

New Fraud Trends

Fraudsters are getting smarter. They are very creative and find countless ways to defraud individuals, especially the elderly. Fraud will continue to grow in number and in the degree of cleverness. Some fraud trends to be on the look out for include billing for add-on services, or adding expensive immunotherapy allergy testing to lab orders.

Fraudulent billing of services may include but not limited to:

- **Add-on coding.** An add-on code is a code that describes a service that is always listed in addition to a primary service code. This type of coding will increase the reimbursement to the provider.
- **Unbundling.** Unbundling coding is when a single code captures payment for the parts of a procedure, but by unbundling and using multiple codes for the different parts of the procedure the provider can increase their payment.
- **Kitchen sink coding.** Kitchen sink coding is when the provider over codes, throwing in other codes, or uses an incorrect code to increase their reimbursement.

New Fraud Schemes:

- Additional testing done because the individual presents with a cough or runny nose and the provider adds expensive immunotherapy testing.
- Adding a large number of lab panels to the initial COVID testing like a Respiratory Virus Panel (RVP), or a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP).
- A medical biller wrongfully uses a physician's provider number to submit claims to Medicare or Medicaid.

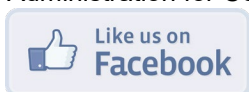
Reporting Medicare fraud: If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors in preventing Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3580. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND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

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: *Medicare Fraud & Abuse: Prevent, Detect, Report (2021, January)*. CMS MLN Booklet. ICN MLN4649244. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Fraud-Abuse-MLN4649244.pdf>.

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

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

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