



What is Medicare Fraud?

Fraud occurs when an individual or organization deliberately deceives others in order to gain unauthorized benefit.

What is Medicare Abuse?

Medicare **abuse** occurs when providers supply services or products that are not medically necessary or that do not meet professional standards.

Examples of Potential Fraud and Abuse

- Billing for services and supplies that were not provided
- Obtaining Medicare number for "free" services
- Billing for equipment not delivered
- "Upcoming" – improper coding to obtain a higher payment
- Unneeded or excessive x-rays and lab tests; claims for services that are not medically necessary
- Billing for excessive medical supplies
- Using another person's Medicare card to obtain medical care, supplies or equipment

How Your Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Can Help

The **Missouri SMP** is ready to provide you with the information you need to **Protect** yourself from Medicare errors, fraud and abuse; **Detect** potential errors, fraud and abuse; and **Report** your concerns. SMPs use trained senior volunteers to help educate and empower seniors in the fight against health care fraud.

The **Missouri SMP** can help you with questions, concerns or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. It also provides information and educational presentations.

**For assistance, call the Missouri SMP at
888-515-6565**



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