

What is Medicare Fraud & Abuse?



**Speaker: Senior Medicare Patrol
Outreach Counselor Leslie Sierra**

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WHO WE ARE

- New York StateWide Senior Action Council is a grassroots membership organization made up of individual senior citizens and senior citizen clubs, and organizations from all parts of New York State.
- StateWide has a strong history providing outreach and education to senior citizens and their families since 1972.
- StateWide is governed and directed by seniors and advocates for seniors on a grassroots level.



OUR PROGRAMS

Patient's Rights Helpline

- Toll free number to assist hospitalized and institutionalized patients and their families with their rights.

MCCAP (Managed Care Counseling & Assistance Program)

- Inform, educate and assist seniors and their families in making the best and most informed decisions regarding their healthcare in NYS.



Call our Helpline at 800-333-4374

NYS SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL (SMP)

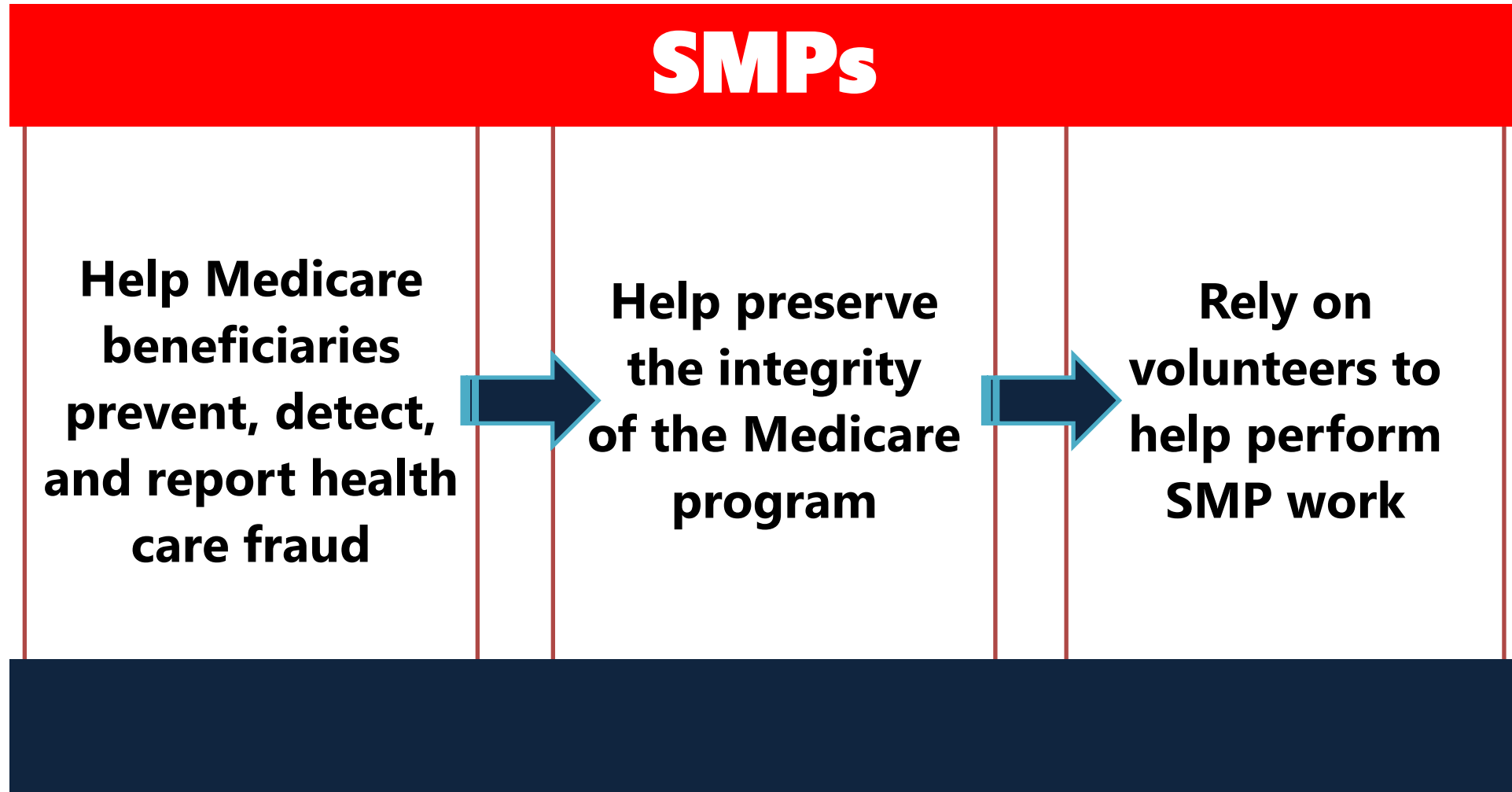
The SMP mission is...

