



Preventing Medicare Fraud

ND SMP Scam of the Month – January 2026

Medical Identity Fraud: What You Need to Know

Commit to a scam-free year as your New Years' resolution!

Medical identity theft happens when someone steals your personal or medical information and uses it to get medical care, equipment, or medicine. When this happens, false information can be added to your medical record. This can cause problems with your health care in the future. Medical identity theft can also hurt your finances. Scammers do not pay the medical bills they create using your information. You could end up with unpaid bills or medical debt, which can harm your credit.

How to Protect Yourself

You can take steps to keep your information safe:

- Only share personal information with people you trust. This includes your Medicare number, Social Security number, credit card number, and driver's license number.
- Never give your Medicare number to anyone who calls, texts, or emails you out of the blue. Medicare and Social Security will never contact you to ask for personal information.
- Keep medical papers in a safe place. This includes insurance cards, prescription bottles, and medical bills. If you throw them away, shred them. You can also cross out personal information on prescription bottles before tossing them.
- Watch out for common scams. These include offers for "free braces you did not ask for, genetic or cancer test kits, and **fake Medicare card offers**.

Signs of Medical Identity Theft

You may be a victim if you notice:

- Charges on your Medicare statement for services or items you did not receive.
- Medical supplies mailed to you that you did not order.
- Calls from debt collectors about medical bills you do not owe.
- Medicare or your Medicare Advantage plan denying care because of a condition you do not have or saying you already received care you did not get.

What to do if it happens:

- If you think someone is using your medical information, contact **ND Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-833-818-0029 or Medicare at 1-800-633-4227**.

Reporting Medicare fraud:

If you suspect fraud, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 833-818-0029. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Corti, S. (2025, November 19). *Medical identity theft*. State Health Insurance Assistance Programs. <https://www.shiphelp.org/medical-identity-theft/>

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

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