

Tips to Avoid and Detect Medicare Fraud

- ★ Read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) notice to ensure that you are being billed correctly for the services that you receive. Ask yourself these questions:
 - ★ Did I receive the item or service for which Medicare is being billed?
 - ★ Did my doctor order the item or service for me?
 - ★ Is this item or service relevant to my diagnosis?
 - ★ Are there other errors in my statement?
- ★ Never provide your Medicare or Medicaid number (or any part of it) unless you know who you are dealing with. Only give them out on the phone if YOU make the call!
- ★ Never provide your Medicare or Medicaid number (or any part of it) in exchange for free services.
- ★ Never accept medical services, supplies, or equipment from someone on the phone, a door-to-door sales representative, or a TV or magazine ad. Only your doctor can order services, supplies, or equipment for you. Also remember that Medicare does not sell anything.
- ★ If a caller tries to threaten or pressure you into something, hang up the phone.
- ★ Do not keep mail in your mailbox for more than one day. People steal information right out of your mailbox. Also remember to rip up or shred your Medicare or other health care papers before throwing them away. Crooks go through the trash!
- ★ Avoid people who tell you that an item or service is not usually covered by Medicare or Medicaid, but they can bill for it differently to get paid.
- ★ Use a Health Care Tracking Journal to compare your notes to your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN). Also use the Journal to record your health care appointments, tests and supplies.

The Illinois SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) Program educates consumers about health care fraud, waste, and abuse. If you have questions about a claim on your Medicare Summary Notice or Explanation of Benefits, call the Illinois SMP program at **(800)699-9043**. Information about the Illinois SMP program is also available on our website: **www.illinoissmp.org**