

### Welcome to 2025!

As we go into the New Year, we all make resolutions to follow.

**The Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol has some resolutions for this year that you can use too!**

Medicare Fraud is the intentional misuse or misrepresentation of information to receive payments, benefits, or services from Medicare. The fraudulent misuse of the system costs Medicare an approximately \$60 Billion per year. This affects not only Medicare beneficiaries, but everyone, as it is wasting taxpayer dollars and makes the Medicare system unstable for future generations. If your New Year 's resolution is to protect yourself from scams this year, follow the steps below to help **PREVENT**, **DETECT**, and **REPORT** Medicare Fraud.

#### **This year I will.....**

##### **PREVENT** fraud.

The easiest way to stop Medicare fraud is by preventing it.

- Treat your Medicare card like a Social Security Card – Keep it in a safe location when not using and don't share it with anyone other than trusted healthcare professionals.
- Don't use your Medicare number for prize drawings or raffles.
- Be cautious of "free" medical services – Remember, someone always pays. Either you or Medicare!
- Know that Medicare won't call or visit to sell you anything

##### **DETECT** Medicare Fraud on my statements.

Detecting fraud is an important step in stopping it.

- Check your Medicare Summary Notices or other statements for:
  1. Services you did not receive
  2. Double-billing (being charged multiple times for the same service)
  3. Services provided that were not ordered by your doctor
- Use your My Health Care Tracker from Wisconsin SMP to keep a personal record of what happens at your healthcare appointments

##### **REPORT** any fraud I see.

If you do notice potential fraud on your Medicare Summary Notice or other statements, please report it:

- Call your Healthcare provider to see if it is an error
- Gather information and documentation
- Contact Wisconsin SMP at 1-888-818-2611