



Help Protect Your Loved One from Medicare Fraud

By Ingrid Kundinger, Project Manager, Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

Every day, fraudsters are looking for opportunities to take advantage of Medicare beneficiaries. And every day, they are, unfortunately, successful. Did you know that Medicare-related fraud, abuse, and errors is a multi-billion-dollar industry? Are you now wondering if your loved one or the person that you provide care for has been impacted by Medicare fraud?

Here are some tips from the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) to help keep your loved one safe:

- Remind your loved one to never share personal information (Medicare number, Social Security number, bank account information) over the phone with someone who calls them out of the blue, even if they say they are from Medicare or another government agency. Those agencies don't call people, it's fraudsters looking for information.
- Remind your loved one that they have the right to say no to anyone calling and end the call.
- Set a reminder for when Medicare Summary Notices or Explanations of Benefits, bank statements, or pension payments should arrive and review those statements and check for suspicious activity.

- Listen for stories your loved one may share about suspicious phone calls that were received or perhaps even packages of medical supplies (typically back braces, knee braces, etc.).

The Wisconsin SMP is here to help. The SMP program provides education and resources to Medicare beneficiaries and their advocates to help them protect, detect, and report Medicare-related fraud. The SMP also operates a toll-free and confidential Helpline to provide guidance when there are concerns of Medicare fraud.

Concerned that your mom may have shared her Medicare information over the phone? Call us. Worried about the boxes of unwanted medical supplies in the back closet? Call us. Wondering what to do about suspicious claims on your dad's most recent Medicare Summary Notice? Call us.

The Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol program can be reached at (888) 818-2611 or online at www.smpwi.org. Our resources and services are complimentary, and any information shared is kept confidential.



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