



Preventing Medicare Fraud

ND SMP Scam of the Month – August 2023

Medicare Coverage for Emergency Transportation

Ambulances transport patients to and from medical facilities, like hospitals. Ambulances carry medical supplies and have EMTs or paramedics to care for you.

- **Medicare covers emergency ambulance services if:**
 - It is the only safe way to transport you.
 - You are on your way to and from receiving Medicare-covered care.
 - You need to go to certain places, like from your home to a hospital.
 - The ambulance service meets Medicare's ambulance rules and guidelines.
- **Medicare covers non-emergency ambulance services if:**
 - You are confined to a bed.
 - If you need medical care during the trip that is only available in an ambulance.
 - Your doctor provides the ambulance supplier with a written order stating that their service is needed for your medical care.
- **Medicare may cover air ambulance services if:**
 - The services are necessary for your medical care.
 - This means you need immediate transport that could not be provided by a ground ambulance, such as:
 - The ambulance cannot get to you, or it is too far to travel.
 - There are other barriers that keep you from reaching the nearby medical facility by ambulance.
- **Recognize and report ambulance fraud. Some red flags to watch for:**
 - You were transported in an unapproved ambulance like a taxi or a rideshare.
 - Your ambulance was not staffed by two EMTs.
 - An ambulance company billed for more mileage than the actual trip distance.
 - An ambulance was ordered even though it wasn't needed for your medical care.
 - You were transported from your house to a non-covered destination, like your doctor's office or a community health center.

If you believe you have experienced ambulance fraud, contact ND SMP.

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 1-833-818-0029.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Medicare Rights Center. July 2023 Medicare Minute.

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580

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

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