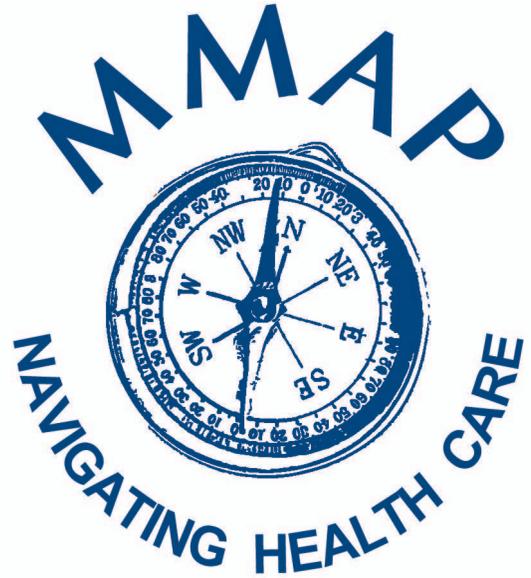


Help Control Your Health Care Costs!

Billions are lost each year through errors, fraud, waste and abuse to the Medicare and Medicaid programs. For you, this can mean:

- Cuts in service
- Higher costs for health care

The information on this page will help you identify and reduce errors, fraud, waste and abuse. You can help to keep your own health care costs down.



Three Ways to Help Reduce Medicare and Medicaid Errors and Fraud.

1. Be Informed

Did you know?

The vast majority of Medicare and Medicaid service providers are honest.



However, billions of dollars are lost each year because of Medicare and Medicaid errors and fraud.

The activities of a few result in wasted funds for these programs and could cause a reduction in funds in the future.

You can help reduce Medicare and Medicaid fraud and errors.

You can make a difference!

2. Be Aware

Review each Medicare Summary Notice carefully!

Your Medicare Summary Notice explains services and supplies that were billed to Medicare for a 90-day period.

Make sure that you received the services or supplies for which Medicare reimbursed the provider.

Watch for duplicate payments for the same service.

Look for payment for services or supplies not received, or for supplies received but no longer needed.

3. Be Involved

Report suspected Medicare fraud.

Have your Medicare Summary Notice with you when placing the following calls.



- > Call your health care provider's billing office. Ask about any part of the Medicare Summary Notice you question.
- > Call your Medicare carrier if the complaint is not resolved. Their toll-free number can be found on your Medicare Summary Notice in the upper right box.
- > Call 1-800-803-7174, the MMAP SMP Project for assistance.

Always keep a record of the dates and services you receive. Then check your bills and statements.

Look carefully at your bills and statements:

- Has Medicare or Medicaid paid twice for the same service?
- Check the dates on the form. Are they different from the dates you had the service?
- Is there anything you don't remember getting?
- Is there any outpatient services billed while you were in the hospital?
- Does it show any medical equipment for your home while you were in the hospital?
- Are there any ambulance services you did not receive?

Ask questions. Call your doctor, hospital, Medicare or Medicaid office if you

- Don't understand the charges on the form
- Were charged for something you didn't receive
- Feel you didn't need the service

Never give out your Medicare or Medicaid numbers on the phone or to people you don't know.

Don't give out your Medicare or Medicaid numbers if someone promises you "free" medical tests or services.

Never sign a blank form.

To Get Help or Find Out More Information

For more information or to report suspected errors, waste, fraud or abuse contact your local MMAP Site toll-free at 1-800-803-7174, and give us a phone number where you can be reached and a brief summary of the situation.