- To empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers;
- To prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse;
- Through outreach, counseling, and education.



Call our Helpline at 800-333-4374

WHAT IS THE SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL (SMP)



OVERVIEW

Medicare Fraud, Errors and Abuse Affect... Everyone

- **Billions** of taxpayer dollars lost to improper claims
- Medicare trust fund at risk

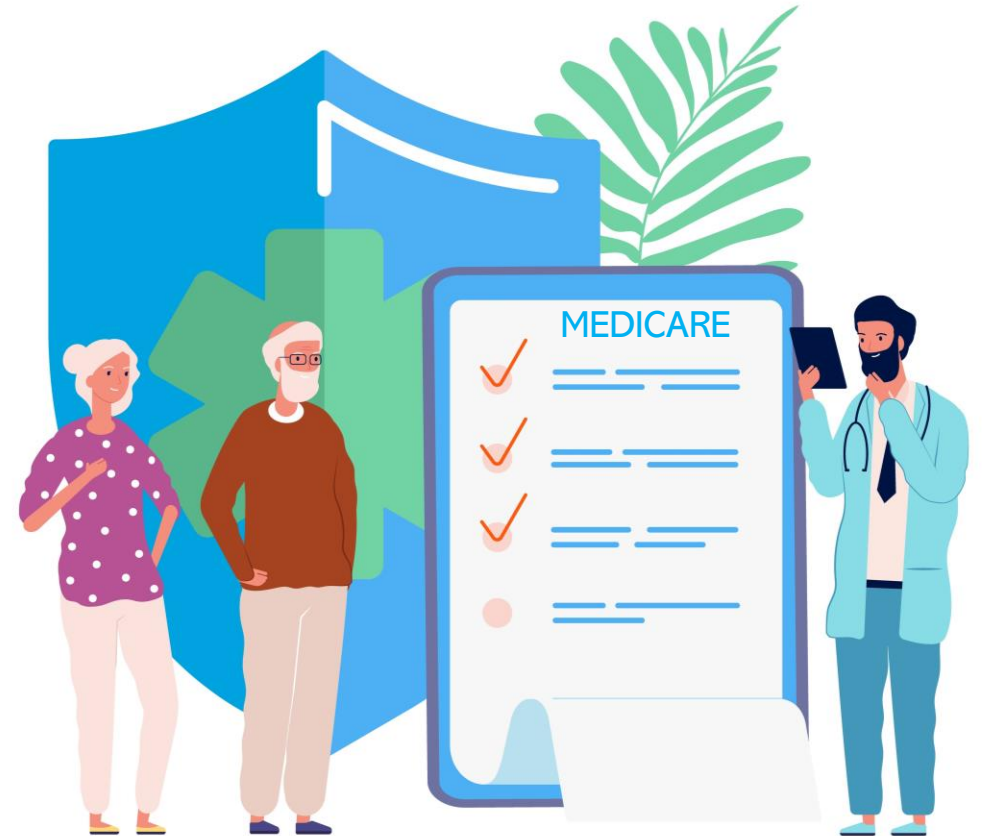
Medicare Beneficiaries

- Higher premiums
- Less money for needed benefits
- Quality of treatment



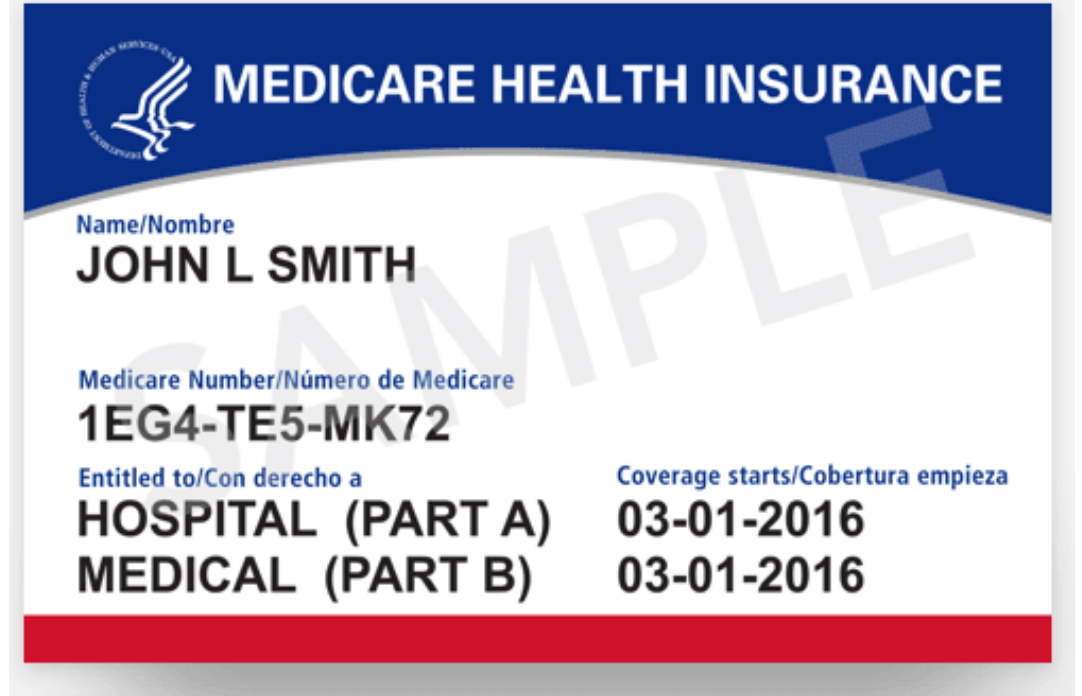
WHAT IS MEDICARE?

- Federal health insurance program created in 1965
 - ✓ For people ages 65 and older
 - ✓ Some people with disabilities under 65
 - ✓ And a few others
- Not designed to pay 100% of all medical bills
- Covers over 63.8 million people



