personal information with a stranger who calls to ask for it.

PROTECTING YOU & MEDICARE

The good news is that by following some simple tips, you can protect yourself against these types of scams. Remembering to **protect**, **detect**, and **report** helps everyone, including you and your loved ones.



SMP of New Jersey is administered by Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County (JFS), a nonprofit human services agency whose mission is to help all individuals and families in need realize an improved life experience at home, in the workplace and in the community. JFS pursues these aims by providing effective social services, counseling and advocacy through responsive, innovative programs to all members of the community without regard to race, religion, age or sexual orientation.



The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is a national program for people with Medicare. SMP is administered by the Administration for Community Living. To learn more or to volunteer visit our website: seniormedicarepatrolnj.org

This document was supported in part by a grant (No. 90MPPG0016-01-00) from the Administration for Community Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Protect Yourself & Medicare

SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL OF NEW JERSEY

877-SMP-4359
732-777-1940

To learn more, visit our website:
www.seniormedicarepatrolnj.org

MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE	
Name/Nombre	JOHN L SMITH
Medicare Number/Número de Medicare	1EG4-TE5-MK72
Entitled to/Con derecho a	Coverage starts/Coertura empieza
HOSPITAL (PART A)	03-01-2016
MEDICAL (PART B)	03-01-2016

PROTECT

Protect yourself against Medicare fraud.

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

Steps to protect yourself and your health care benefits:

- Treat your Medicare and Social Security numbers like your credit card number. Never give these numbers to a stranger.
- Remember, Medicare won't call to ask for your Medicare number.
- Don't carry your Medicare card unless you'll need it for a doctor's appointment. **GUARD THE CARD.**
- Keep a record of your medical visits, tests, and procedures in a health care journal or calendar.
- Read and save your Medicare statements, such as Medicare Summary Notices and/or Explanations of Benefits.

DETECT

Detect potential fraud, errors, and abuse.

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

Steps to detect possible fraud, errors, and abuse:

- Review your Medicare statements for mistakes by comparing them to your personal records.
- Look for three things on your Medicare statements:
 - Charges for services or supplies you did not receive
 - Billing for the same services or supplies twice
 - Services that weren't ordered by your doctor
- If you believe there is an error in your Medicare statement, call your provider to try and resolve the issue.

REPORT

Report suspected fraud, errors, and abuse.

If you suspect you have been a target of fraud, report it. This will help you and others at risk for health care scams.

Steps to report suspicious behavior:

- If you receive a suspicious call, don't give out any personal information. Hang up and SLAM THE SCAM. Report the call immediately to SMP of NJ at 877-SMP-4359.
- To be safe, don't pick up the call if you do not recognize the telephone number. Let your answering machine screen all of your calls.
- 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 you're not satisfied with the response, call SMP of NJ at 877-SMP-4359. All conversations are confidential.