



5 Ways to Spot a Medicare Equipment Scam

Fraudulent medical equipment scams are on the rise, especially those targeting seniors. These scams often involve billing Medicare for braces, diabetic supplies, or other gear you never ordered or needed. Here are five quick ways to protect yourself.

- **1. Review Your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN):** Check each statement for unfamiliar items or services. If you see a brace, monitor, or supply you never requested, report it right away.
- **2. Don't Share Your Medicare or Social Security Number:** Medicare will never call you asking for your number or payment information. Only share details when you contact a verified provider.
- **3. Be Skeptical of "Free" Offers:** Scammers often say equipment is 'at no cost to you' — but if it's billed to Medicare, it's costing everyone. Avoid responding to these offers.
- **4. Watch for Unsolicited Deliveries:** If you receive medical supplies you didn't order, don't use or discard them. Keep the packaging and call Medicare to verify the claim.
- **5. Report Suspected Fraud:** Call 1-800-MEDICARE or contact your local Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) to report anything that seems off. Early reporting can stop future scams.

For more resources and real-world scam alerts, visit SmartSeniorDaily.com or your local Senior Center.