

### Hospice Fraud: What Medicare Beneficiaries Need to Know

Hospice care is meant to provide comfort, dignity, and support to people who are terminally ill and to their families. When used appropriately, hospice services can greatly improve quality of life. Unfortunately, hospice fraud is a growing problem that can harm beneficiaries and misuse Medicare funds. Understanding what hospice fraud looks like—and knowing your rights—can help protect you and your loved ones.

#### Watch for Red Flags

- Being enrolled in hospice without a terminal diagnosis
- Pressure to sign hospice forms quickly
- Unsolicited calls or door-to-door visits
- Offers of free services, gifts, or incentives
- Little or no hospice care provided
- A hospice provider you don't recognize on your Medicare Summary Notice

#### How Hospice Fraud Harms You

- Limits access to needed medical care
- Misuses your Medicare benefits
- Increases healthcare costs for everyone

#### Protect Yourself

- Never give your Medicare number to unsolicited callers
- Don't sign blank or incomplete forms
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice
- Talk with your doctor or a trusted caregiver before choosing hospice

#### Report Concerns

If you suspect hospice fraud:

- Contact your doctor
- Call your Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) for free, confidential help
- Call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**

**Hospice care should be based on medical need—not pressure or promises.**

