

# Durable Medical Equipment Fraud

## Tips for Protecting Yourself and Medicare

### What is Durable Medical Equipment?

Durable Medical Equipment, or DME, is medical equipment prescribed by your doctor that is reusable. It includes hospital beds, walkers, wheelchairs, home oxygen equipment, scooters, and prosthetics.

Medicare only covers DME if you get it from a supplier enrolled in the Medicare program.

### What are Examples of Potential DME Fraud?

- Suppliers who offer “free” equipment but bill Medicare
- Suppliers who want you to use their doctors (who then prescribe unnecessary medical equipment)
- Doctors or suppliers who provide medical equipment you never needed or requested, or charge for items you never received
- Companies that bill for duplicate orders
- Suppliers who bill Medicare for services to people after they have died
- Suppliers who deliver generic or off-the-shelf product but bill Medicare for a more costly product
- Older adults who willingly accept unnecessary equipment or supplies, or allow their Medicare number to be used in exchange for money or other items



### How Your Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Can Help

#### Protect-Detect-Report

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.

For assistance with any concerns, call the Missouri SMP at 888-515-6565.

[missourismp.org](http://missourismp.org)