

# MEDICARE WASTE

Waste in the Medicare program accounts for nearly 10% of Medicare's overall spendings.

## THERE ARE 3 TYPES OF WASTE

### ERRORS

Billing Errors happen because of the complexities in the Medicare program. If not caught, errors create losses to the Medicare program and financial losses to you.



**Billing Errors  
Duplicate Claims**

### ABUSE

Abuse occurs when a healthcare provider commits a pattern of unintentional errors. The provider is experiencing a lack of training and education.



**Unnecessary  
Services &  
Medication**

### FRAUD

Fraud is also a pattern of errors but the difference is "intent." Fraud is billing Medicare in order to obtain inappropriate payment.



**False Claims  
Pressure for your  
Medicare Number**

## THE NY SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL (SMP) CAN HELP



### Protect

Protect your Medicare number as you would your credit card. Never share it with anyone except your health care provider or insurance



### Detect

Read through your Medicare statements for mistakes and compare them to your personal records.



### Report

If you see any errors, report them immediately. Contact your provider or the New York Senior Medicare Patrol to get them corrected.

**To report MEDICARE WASTE call your SMP at 1-800-333-4374**



This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0010-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.