

Pharmacy & Prescription Drug Fraud



Pharmacy and Prescription Drug Fraud occurs when Medicare is billed for a medication that was not received or a beneficiary is intentionally given a different prescription drug than prescribed. Here are some examples of Pharmacy/Prescription Drug Fraud:

BILLING MEDICARE FOR:

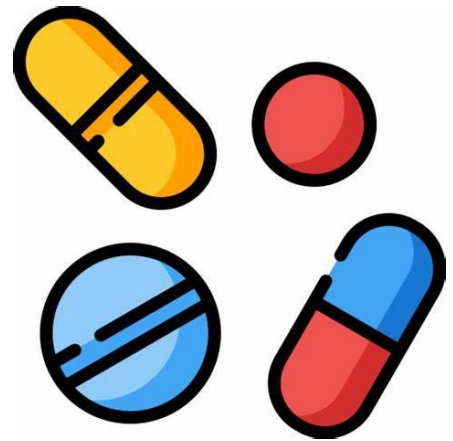
- Prescription drugs (including refills) that were never picked up, delivered, or even prescribed.
- Prescription drugs (occasionally controlled substances such as opioids) that were prescribed by a health care provider you have never seen.
- Medication amounts beyond the quantity you were prescribed.
- Different prescription drug (often more expensive) than the one you were originally prescribed or issuing you a drug that is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

PHARMACY:

- Intentionally provides less medication than prescribed or issues expired drugs.
- Provides and bills for an expensive compounded medication, including topical pain creams, when a less expensive prescription was ordered by your provider.
- Offers gift cards or other compensation so you switch your prescriptions over to a specific pharmacy.
- Automatically refills a prescription you no longer need. You do not pick up the prescription but the pharmacy still bills Medicare.



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Criminals, ranging from health care providers to drug trafficking organizations, continue to commit prescription drug fraud because it is profitable. Unfortunately, there is a strong illegal market for prescription drugs – including controlled drugs such as opioids and expensive brand name prescriptions.

Some prescription drugs are targeted because they can be combined with recreational and illegal drugs to enhance a high or hallucinogenic effect.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP PHARMACY & PRESCRIPTION DRUG FRAUD?

- Be sure **your doctor** has assessed your condition before prescribing you any medication.
- **Do not give out your Medicare number** or other personal information to unknown individuals requesting it for prescription drug services or to evaluate your prescription history.
- **Always read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB)** to watch for the names of unknown providers and billing of prescriptions and other services you did not receive.
- If you notice a charge to your Medicare drug plan for prescriptions you did not receive (or for different drugs than the ones you were prescribed), **report your concerns about possible fraud, errors, or abuse to the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP).**

The NYS SMP can help you with questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. Your local SMP can also provide information and educational presentations.

Call 800-333-4374, or visit www.nysenior.org for more information.



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