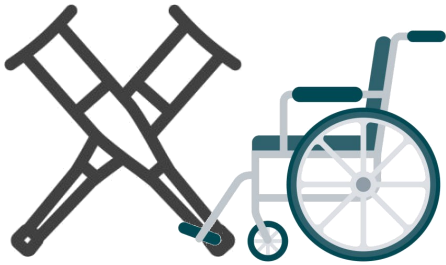


Durable Medical Equipment Scams



Fraudulent companies are charging Medicare beneficiaries for durable medical equipment (DME) without showing the medical necessity and sometimes without sending the equipment to the beneficiaries.

DME FRAUD SCHEMES CAN INCLUDE:

- Suppliers offer “free” equipment but bill Medicare.
- Suppliers use their doctors (not yours), who prescribe unnecessary medical equipment.
- Suppliers or doctors provide medical equipment you never requested.
- Suppliers or doctors charge for items you never received.
- Suppliers request your Medicare number at a presentation or in an unsolicited phone call.
- Beneficiaries willingly allow their Medicare number to be used in exchange for money, gifts, or unnecessary equipment and supplies.
- Suppliers deliver an off-the-shelf product but bill Medicare for a more costly product.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP DME FRAUD?



- Be sure YOUR doctor has assessed your condition and orders the equipment or supplies.
- Never sign a blank form from your health care provider or equipment supplier.
- Always review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB).
- Look for charges for equipment you don't need, never requested, or did not receive.
- When returning DME that your doctor did not order for you, do not sign any forms from the sender and keep a dated receipt.
- Do not accept products or services from strangers who call or knock on your door.
- Protect your Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security cards like credit cards.
- Do not give out your Medicare number at a presentation or during a sales pitch.
- Do not accept money, gifts or unnecessary equipment from a supplier in exchange for your Medicare number.

REPORT IT

The Michigan Senior Medicare Patrol Program can help you with questions, concerns or complaints about potential DME fraud, call them at 877-808-2468