

# Protect Yourself Against Medicare Fraud

Medicare loses an estimated \$60 billion each year due to fraud, errors, and abuse. Across the country, these issues put Medicare beneficiaries at risk of identity theft, unauthorized charges, and loss of benefits. The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) helps beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers prevent, detect, and report fraud.

## Prevent. Detect. Report.

### 1. Stay alert

- Only share your Medicare number with trusted providers.
- Carry your Medicare card only when needed.
- Keep a personal record of medical visits and procedures.

**TIP:**  
Try SMP's free [My Health Care Tracker](#)



**TIP:**  
Set up alerts at [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) to track account activity in real time

### 2. Monitor your statements

- Review every Medicare Summary Notice or Explanation of Benefits.
- Compare statements against your own records.
- Look for unfamiliar services, duplicate billing, or charges you don't recognize.

**TIP:**  
Find your local SMP at [smpresource.org](https://smpresource.org)



### 3. Report concerns promptly

- Call your health care provider, Medicare, or your local SMP if you see something suspicious.
- Don't wait — report issues as soon as you notice them.



**Medicare fraud is especially common during open enrollment (October 15–December 7).**

Beware of cold calls, texts, or emails pretending to be Medicare, asking for personal information, or offering free gifts or services. Medicare will never contact you for personal details or charge you for a new card. If you receive an unsolicited call or message, don't respond — check official sources instead.