



ND SMP Scam of the Month – April 2021

Pharmacy/Prescription Drug Fraud

What is Medicare pharmacy/prescription drug fraud? There are many types of prescription fraud schemes, pharmacy fraud usually occurs when Medicare is billed for a medication that was never received or intentionally giving a different prescription drug than prescribed.

Some examples of pharmacy/prescription drug fraud:

- Billing Medicare for prescription drugs that were never picked up or delivered.
- Billing Medicare for medication amounts beyond the quantity dispensed.
- Intentionally providing less medication to the beneficiary that was prescribed.
- Billing Medicare for a different prescription drug (often more expensive) than the one issued.
- Billing Medicare for brand name drugs but dispensing generic drugs instead.
- Billing Medicare for expired drugs that were dispensed to a beneficiary.
- A company offering a beneficiary “free” or “discount” prescription drugs without a treating physician’s order and billing Medicare.

What you can do to protect yourself:

- Always see your personal health care provider to be assessed for medication needs.
- Be suspicious of unsolicited calls with offers of “free” or “discount” prescription drugs.
- When you have prescriptions filled, count the number of pills in the bottle and check if it matches the number printed on the label. If not, call the Pharmacy and let them know that you don’t have the correct number of pills.

Reporting Medicare fraud: If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3580. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General’s Office at 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: SMP Resource Center (September 2020).
Pharmacy/prescription drug fraud: Tips for protecting yourself and Medicare.

Improving Health and Wellness

NDC3 is improving health and wellness in ND communities. **NDC3** programs provide education, fitness instruction, **and** self-care strategies for participants. Through a network of local leaders, community organizations and health systems, **NDC3** delivers programs to help individuals self-manage chronic health conditions, prevent falls, and foster well-being. If you are coping with high blood pressure, heart disease, COPD, arthritis, diabetes or other chronic conditions, **NDC3** can support your efforts. For more information visit www.ndc3.org or visit with your health care provider who can make a referral for a representative to contact you.

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 800-233-1737 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit www.ndcpd.org/smp

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