



Preventing Medicare Fraud

## ND SMP Scam of the Month – April 2025

### Beware of New Medicare Scam: Unwanted Ostomy Supply Charges

Medicare is getting reports about charges for ostomy pouches that people didn't ask for, don't need, or never got. This might be a new scam. Make sure to check your Medicare statements for any ostomy supplies.

#### What are ostomy supplies used for?

Ostomy supplies help people who have had surgery to create an opening (called a stoma) that lets urine or waste leave their body. Medicare covers these supplies for people who need them. Check your Medicare statements to make sure you aren't being charged for supplies you don't need.

Medicare will never call to offer you test kits, vaccines, supplies, miracle cures, or a plastic or chipped Medicare card. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from Medicare or working on behalf of Medicare...**it's a SCAM!**

- Medicare will never call you.
- Medicare is NOT issuing new Medicare cards.
- Medicare isn't calling with offers of "free" products or services of any kind.
- DO NOT give out personal information to someone who calls offering free supplies.

#### Tips for preventing fraud:

- Protect your Medicare number like you would a credit card.
- Protect your medical information.
- Be wary and ask questions. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

#### Reporting Medicare fraud:

If you suspect fraud, contact the ND SMP at [ndsmp@minotstateu.edu](mailto:ndsmp@minotstateu.edu) or call 1-833-818-0029. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800-472-2600. ND SMP will help Medicare beneficiaries prevent, detect, and report fraud.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: SMP National Resource Center Library. (Dec. 2024). *What's Trending: New Scam on the MSN: Ostomy Supplies.*

**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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