



TYPES OF MEDICARE WASTE

HOW ARE YOUR TAX DOLLARS LOST?

Waste in the Medicare program accounts for nearly 10% of Medicare's overall spendings. There are 3 types of waste.

Errors

Errors are mistakes. Mistakes and billing errors happen often because of the complexities in the Medicare program.

Billing errors
Duplicate claims

Abuse

Abuse occurs when a healthcare provider commits a pattern of unintentional errors. Here the provider is experiencing a lack of training and education.

Unnecessary services
Unnecessary medication

Fraud

Fraud is also a pattern of errors but the difference is "intent". Fraud is billing Medicare in order to obtain inappropriate payment

False claims
Pressure for your Medicare number
"FREE" offers

PROTECT YOUR MEDICARE FROM WASTE



Protect

Protect your Medicare number as you would your credit card! Never share it with anyone except your health care provider or insurance.



Detect

Read through your Medicare statements thoroughly! Check for errors and things that just don't look right.



Report

If you see any errors, report them immediately! Contact your provider or the New York Senior Medicare Patrol to get them corrected.



Document

Keep a Personal Healthcare Journal. Bring it to your doctors appointments and record the doctor's name, the date, and services you received. Then compare your journal to your MSN each quarter.



New Medicare Cards Are Coming!

- Medicare will mail new cards between April 2018 - April 2019
- To prevent identity theft, new cards **WILL NOT** include Social Security Numbers. Instead each person will get a new unique Medicare Number also known as Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).

Key	Example
SSA HICN	123-45-6789-A1
MBI	1EG4-TE5-MK73

Note: Identifiers are fictitious and dashes for display purposes only; they are not stored in the database nor used in file formats

- You **DO NOT** need to do anything to get a new card, but you should make sure your mailing address is up to date with Social Security. Visit ssa.gov/myaccount or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778 to correct or update your mailing address.
- Medicare will **NOT** call and ask personal information! Any callers asking for your current Medicare Number, Social Security Number, or money are criminals trying to steal identities. **HANG UP!**
- When you receive your new Medicare Card you must **DESTROY** your previous Medicare Card by shredding it.
- Medicare will mail more information with your new Medicare Card - check Medicare.gov for the latest updates.