

# Prevent Medicare Fraud

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program empowers and assists Medicare beneficiaries to prevent health care fraud, errors, and abuse. We serve beneficiaries of all ages, their family members, and caregivers. Whether you have questions about how to prevent fraud or you need assistance determining if it has occurred, SMP can help you to protect yourself and your loved ones.



Medicare loses an estimated \$60 billion each year due to fraud, errors, and abuse. Every day, these issues affect people across the country and can lead to identify theft and cost you money.

You can learn to **prevent, detect, and report** Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse by contacting SMP. SMP is a national program with offices in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. When you contact your local SMP, trained team members will answer your questions and share useful tips to help you prevent problems before they happen. You can also contact SMP if you think fraud, errors, or abuse have already occurred. We will provide confidential support to address your concerns. We can also help report and refer issues to the appropriate state and federal agencies for further assistance.

## Look out for:

- ◆ Billing for services or medical supplies that were not provided.
- ◆ Misrepresenting a diagnosis, your identity, or other facts to bill Medicare.
- ◆ Prescribing or providing excessive or unnecessary tests and services.
- ◆ Billing out of pocket for services covered by Medicare.



## Tips to prevent, detect, and report

- ◆ Only share your Medicare or Social Security number with those you trust.
- ◆ Only carry your Medicare card when you need it.
- ◆ Keep a record of all your medical visits and procedures.
- ◆ Review your Medicare statements for mistakes like charges you don't recognize or duplicate billing.
- ◆ Call your health care provider, Medicare, or your local SMP if you see something suspicious.