

# How You Can Protect Yourself and Medicare from Health Care Fraud

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has enabled the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand efforts to prevent and fight fraud, waste and abuse.

Using tools provided under the ACA, CMS has used a multifaceted approach, ranging from provider screening and technology similar to what credit card companies use. During 2013 and 2014 the government saved nearly \$42 billion. That is an average savings of \$12.40 for each dollar spent.

The first and best line of defense against fraud is you – the health care consumer.

- Keep your Medicare number safe - treat it like a credit card.
  - Don't share your Medicare number with anyone who contacts you by telephone, email or in person, unless you've given them permission in advance. Medicare will NEVER contact you for your Medicare number or other personal information.
  - Review your Medicare Summary Notice to be sure you and Medicare are being charged for services and supplies you received and your doctor ordered.
- If you're looking to enroll in a Medicare plan:
  - Remember there are no "early bird discounts" or "limited time offers."
  - Don't let anyone rush you to enroll by claiming you need to "act now for the best deal."
  - Be skeptical of free gifts, free medical services, and discount packages.
- You can report suspected fraud or identity theft
- You can call NH ServiceLink at 1-866-634-9412 to talk with a **Senior Medicare Patrol** specialist to discuss questions you have about a Medicare bill, or to report suspected fraud.
- **Senior Medicare Patrol** teaches people with Medicare how to detect, report, and protect themselves from fraud and identity theft. Find more about the Senior Medicare Patrol:

[www.servicelink.nh.gov](http://www.servicelink.nh.gov)

or

[www.smpresource.org](http://www.smpresource.org)



**1-866-634-9412**

