

WHO TO CONTACT

Department of Health & Human Services
Office of Inspector General Hotline



Report suspected Medicare fraud:

Phone: 1-800-447-8477 (1-800-HHS-TIPS)

TTY: 1-800-377-4950 | FAX: 1-800-223-8164

E-mail: HHSTips@oig.hhs.gov

Online: OIG.HHS.gov/fraud/hotline

Medicare Call Center and SMPs

Report questionable charges to Medicare:

Phone: 1-800-633-4227 (1-800-MEDICARE)

TTY: 1-877-486-2048 | Online: medicare.gov

You can also contact your local SMP:

SMPs (formerly Senior Medicare Patrols) work locally to empower seniors to fight health care fraud and resolve errors.

Phone: 1-877-808-2468 | E-mail: info@smpresource.org

Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft Hotline

Report misuse of your personal information:

Phone: 1-877-438-4338 (1-877-ID-THEFT)

TTY: 1-866-653-4261 | Online: FTC.gov/idtheft

To learn more about medical identity theft visit:

www.WorldPrivacyForum.org/medicalidentitytheft.html

A copy of this brochure is also available at
OIG.HHS.gov/fraud/IDTheft

FIGHT BACK!

Medical Identity Theft & Medicare Fraud

What Is Medical Identity Theft?

Medical identity theft occurs when someone steals your personal information (like your name, Social Security number, or Medicare number) to obtain medical care, buy drugs, or submit fake billings to Medicare in your name.

Medical identity theft can disrupt your life, damage your credit rating, and waste taxpayer dollars.

The damage can be life-threatening to you if wrong information ends up in your personal medical records.



OIG

Office of Inspector General

Tips to Avoid Medical ID Theft

DETER DETECT DEFEND

DETER

Protect Your Personal Information

Guard your Medicare and Social Security Numbers.

Treat them like you would treat your credit cards.

Be suspicious of anyone who offers you free medical equipment or services and then requests your Medicare number. *If it's free, they don't need your number!*

Do not let anyone borrow or pay to use your Medicare ID card or your identity. *It's illegal, and it's not worth it!*

If your Medicare card is lost or stolen, report it right away. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) for a replacement.

DETECT

Watch Out For These Common Fraud Schemes

People who approach you in parking lots, shopping centers, or other public areas and offer free services, groceries, transportation, or other items in exchange for your Medicare number. *Just walk away!*

People who call you claiming to be conducting a health survey and ask for your Medicare number. *Simply hang up the phone!*

Telephone marketers who pretend to be from Medicare or Social Security and ask for payment over the phone or Internet. *Don't do it! They may want to steal your money.*

DEFEND

Check Your Medical Bills, Medicare Summary Notices, Explanation Of Benefits, and Credit Reports

- ⚠ Were you charged for any medical services or equipment that you didn't get?
- ⚠ Do the dates of services and charges look unfamiliar?
- ⚠ Were you billed for the same thing twice?
- ⚠ Does your credit report show any unpaid bills for medical services or equipment you didn't receive?
- ⚠ Have you received any collection notices for medical services or equipment you didn't receive?

Get help reading your Medicare Summary Notice at www.medicare.gov/basics/SummaryNotice.asp

Get a free credit report each year by calling 1-877-322-8228

Report Medicare Fraud and Medical Identity Theft

- ⚠ If you spot unusual or questionable charges, contact your health care provider. It may just be a mistake.
- ⚠ If your complaint is not resolved by your provider, report the questionable charges to Medicare.
- ⚠ If you suspect Medicare fraud, contact the Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General.
- ⚠ If you think someone is misusing your personal information, contact the Federal Trade Commission.

See back cover for contact information