

SMP of New Jersey



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*PROTECTS SENIORS FROM FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE
IN MEDICARE AND MEDICAID*

TIP SHEET

Protect your Medicare or Medicaid number as you would your credit card information. Don't give out your personal information, such as your Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security number, bank account numbers or credit card numbers to anyone you do not completely trust.

Medicare and Medicaid do not sell or endorse any product. If someone calls you or visits your home and tells you that he or she represents Medicare or Medicaid, they are lying and can not be trusted. Hang up the telephone or shut the door. *"It's shrewd to be rude."*

Always read your Medicare Summary Notice or health care billing statement. The Medicare Summary Notice is the piece of mail you receive after you get medical services that is stamped "This is Not a Bill." Look for three things on your billing statement:

- ◆ Charges for something you did not get
- ◆ Billing for the same thing twice
- ◆ Services that were not ordered by your doctor

Never accept “free” services from persons selling medical services. If anyone tries to offer you “free” services, be very suspicious.

Do not keep mail in your mailbox for more than one day. People can steal personal information right from your mailbox.

Always rip up or shred your Medicare or other health care papers and other important documents before throwing them away. Crooks go through the trash. A crosscut shredder can do the job for you and lower the risk that important information is being stolen from you.

Count Your Pills. Always count the pills after you have picked up your prescription. Short pilling is a major problem under the new Medicare Part D drug prescription program. If you are short, complain to your pharmacist. If it happens more than once file a complaint.

Report possible fraud. Call the SMP of New Jersey at 732-777-1940 or call the National Government Services toll free hotline at 1-877-678-4697 to report possible Medicare or Medicaid fraud, waste or abuse.

Important Telephone Numbers

SMP of New Jersey-732-777-1940

Medicare-1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

(Also visit web site www.medicare.gov)

SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program)-1-800-792-8820

Social Security Administration-1-800-772-1213

PAAD or Senior Gold-1-800-792-9745

National Government Services, formerly Empire Medicare Services,

To make a toll free complaint in connection with Medicare Part B
1-877-678-4697

Medicare Drug Integrity Contractor (MEDIC)

To make a toll free complaint in connection with Medicare Part D
drug prescription program-1-877-772-3379

freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official U.S. Administration on Aging policy.”