

Avoid Being a Victim of Scams and/or Identity Theft

Below are some examples of common scams. Be suspicious of doctors, health care providers, or suppliers who:

- Ask for your Medicare number, in exchange for free medical equipment or services
 - Tell you that tests become cheaper as more of them are provided
 - Advertise “free” consultations to people with Medicare
 - Call or visit you and say they represent Medicare or the federal government
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- Use telephone or door-to-door selling techniques
 - Use pressure or scare tactics to sell you expensive medical services or diagnostic tests
 - Bill Medicare for services you never received or a diagnosis you do not have
 - Offer non-medical transportation or housekeeping as Medicare-approved services
 - Bill Medicare for tests you received as a hospital inpatient or within 72 hours of admission or discharge
 - Bill Medicare for a power wheelchair, scooter or any durable medical equipment, when you don't meet Medicare's qualifications



Don't share medical or insurance information by phone or email unless you initiated the contact and know who you're dealing with

Identity theft

Identity theft happens, when someone uses your personal, health or financial information without your consent to commit fraud or other crimes.

The crime takes many forms. Identity thieves may rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, or establish a telephone



account in your name. You may not find out about the theft until you review your credit report or a credit card statement and notice charges you didn't make—or until you're contacted by a debt collector.

you) uninvited. Give personal information only to doctors or other Medicare approved providers.

Detecting Medical Identity Theft

Read your medical and insurance statements regularly and completely. They can show warning signs of identity theft. Read the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statement that your health plan sends after treatment. Check the name of the provider, the date of service, and the service provided. Do the claims paid match the care you received? If you see a mistake, contact us and report the problem.

Other signs of medical identity theft include:

- A call from a debt collector about a medical debt you don't owe
- A notice from your health plan saying you reached your benefit limit



Identity theft is serious. While some identity theft victims can resolve their problems quickly, others spend hundreds of dollars and many days repairing damage to their good name and credit record.

**Fraud and Abuse Unit
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