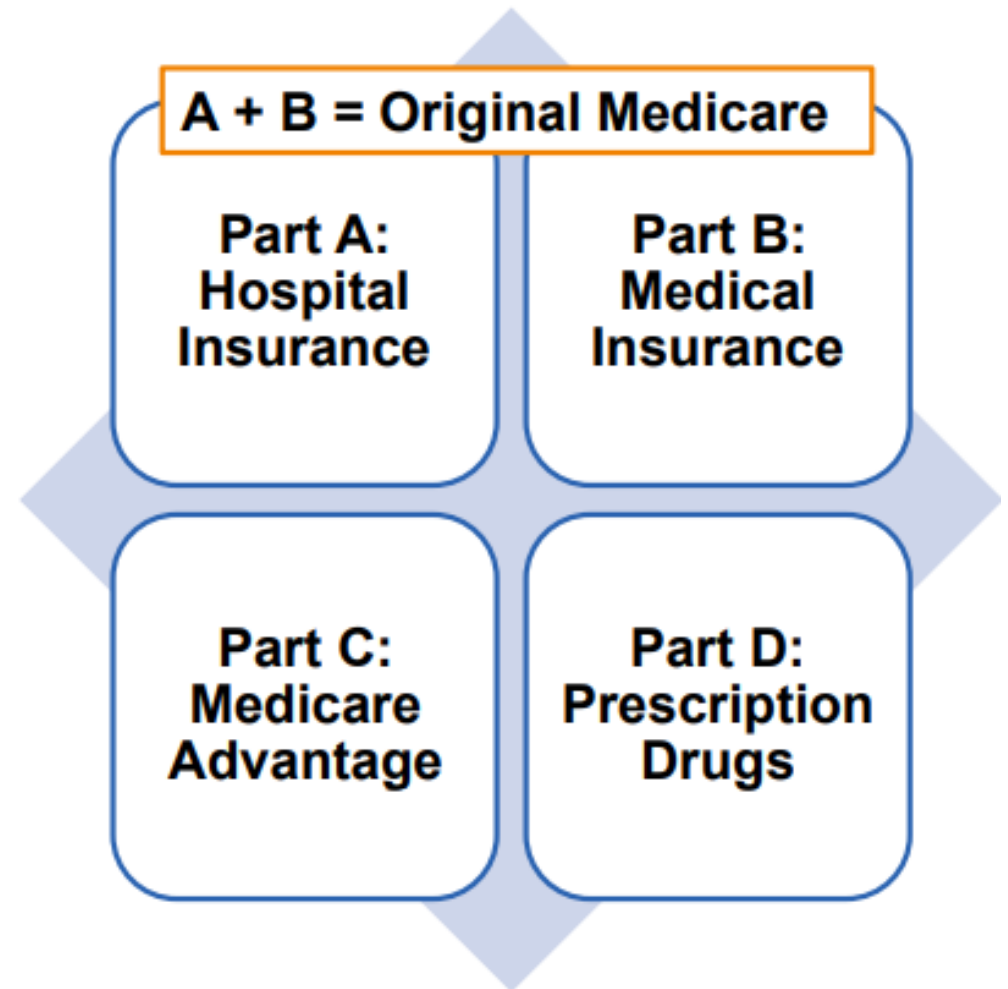
MEDICARE NUMBERS AND CARDS

- All Medicare beneficiaries are issued a Medicare number and card upon enrollment.
- A Medicare number is as valuable to identity thieves as a credit card number.



PARTS OF MEDICARE

- Medicare Part A and Part B together are known as "Original Medicare."
- Medicare Part C offers an alternate system for delivering the same services as Original Medicare through private insurance plans, called Medicare Advantage Plans.
- Medicare Part D insurance delivers prescription drug coverage through certain Medicare Advantage Plans or through standalone Medicare Prescription Drug Plans.



WHAT IS FRAUD?

Intentionally billing Medicare for services that were not received or billing for a service at a higher rate than is actually justified.

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Providers supply services or products that are not medically necessary or that do not meet professional standards.

WHAT IS AN ERROR?

Health care services and billing are complicated, which can lead to errors.



EXAMPLES OF MEDICARE FRAUD AND ABUSE

- Billing for services, supplies, or equipment that were not provided
- Billing for excessive medical supplies
- Obtaining or giving a Medicare number for “free” services
- Improper coding to obtain a higher payment
- Unneeded or excessive x-rays and lab tests
- Claims for services that are not medically necessary
- Using another person’s Medicare number, or letting someone else use your number



CONSEQUENCES

Medical Identity Theft



Health Impact



Personal Financial Losses



SOME TYPES OF MEDICARE FRAUD

- Ambulance Fraud
- COVID-19 Fraud
- Durable Medical Equipment Fraud
- Genetic Testing Fraud
- Home Health Care Fraud
- Hospice Fraud
- Medical Identity Theft



