



Preventing Medicare Fraud

June 2026

'Care Share

Catheter Scam

Hello, Medicare Beneficiaries!

In this month's 'Care Share, we're looking at Catheter Scams that have reached our state. With June's **Medicare Fraud Prevention Week** wrapped up, vigilance shouldn't. Check your statements often and report anything suspicious.

The Catheter Scam: What to Watch For

Right now, a massive fraud scheme is happening across Montana. Scammers have stolen Medicare numbers and billing for urinary catheters, sometimes hundreds of them a month.

These packages may never arrive at your house.

The scammers just submit fake paperwork to Medicare, hoping you won't check your statements. Even if you owe \$0.00 out of pocket, this fraud drains the Medicare program and messes with your official medical records.

Your Best Defense:

Your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB)! They're fraud-fighting tools!

These are not bills. It's a tool to catch scammers who steal your Medicare number to bill for things you never received.

Understanding Your Statements

- The MSN is a Medicare Summary Notice if you have Original Medicare.
- An EOB is an Explanation of Benefits from your private insurance company, like a Medicare Supplement or a Medicare Advantage Plan.

They are simply explanations of how your benefits were billed and paid for. When they arrive in the mail (or when you log into Medicare.gov), do not just put it away or trash it.

Take five minutes to cross-reference it with your personal calendar or SMP Health Tracker.



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How to Check Your MSN or EOB for Fraud

- **Services:** Do you see charges for "catheters" or "medical supplies" that your own doctor never ordered?
- **The Doctor or Supplier Name:** Do you see names of companies or clinics you have never heard of, especially from out of state?
- **The Dates:** Are there charges for office visits or medical supplies on days you were simply staying at home?

What to Do If you Find an Error

If you see catheter charges or any supplies you did not receive, follow these steps:

- **Circle or highlight the error**
- **Check with your doctor:** Call your doctor's office. Ask if they ordered these supplies for you. If they say no, it's suspected fraud.
- **Report it immediately:** Call your local Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and call Medicare directly at 1-800-MEDICARE to report that your Medicare card number was stolen.

How can your local SMP help?

If you see a suspicious charge or if someone has been pestering you for your information, reach out.

Give us a call at (800) 551-3191.

We can help you report potential fraud and protect your benefits. We're all in this together!

Scan to report fraud:



A poster with a dark background and orange and white text. The top right corner features the SMP logo (a shield with a checkmark) and the text "SMP Senior Medicare Patrol Preventing Medicare Fraud". The main text in large, bold, orange letters reads "MEDICAL IDENTITY THEFT". Below this, in white, it says "IF YOU SEE IT REPORT IT." and "Could be indicated by suspicious charges on your MSN or EOB." The bottom left shows the phone number "877.808.2468" and the website "SMPRESOURCE.ORG". The bottom right mentions "SUPPORTED BY GRANT # S01MPRC0002 FROM ACL". The background of the poster shows a collage of medical documents, including a Medicare card for "JOHN L. SMITH" and a hospital admission form for "HOSPITAL (PAR)".

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is ready to provide you with the information you need to PROTECT yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; DETECT potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and REPORT your concerns. SMPs help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud. Your SMP can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. It also provides information and educational presentations. To reach Montana Senior Medicare Patrol, call 1-800-551-3191 or visit www.smpresource.org.