

If you suspect Medicare fraud, report it immediately to the Medicare fraud hotline at **1-800-MEDICARE** or visit **Medicare.gov**

File a complaint online with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General:

➤ [tips.oig.hhs.gov](https://tips.oig.hhs.gov)

➤ **1-800-HHS-TIPS**  
**(1-800-447-8477)**

Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) for more resources on Medicare fraud.

#### Sources

Learning Network, M. (2021, January). Medicare Fraud & Abuse: Prevent, detect, report. Medicare Fraud & Abuse: Prevent, Detect, Report. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Fraud-Abuse-MLN4649244.pdf>

HHS, U. S. D. (2024). File a Complaint Online. [Tips.oig.hhs.gov](https://tips.oig.hhs.gov). <https://tips.oig.hhs.gov>

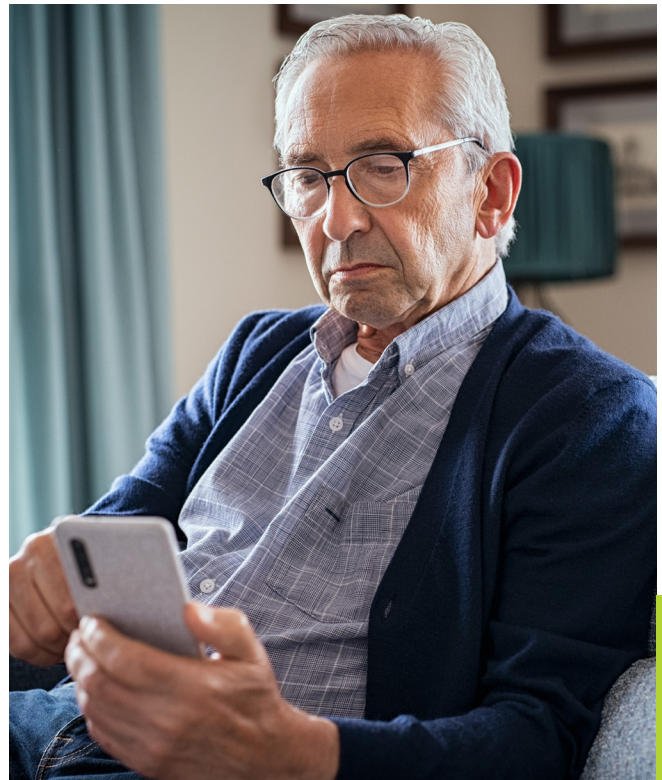
CMS. (2022, March). Protecting yourself & Medicare from fraud. Medicare.Gov. <https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10111-Protecting-Yourself-and-Medicare.pdf>

Medicare.gov (Ed.). (2024). Reporting Medicare Fraud & Abuse. Medicare. <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/reporting-medicare-fraud-and-abuse>

# Avoid Medicare Scams

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Protect your privacy when shopping for new insurance



If you are Medicare eligible, be aware of Medicare scams! Consider these precautions as you make important decisions about your healthcare plans.



## Protect Your Data and Privacy

- **Guard Your Medicare Number.** Treat your Medicare number like a credit card number. Do not share it with anyone unless you have an established relationship.
- **Do Not Trust Caller ID.** Scammers can fake caller ID numbers to make it look like they are calling from a legitimate organization. Always verify the caller's identity independently.
- **Beware of Free Services.** Be wary of offers for free medical services or equipment in exchange for your Medicare number. These are often scams.
- **Check Your Medicare Statements.** Regularly review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) and Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) for services or charges you do not recognize. This can help identify errors, prevent fraud, understand your coverage, and manage your health care expenses.
- **Report Suspicious Activity!**
  - Report suspected fraud immediately to the fraud hotline at **1-800-MEDICARE** or visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).
  - File a complaint with the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General at **1-800-HHS-TIPS** or [tips.oig.hhs.gov](https://www.tips.oig.hhs.gov).

## When Shopping for New Insurance

- **Beware of Unsolicited Offers.** Be cautious of unsolicited phone calls, emails, or door-to-door salespeople offering Medicare plans. If you don't have an existing relationship with the business, they should NOT be contacting you.
- **Avoid High-Pressure Sales Tactics.** Be cautious of anyone who pressures you into making immediate decisions about your healthcare.
- **Insist on a benefit comparison** of your existing benefits versus new benefits.
- **Make sure all your physicians accept** the insurance you are being presented.
- **Ensure you are getting a comprehensive overview.** Always ask which plans the person is certified to sell, and which plans they are not certified to sell.

If you suspect you have been a victim of a Medicare scam, call the Medicare hotline.

**1-800-MEDICARE**