- Medicare Marketing Violations and Enrollment Fraud
- Nursing Home Care Fraud
- Outpatient Mental Health Care Fraud
- Pharmacy and Prescription Drug Fraud
- Telehealth Fraud

3 STEPS TO PREVENT FRAUD

So, what can YOU do to take charge and help prevent Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse? Three easy steps:

PROTECT



DETECT



REPORT



Call our Helpline at 800-333-4374

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS FROM MEDICARE FRAUD

DO

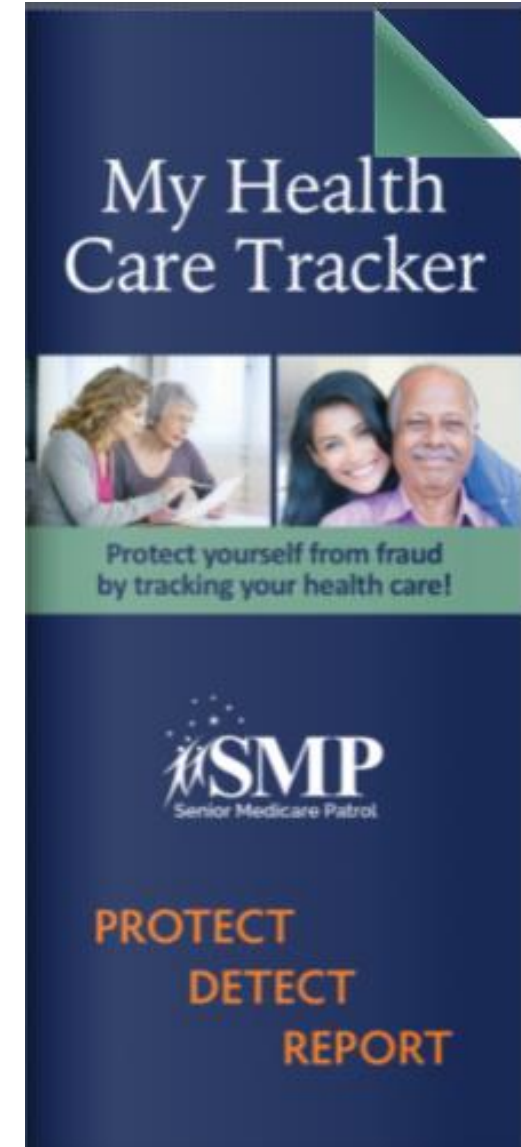
- ✓ Treat your Medicare card and number like your credit card.
- ✓ Watch out for identity theft.
- ✓ Be aware that Medicare doesn't call or visit to sell you anything.
- ✓ Be cautious of offers for "free" medical services.

DON'T

- ✓ Don't give out your Medicare number except to your doctor or other Medicare provider.
- ✓ Don't carry your Medicare card unless you will need it.
- ✓ Don't click on links from sources you do not know.

DETECT MEDICARE FRAUD & ABUSE

- Use your Health Care Tracker
- Review Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) and other statements for:
 1. Services you didn't receive
 2. Double-billing
 3. Services not ordered by your doctor
- Call us for your FREE Health Care Tracker
800-333-4374
- Access your Medicare information at www.medicare.gov.



REPORT SUSPECTED MEDICARE FRAUD & ABUSE

Contact the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol

This is a free and confidential service!

NYS SMP Phone Number 1-800-333-4374



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www.nysenior.org



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JOIN THE SMP PROGRAM AND BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Help Medicare
Beneficiaries Protect,
Detect, and Report



Make Group
Presentations

Staff Exhibits and
Table at Events



Share and Distribute
information to your
community

Call 800-333-4374

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Contact your SMP: New York StateWide Senior Action Council

Visit us online: (www.nysenior.org)
For more information

Call Toll-free: (800-333-4374)
To report suspected fraud/abuse
For training, speakers, and/or materials



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