

Fact sheet

4R's for Fighting Medicare Fraud



You're the first line of defense against Medicare fraud and abuse

Record

Record your doctor appointments (dates and times) on a calendar. You should also note any tests, items, and services you get, and save the receipts and statements from your providers. If you need help keeping track of dates and services, you can ask a friend or family member for help.

Review

Your claims and statements contain important information. When reviewing them, make sure you:

- Look for signs of fraud, including claims you don't recognize on your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) if you have Original Medicare, or similar statements from your plan if you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare drug plan.
- Check your claims early—the sooner you find and report errors, the sooner you can help stop fraud. To get started, log into (or create) your secure Medicare account at [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). There, you can get your Original Medicare claims as soon as they're processed. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.
- Check the receipts and statements you get from providers for mistakes. If you think a charge is incorrect and you know the provider, you may want to call their office to ask about the charge. Your provider or their staff may give you information that helps you better understand the services or supplies you got. Or, they may find an error that needs to be corrected.

Report

You can report suspected Medicare fraud by:

- Calling 1-800-MEDICARE. Have your Medicare card or Medicare Number and the claim or MSN ready.
- Calling the fraud hotline of the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477). TTY users can call 1-800-377-4950.
- Visiting tips.oig.hhs.gov to file a complaint online.

If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare drug plan you can also call the Investigations Medicare Drug Integrity Contractor (I-MEDIC) at 1-877-7SAFERX (1-877-772-3379).

Remember

There are things you can do to protect yourself from Medicare fraud:

- Guard your Medicare card like it's a credit card. Don't give your Medicare Number or Social Security Number to anyone except your doctor or people you know should have it.
- Never give your Medicare Number in exchange for money, gifts, or for special offers from companies, like free medical care or equipment.
- Never let someone use your Medicare card, and never use another person's card.
- Ask questions if you aren't sure of something. You have the right to know everything about your medical care, including costs billed to Medicare.

Want to learn more about Medicare fraud and how you can make a difference? Visit [Medicare.gov/fraud](https://www.medicare.gov/fraud). You can also contact the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) to learn more about fraud. The SMP Program educates and empowers people with Medicare to take an active role in the health care they get. Use the SMP locator at smpresource.org, or call 1-877-808-2468 to find the SMP program in your area.



Medicare

You have the right to get Medicare information in an accessible format, like large print, braille, or audio. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit [Medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice](https://www.medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

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