



'Care Share

THE MEDICARE BLOG

3 TIPS FOR PEOPLE IN THE QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PROGRAM

If you're among the 7 million Americans enrolled in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program, providers aren't allowed to bill you for medical services and items that Medicare covers. This means you can't be billed for Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.

Here are 3 tips if you get a bill for these charges:

- 1. Tell the provider or debt collector that you have QMB and can't be charged for Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.**

Show your provider your Medicaid or QMB card every time you get medical services or items. If you already made payments on a bill for services and items Medicare covers, you have the right to a refund.

- 2. If the medical provider won't stop billing you, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).**

TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. The agent can confirm that you have QMB. Medicare can also ask the provider to stop improper billing, and refund any incorrect payments you made.

- 3. If you have a problem with debt collection,**

you can [send a complaint to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(CFPB\) online](#) or call the CFPB toll-free at (855) 411-2372. TTY users can call (855) 729-2372. CFPB will forward your complaint to the company and work to get you a response from them. Find out about your rights when [responding to a debt collector](#) or learn how to [dispute an error on your credit report](#).

Remember, being in QMB means that you don't pay Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. If a provider asks you to pay, that's illegal. We're here to help.

<https://blog.medicare.gov/2017/01/18/qualified-medicare-beneficiary-program/>

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) helps to educate Medicare beneficiaries about ways to prevent, detect, and combat Medicare fraud. For more information about Medicare fraud, visit the Stop Medicare Fraud website at www.stopmedicarefraud.gov.

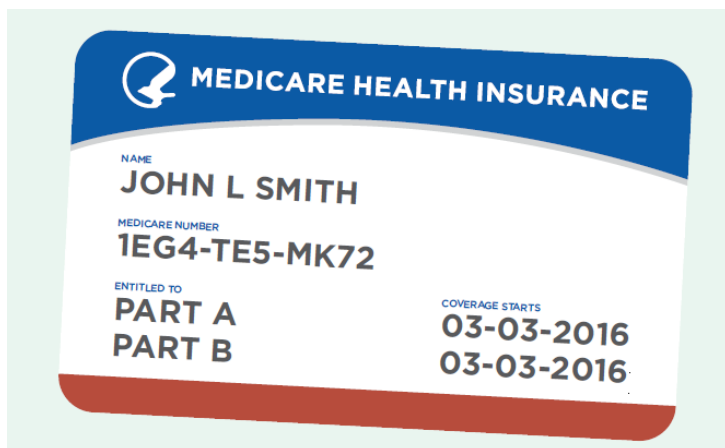
Reported scams

Please be aware of fraudulent callers stating to be from Social Security. Many of the calls are “robocalls”, which are automated. Reports say one recording claims your Social Security number “has been suspended for suspicion of illegal activity,” and tells you to call a specific phone number immediately. Some ask you to confirm your personal information.

Register your number with the Do not Call Registry at donotcall.gov. If a company is ignoring the Registry, there’s a good chance it’s a scam.

Social Security, Medicare, and the IRS will not call you to threaten your benefits or collect personal information over the phone.

New Medicare Cards



New Medicare cards will be mailed to you. You will not receive a phone call, you do not need to activate it, and there is no cost. Once you get your new card, destroy your old card and begin using your new one. If you have not received a card by May 1, 2019 or have trouble with your new card, call the Social Security office. If you have questions or concerns, contact your local SHIP at 1-800-551-3191.

National Headlines

[Click on the links for more information.](#)

[Prime Healthcare, CEO to pay \\$65M Medicare fraud settlement](#)

Becker's Hospital Review
based Prime **Healthcare** Services, as well as its nonprofit arm, consulting subsidiary and CEO, agreed to pay \$65 million to the federal government to ...

[Company With Hospitals In Kansas City Area Settles Medicare Fraud Claims For \\$65 Million - KCUR](#)

[California's Prime Healthcare to pay \\$65 million to settle Medicare fraud lawsuit - Reveal \(blog\)](#)

[Prime Healthcare to pay \\$65M to settle Medicare fraud claims - VVdailypress.com Full Coverage](#)

[Prescription Pain Creams Flagged for Medicare Fraud](#)

Pain News Network
By Julie Appleby, Kaiser Health News.
Medicare pays hundreds of millions of dollars each year for prescription creams, gels and lotions ...

[Physician sentenced to 18 months in prison for \\$30M Medicare, Medicaid fraud: 6 key facts](#)

Becker's ASC Review
Between 2007 and 2013, Mr. Burman owned and operated six medical clinics in Brooklyn, N.Y., that **fraudulently** billed **Medicare** and Medicaid ...

[Physician sentenced to prison for role in \\$30M billing fraud scheme - Becker's Hospital Review](#)

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